



सत्यमेव जयते

महाराष्ट्र शासन राजपत्र

असाधारण भाग चार-क

वर्ष १२, अंक ८ (२)]

शुक्रवार, फेब्रुवारी २७, २०२६/फाल्गुन ८, शके १९४७

[पृष्ठे २३, किंमत : रुपये ९.००

असाधारण क्रमांक १२

प्राधिकृत प्रकाशन

महाराष्ट्र शासनाव्यतिरिक्त इतर वैधानिक प्राधिकाऱ्यांनी तयार केलेले
(भाग एक, एक-अ व एक-ल यांमध्ये प्रसिद्ध केलेले वैधानिक नियम व आदेश यांव्यतिरिक्त इतर)
वैधानिक नियम व आदेश; यात भारत सरकार, उच्च न्यायालय, पोलीस आयुक्त, आयुक्त (राज्य उत्पादन शुल्क),
जिल्हादंडाधिकारी व निवडणूक आयोग, निवडणूक न्यायाधिकरण, निवडणूक निर्णय अधिकारी व निवडणूक आयोगाखालील
इतर प्राधिकारी यांनी तयार केलेले वैधानिक नियम व आदेश यांचा समावेश होतो.

HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT BOMBAY

APPELLATE SIDE

NOTIFICATION

No. Rule/E-4203/70/Notification No.04/2026.—In exercise of the power conferred by sub-section (1) of Section 34 read with sub-section (2) of Section 16 of the Advocates Act, 1961 (Act No. 25 of 1961) and in pursuance of judgment dated 13th May, 2025 in Criminal Appeal No. 865 of 2025 (Jitender @ Kalla versus State (Govt. of NCT of Delhi) and Anr.) of the Supreme Court of India, the High Court of Bombay hereby makes following rules for designation of Senior Advocates, namely-

“Bombay High Court (Designation of Senior Advocates) Rules, 2025

1. Short title and Commencement.— (1) These rules may be called the Bombay High Court (Designation of Senior Advocates) Rules, 2025.

(2) These rules shall come into force on the date of their publication in the *Official Gazette*.

2. Definitions.— In these rules, unless the context otherwise requires,—

(a) “Chief Justice” means the Chief Justice of the High Court of Bombay ;

- (b) "District Court" means all the Courts in the State of Maharashtra, Goa or Union Territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu, over which the High Court exercises control under Article 235 of the Constitution of India;
- (c) "Form" means form appended to these rules;
- (d) "High Court" means the High Court of Bombay;
- (e) "Permanent Committee" means the committee of the Chief Justice and two seniormost Judges of the High Court;
- (f) "Permanent Secretariat" means the Secretariat specified in rule 4 of these rules;
- (g) "Senior Advocate" means Advocate designated as a Senior Advocate under Section 16(2) of the Advocates Act, 1961;
- (h) "Specialized Tribunal" means the tribunals established and functioning in the States of Maharashtra, Goa or Union Territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu, which are under the supervisory control of the High Court.
- (i) "Stakeholder" means and includes every person directly concerned with or affected by the designation of any Advocate as a Senior Advocate of the High Court.

(PART – I)

3. *Permanent Committee.*— The Permanent Committee shall have overall control over the work of the Permanent Secretariat and may issue necessary directions for processing of the applications and scrutiny of the documents received by the Permanent Secretariat from the Advocates for being designated as Senior Advocates.

4. Permanent Secretariat.- (1) There shall be a Permanent Secretariat for the purpose of processing the applications for designation of Senior Advocates. The Permanent Secretariat shall consists of-

- (a) Registrar General – Head of Secretariat;
- (b) Registrar (Judicial-I)- Secretary;
- (c) Any other officer /s and employees appointed by the Chief Justice.

(2) The Permanent Committee may issue such directions from time to time as deemed necessary for functioning of the Secretariat, including the manner in which, and the source(s) from which, the necessary data and information with regard to designation of Senior Advocates is to be collected, compiled and presented.

(3) The Permanent Secretariat shall initiate the process of designation of Senior Advocates at least once in every calendar year.

5. Designation as a Senior Advocate.— (1) An Advocate who has actively and actually practiced in the High Court, the District Court or the Specialized Tribunal may be considered for being designated as a Senior Advocate on an application by the said Advocate in the prescribed format.

(2) The Full Court of the High Court may consider and confer designation upon any Advocate *dehors* an application in a deserving case with the consent of the Advocate.

(3) The designation under clause (1) and (2) above will be conferred upon an Advocate, if the High Court is of the opinion that by virtue of his / her ability, standing at the Bar or special knowledge or experience in law, he / she is deserving of such distinction.

