

LATE SHRI PRAVIN WAGH, ADVOCATE, AURANGABAD

With profound grief, we place on record the said demise of Shri Pravin Wagh, Advocate, Aurangabad on 15th September, 2011. A reference was held on 1-12-2011 at the Aurangabad Bench of the Bombay High Court.

Initiating the reference Shri N. B. Suryawanshi, President, High Court Bar Association, Aurangabad paid rich tributes to the departed soul.

"Today we all have gathered here to offer our condolences to the departed soul of late Advocate Shri Pravin Wagh.

Late Advocate Shri Pravin Wagh was born on 15th June, 1955. He completed his B.Sc. LL.B. and thereafter obtained a Diploma of D.L.C. from Israel. Late Advocate Shri Pravin Wagh, since his student days, was taking active part in various movements led by Bharat Ratna Shri Babasaheb Ambedkar. In the year 1968-69, he actively participated in the movement of Yuvak Kranti Dal, known as "Yukrand".

Late Advocate Shri Pravin Wagh started his practice in the year 1985. He became Secretary of this Bar Association in the year 1993, He was always on the forefront to solve the problems of the Advocates' fraternity and. was very open and fearless in his expressions. His contribution to bar was really great. Mahatma Phule, Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj, Bharat Ratna Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar, Mahatma Gandhi, Jai Prakash Narayan and Dr. Ram Manohar Lohiya had a great impact on late Advocate Shri Pravin Wagh.

Late Advocate Shri Pravin Wagh was popularly known as Saathi Pravin Wagh in the social circle and amongst the labour class. He led various movements including the movements seeking hike in the scholarship of backward students, renaming in the name of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University, to name a few. Late Advocate Shri Pravin Wagh was a person who always fought for the upliftment of labour, maid servants, Mathadi Kamgars, sweepers etc. He was the pioneer of the Union of maid servants, a first of its kind in India,

Late Advocate Shri Pravin Wagh participated in various conferences and represented India in 15 countries, throughout the world including Switzerland, Brazil, Australia, Canada, Argentina etc., wherein he presented the papers on the problems of unrecognized labours from different sectors.

Late Advocate Shri Pravin Wagh was avid reader who used to constantly read various books, a frequent traveller, various movements, Dharanas, Agitations (Aandolans), protest march, Satyagrahas, Uposhans and legal practice was the routine of late Advocate Shri Pravin Wagh. Many times, he went to prison while fighting for the cause of down trodden class, labours and unorganized working class. Men like late Advocate Shri Pravin Wagh, one hardly comes across these days. The Advocates' Association of Bombay High Court feels proud that we had one like him, who commanded respect not only of the Bar and Bench, but also throughout the society and more particularly in the unrecognized working labours. Lives of persons like him remind us of the poet, who said and I quote :

*"Lives of great men all reminds
that we too can make our lives
sublime and live behind us
footprints on sand of time."*

Late Advocate Shri Pravin Wagh was all about passion and commitments. There was passion in his constant efforts to fight for the rights and well being of poor labour class and unorganized sector and there was commitment in his life and concern towards profession as an Advocate. Mr. Wagh had inherent qualities of a leader but the said qualities were used and utilized to the fullest by him for the cause of downtrodden class and unorganized labour sector. In spite of having a fighting spirit and all the qualities of a great leader, late Advocate Shri Pravin Wagh was so humble, polite and sober in nature that he never hurt anyone by his word or action.

In late Advocate Shri Pravin Wagh, we have lost a great savior of down-trodden poor oppressed class and Mr. Wagh always fought for the legal and just rights of neglected class of the society. We have lost a great social worker, and Advocate of workers. He devoted his life for these causes which he espoused dearly and fearlessly. Today do let us hope that his lifetime of work and his qualities will inspire others to take up the causes for which he crusaded. On 15th September, 2011, late Advocate Shri Pravin Wagh met with an untimely death. He was working until his last breath. Because of the passing away of Shri Wagh, the Bar has sustained a great loss. The family of late Advocate Shri Pravin Wagh, his wife Professor Dr. Padmini, a Head of Education Department in Shivaji University, Kolhapur and son Ajit, who is also practicing as an Advocate at Supreme Court, have sustained a great shock. Late Advocate Shri Pravin Wagh was a great man and great human being. The loss caused because of his death is difficult to overcome not only to the members of his family but also to those who came in contact with him. His life is an inspiration to all of us and to develop good qualities of late Advocate Shri Pravin Wagh amongst us would be a real condolence to him.

On my behalf and on behalf of all Bar members I offer heart-felt condolence to the members of the bereaved family and pray to the Almighty to give them strength to bear the loss with courage. I also pray to the God that the departed soul of late Advocate Shri Pravin Wagh be rest in eternal peace."

Speaking next Shri Sunil V. Kurundkar, Government Pleader, Aurangabad Bench offered his heart-felt condolences. He said,

"Advocate Pravin Wagh was one of my dearest friends and will be surely missed. As his name suggests Pravin i.e. Master, he truly had mastered the art of connecting people. He had his acquaintances spread over every strata of the Society. He was always filled with energy and enthusiasm. He was a fountain of cheerfulness. I admired all those wonderful qualities that made him the special person that he was. I shared a friendship with him that started from my college days. He had intelligence, wit, charm and a caring heart that made him a great friend. We have lost one of the kindest and gentlest people I have ever had the privilege to know. I know it is difficult to understand a loss like this, but we need to be mindful of the true blessing that he was to us. He was also a blessing for all the poor and oppressed people for whose cause he selflessly fought, before the Courts and outside the Court. He was a protagonist of Civil liberty and equality. He devoted his life for the causes which he espoused dearly and fearlessly.

He was actively involved with several issues of public importance. His sheer integrity with the cause that he stood for took him to several countries of the world. He presented his thoughts in various countries cutting across the globe. He was a

voracious reader. He travelled a lot. He indeed believed that the world could be changed if one starts from self.

He was an excellent lawyer. More than that, he was a wonderful human being. His life is a lesson to us. He taught us to strive for the dignity of individual and society.

On my behalf and on behalf of my colleagues at the Government Pleader's office I offer heartfelt condolences to the members of bereaved family."

On behalf of the Union of India, Shri Alok Sharma, Assistant Solicitor General of India paid tributes. He said,

"Today we have gathered to offer our condolence to the departed soul of Advocate Pravin Wagh to whom I used to address as Dada i.e. elder brother.

'Sharma' and 'Wagh' families were neighbours for over 20 years and thus had watched him from very close quarters.

Going back in the memory lane, I recall the various conversations with him. I know and state that Late Advocate Pravin Wagh was greatly influenced by Social reformist Mahatma Phule, Bharat Ratna Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar, Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia and other great leaders.

Late Adv. Pravin Wagh would always stand for a just and right cause. Even as a student, he was an active member in the various movements led by Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar. That out of one such movement popularly known as "Yukrand".

Late Adv. Pravin Wagh had developed a special bonding with Mr. Hussain Dalwai (then M. P.), Mr. Bhalchandra Mungekar (former member of Indian Planning Commission) and Mr. Subhash Lomte.

Late Adv. Pravin Wagh had also obtained a Diploma in Labour, after getting his LL.B. and started his practise in 1985. Adv. Pravin Wagh was aware of the challenges, hardships and the problems faced by the unrecognized labour. He had participated and represented India in the various conferences held in Brazil, Australia, Canada etc. The papers presented by him, have been appreciated and well received.

Late Pravin Wagh was a great orator and could deliver a speech extempore. He had a great sense of humour and had the knack of drawing the attention of the gathering towards him. He had a great interest in reading which he had developed from his father.

Late Adv. Pravin Wagh was the soul behind the formation of the 'Union of the maid servants'. He had always strived to uplift the lives of the labourers, maid servants, mathadi kamgars, sweepers etc.

Adv. Pravin Wagh met with an untimely death on 15th September, 2011. The family, Bar and the Society has been put to a great loss. An individual is not remembered by the span of his life, but by the work done during the life span. Adv. Pravin Wagh will always be remembered for the selfless work put in by him for the labour class.

I am reminded of the statement made by Abraham Lincoln and I quote,

"I like to see people be proud of the place in which they live,

I like to see people so live that his place should be proud of him."

Adv. Pravin Wagh has so lived his life that the Bar and the society is proud of him.

Adv. Pravin Wagh has left behind his wife, Dr. Padmini and Son, Adv. Ajeet Pravin Wagh. The family has been put to a great loss. I as a member of the Bar state that we stand by the family at this hour of grief and pray to the almighty that he grant them strength to overcome the loss.

I on behalf of the office of Union of India and as a member of the Bar offer my heartfelt condolence to the family and pray that the departed soul of Adv. Pravin Wagh rests in eternal peace.”

Hon'ble Shri Justice Naresh H. Patil also paid tributes to Late Shri Pravin Wagh. His Lordship addressed as follows,

“I and my brother Judges are profoundly grieved to learn about the sad demise of Mr. Pravinchandra Chintamanrao Wagh on 15th September, 2011.

Since his school and college days he took keen interest in causes affecting socio economic fabric of the society at large. In early stages of his life he was impressed with thoughts and ideologies of prominent persons, social crusaders and activists.

He grew with a sense to exert more and dedicate himself to the issues faced by underprivileged classes of society. While being engaged whole-heartedly in public life Mr. Pravin Wagh took keen interest to be part of this great institution. He actively practised in Courts and appeared in many matters.

In the year 1993 Mr. Pravin Wagh was elected as Secretary of the Advocates' Association of Bombay High Court at Aurangabad.

While appearing before the Court Mr. Pravin Wagh maintained the grace and dignity of the profession and of the institution to which he belonged to. He had a unique quality of being undisturbed in spite of adverse outcome of the matter which he argued.

Mr. Pravin Wagh was a simple person, accessible to all. He used to communicate himself in a subtle and gentle way. He was voracious reader having interest in subjects like Sociology, History, Political Science and literature. He was also known for his love for poetry and *Shayari* in Urdu language.

The activities of Mr. Pravin Wagh were not limited to the city or the State but were spread internationally. He had visited more than 10 to 15 countries, attended conferences and even addressed issues which were very close to his heart.

Mr. Pravin Wagh had a fire in him which he kept burning all along his life for upliftment of poor downtrodden and oppressed classes of the society. We have lost a person with multifaceted qualities and capacities in Mr. Pravin Wagh.

On this occasion I and my brother Judges deeply share the grief of the Members of the Association. We convey our heartfelt condolences to the members of the family of Mr. Pravin Wagh.

As a mark of respect to the memory of the departed soul, we will observe two minutes' silence.

On behalf of Maharashtra Law Journal, we send our heartfelt condolences to his wife Dr. Padmini, his son Advocate Shri Ajit who is practicing in Supreme Court and other members of the bereaved family