Explanation: For the purpose of this rule-

(i) The term “ability” include very sound knowledge of law, skills of advocacy, mastery over the art of cross-examination in case of Advocates practicing on the original side of the High Court or Trial and District / Sessions Courts, writing articles and commentaries on law and capacity to rationally critique judicial decisions.

(ii) the term “Standing at the Bar” includes qualities like integrity, respect, confidence, dependability, honesty, communication skills, confidence and commitment to administration of justice and the rule of law.

(iii) the term “Special knowledge of Law” would include the knowledge in various fields of law including but not restricted to specialized branches of law such as Arbitration, Insolvency and Bankruptcy, Company Law, Intellectual Property Law, Tax Laws etc.

6. Procedure for designation of Senior Advocates.—

(1) An Advocate preferring the application for designation as a Senior Advocate shall submit his application as per **Form-I**.

(2) Every such application shall be accompanied by a certificate in **Form-II**, that the applicant-Advocate has not applied to any other High Court for being designated as a Senior Advocate and that her / his application has not been rejected by the High Court within a period of two years prior to the date of the application.

(3) All applications for designation of an Advocate as a Senior Advocate shall be submitted to the Permanent Secretariat, which shall scrutinize the applications as per directions and guidelines of the Permanent Committee.

(4) The Permanent Secretariat, on scrutiny of the applications so received will intimate any defect or irregularity to the concerned Advocate, who shall remove the same within 15 days from the receipt of such intimation.

(5) The Permanent Secretariat shall compile the relevant data and information with regard to the reputation, conduct, integrity of the Advocate(s) concerned including her/ his participation in *pro-bono* work if any; reported judgments of cases in which she / he has appeared; the number of such judgments for the last five years; cross-examinations in case of Advocates practicing on the original side of the High Court or Trial and District Court or Specialized Tribunals, and such other information as the Permanent Committee may think necessary. This data will be gathered by the Permanent Secretariat from such source or sources as the Permanent Committee may direct, and shall not be restricted to the data submitted by the applicant-Advocate.

(6) The Permanent Secretariat shall publish the name(s) of Advocate(s) being considered for designation of Senior Advocate, on the official website of the High Court inviting suggestions and views of the members of the Bar and other stakeholders within 30 days from the date of such publication.

(7) The Permanent Secretariat shall also call for the views of the concerned Principal District Judges or of the Heads of the Specialized Tribunals, as the case may be, in respect of the applications received from the Advocates practicing in the District Court or the Specialized Tribunal.

(8) If the Permanent Committee deems it necessary, may call for views of the Guardian Judges of respective District Courts or the Tribunals, in addition to the views received from the concerned Principal District Judges or the Heads of the Specialized Tribunals.

(9) The suggestions / views shall be in writing and shall bear the name and full address of the sender and shall be addressed to the Permanent Secretariat of the High Court. Anonymous petitions/ representations/views shall not be entertained. The suggestions / views shall be submitted only in physical form in writing and submission of such views/suggestions by any other mode shall not be entertained.

(10) On completion of above procedure, the applications of all candidates found to be eligible, along with relevant documents submitted by the advocate-applicants, shall be placed before the Full House for consideration.

(11) In the Full Court meeting convened for this purpose, an endeavour will be made to arrive at a consensus. However, if a consensus on designation of Advocate(s) is not arrived at, the decision-making will be by a method of voting by secret ballot. In the event of a secret ballot, the decisions will be by majority of the Judges present and who cast a positive or a negative vote.

(12) An application (a) deferred by the Full Court, may be considered in the ensuing Full Court Meeting or any time thereafter as the Full Court determines;

(b) not approved by the Full Court, may be reviewed /reconsidered only after the expiry of one year from the date on which the application was not accepted by the Full Court and only on a fresh application for designation as a Senior Advocate.

(13) The names of candidates who have been accepted for designation by the Full Court shall be designated as Senior Advocates.

(14) The final decision of the Full Court will be communicated to each candidate individually.

7. Norms and Guidelines.— The following norms and guidelines will govern all cases for designation as a Senior Advocate :

(1) Every Advocate-candidate shall be enrolled with the Bar Council of Maharashtra and Goa.

(2) The Advocate should have not less than ten years standing as an Advocate of the High Court or the District Court or the Specialised Tribunal and must have attained the age of forty-five years as on the date of publication of notice calling for applications for being designated as a Senior Advocate:

Provided that the Full Court may relax the age limit in appropriate cases.

(3) An Advocate (a) convicted by any Competent Court or against whom a charge has been framed for an offence involving moral turpitude or for contempt of Court ; or

(b) found guilty of having committed professional or other misconduct by the Bar Council of India or any Bar Council of the State; shall not be eligible for consideration.

(4) The Advocate must be found deserving of designation as Senior Advocate by virtue of his/her ability, integrity, standing at the Bar or special knowledge or experience in law.

(5) Upon designation of an Advocate as Senior Advocate, he or she shall also appear *gratis* and *pro bono* in legal aid cases as and when called upon by the Court.

- (6) An Advocate who has done legal aid work shall be given due weightage.
- (7) On designation as a Senior Advocate, the advocate concerned will not-
- (i) draft or sign pleadings in any Court.
 - (ii) appear unless assisted by another Advocate.
 - (iii) directly give consultation to any litigant.
 - (iv) appear for mentioning any matter to the Court nor seek an adjournment in any Court.
- (8) Canvassing in any form by the Advocate concerned shall result in the immediate disqualification of the advocate.

8. *Review and Recall.*—

- (1) If it is found that any Senior Advocate has—
- (a) committed professional misconduct; or
 - (b) shown intemperate behaviour either inside or outside the Court; or
 - (c) been found invariably negligent in discharge of professional duties; or
 - (d) been found by the Bar Council of India or Bar Council of Maharashtra and Goa or the Bar Council of any other State to have committed professional or other misconduct; or
 - (e) been convicted of an offence involving moral turpitude or for Contempt of the Court; or
 - (f) for any other reason, lost the privilege to be a Senior Advocate, the name of the Senior Advocate will be placed before the Chief Justice for considering the withdrawal of designation of Senior Advocate.

(2) On being satisfied that the matter should be further considered, the Chief Justice shall refer the issue to the Full House for its consideration.

(3) If majority of Judges present at the meeting are of the view that the Senior Advocate has forfeited his/her privilege, the Full Court shall recall his/her designation as a Senior Advocate.

(4) Nothing contained in these rules shall stand in the way of an Advocate who has been designated by the High Court of Bombay as a Senior Advocate from submitting an application to withdraw or recall his/her designation as a Senior Advocate. In the event of such an application addressed to the Permanent Secretariat being submitted, the Permanent Secretariat shall place it before the Chief Justice for appropriate orders thereon.

(5) The Registrar General shall notify the decision of the Full Court under clause (3) or acceptance of voluntary withdrawal of the Senior Advocate by the Chief Justice under clause (4), as the case may be, to the concerned Advocate and to the Bar Council of Maharashtra and Goa, who shall delete the name of such Advocate from the list of Senior Advocates maintained by it.

(6) The Advocate whose name is deleted from the list of Senior Advocates by virtue of clause (e) of sub-rule (1), shall not be eligible for being considered as a Designated Senior Advocate of the Bombay High Court at any time during his / her lifetime.

9. Interpretation.— All questions relating to the interpretation of these rules shall be referred to the Chief Justice whose decision thereon shall be final.

10. Repeal and Savings.— (1) The Bombay High Court (Designation of Senior Advocate) Rules, 2018 and all previous rules in respect to the subject matter covered by these rules, including the Guidelines for Designating an Advocate as Senior Advocate, as made by the High Court of Bombay with all amendments/modifications, are hereby repealed.

(2) However, this repeal shall not, by itself, invalidate the actions taken under the repealed rules/Guidelines or affect the processes already initiated on or before the date of commencement of these rules.

11. Application of Rules to Advocates, Supreme Court, *mutatis mutandis*.- All the Rules contained herein which enjoin any duty or obligation on an Advocate shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to Advocates of the Supreme Court or any other High Court acting for litigants without being instructed by another Advocate.

(PART - II)

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THE APPLICATION FORM FOR DESIGNATION AS A SENIOR ADVOCATE

- (1) Every Application, in the prescribed format, shall be made in English, typed/printed with font size (Arial, 12pt) in double spacing on a single side of white A4-size paper with top and left margins of 1.5 inches.
- (2) All documents annexed to the application should be accompanied by a detailed index containing the details thereof.
- (3) Documents accompanying the application should be listed and numbered consecutively in the index.
- (4) The entire compilation will have running page numbering IN THE TOP RIGHT CORNER in Arial 14 pt boldface.
- (5) Name of the Applicant must tally with his/her name as mentioned in his/her enrollment certificate. Abbreviated names are not to be used.
- (6) The completed Application with its index should be presented in the form of a paper book with binding or stitching on the left side. Spiral or comb binding is not to be used.
- (7) All photocopies should be legible and true copies of their respective originals.

- (8) Two sets of Application in the form of paper book, identical in every respect and particular shall be submitted to the Permanent Secretariat.
- (9) An original colour passport-sized photograph against a plain background is to be pasted on each copy of the Application.
- (10) A colour passport-size photograph also be provided separately in an envelope along with the application.
- (11) Soft copy of the Application in the form of paper book shall be submitted to the Permanent Secretariat in Pen Drive or through e-mail as notified from time to time. Care should be taken that the application and Index is properly bookmarked and all the pages of the application and paper book are in OCR (Optical Character Recognition) format.

FORM I

Application-Cum-Consent Letter for Designation as Senior Advocate

[Rule- 6(1)]

		Recent Passport size color photograph (original) to be pasted here					
1.	Name of the Applicant-Advocate:						
2.	Age :						
3.	Date of birth: <i>(dd/mm/yyyy)</i>						
4.	Address in full:	(i) Office-					
		(ii) Residence-					
5.	Contact Details:	(i) Landline-					
		(ii) Cell Phone -					
		(iii) Email-					
6.	Educational/Professional Qualifications :						
7.	(i) Date, Month and Year of Enrollment as an Advocate : (ii) Enrollment Number: <i>(copy of enrollment certificate to be attached)</i> (iii) Number of years of practice from the Date of enrollment:						
8.	(i) Whether registered with the Bar Association at District Court / Tribunal ? If yes, Name of the Bar Association: (ii) Date, month and year of registration: (iii) Advocate Code Number:						

9.	Number of reported judgments (excluding orders that do not lay down any principle of law) in the last five years in cases in which the applicant has appeared :	Lead Arguing Counsel (Number of judgments only)	Assisting Counsel (Number of judgments only)
10.	Number of unreported judgments (excluding orders that do not lay down any principle of law) in the last five years in cases in which the applicant has appeared :	Lead Arguing Counsel (Number of judgments only)	Assisting Counsel (Number of judgments only)
11.	Pro-bono/Amicus-curiae work during last five years.	Yes / No.	
12.	Whether copies of Five synopsis are attached? <i>(Applicable to those practicing before the High Court only)</i>	Yes / No.	
13.	Number of Cross-examinations conducted before the Sessions Court / Tribunals during last five years: <i>(Applicable to those practicing before the District Court / Tribunals only)</i>		
14.	Number of cases that culminated in the reported / unreported judgments of the High Court / Supreme Court wherein the applicant appeared and argued on a law point before the District Court / Tribunals: <i>(Applicable to those practicing before the District Court / Tribunals only).</i>		

15.	Whether applicant is a First Generation Lawyer?	Yes / No.		
16.	Number of Articles / books published / experience of teaching assignments in the field of law, guest lectures delivered in law schools or professional institutions connected with law:	Academic Article / Books	Teaching Assignment (s)	Guest lectures delivered in law school or professional institutions connected with law
17.	Whether the applicant is a member of the High Court Bar Association? If yes, Name of the Association, Registration Number, date and Advocate Code Number:			
18.	Courts where the applicant is practicing: <i>(Court wise period may be indicated)</i>	Supreme Court of India/High Court (s)/District/Lower Court(s)	Duration	
			From	To
19.	Tribunal(s) where the applicant has specialized practice: <i>(Applicable to those practicing before Tribunals only)</i>	Tribunal(s)	Duration	
			From	To
20.	Nature of practice- e.g. Civil, Criminal, Constitutional, Taxation, Labour, Company, Services, etc.			
21.	Field of Law-domain expertise (such as, constitutional law, interstate water disputes, Criminal law,			

	Arbitration law, Corporate law, Family law, Human rights, Public Interest Litigation, International law, law relating to women) in which the applicant has specialization /expertise.	
22.	Whether the applicant had applied earlier to the High Court of Bombay for designation? If so, current status of application:	
23.	Whether the applicant has applied to any other High Court? if so, current status of application:	
24.	Whether any FIR has ever been filed against the applicant? If so, details and current status thereof:	
25.	Whether the applicant is a party to any civil, criminal or other litigation. If so, the nature of involvement. e.g. plaintiff / complainant, defendant/ accused etc.	
	Has the applicant at any point of time been:	
	(a) Arrested?	
	(b) Prosecuted?	
	(c) Kept under detention?	
	(d) Bound down?	
	(e) Fined by a court of law?	
(i)	(f) Convicted by a court of law for any offence?	
	(g) Debarred from any examination or Rusticated by any authority / institution /council?	
	(h) Debarred/disqualified by any public commission/ authority?	

	(ii) Is any case pending against the applicant in any court of law / authority at the time of submitting this application?	
	(iii) If the answer to any of the above- mentioned questions is 'Yes', give full particulars of the case /arrest/ detention/ fine/ conviction / sentence / punishment etc. and/or the nature of the case pending in the Court / Authority or Institution etc., at the time of submitting this application.	
26.	Whether any proceedings were initiated or are pending against the applicant before Bar Council of India, Bar Council of Maharashtra & Goa or any Other State Bar Council? (If so, particulars thereof)	
27.	General State of Health	
28.	Any other relevant information: (<i>Maximum word count: 50</i>)	

DECLARATION

I _____, Advocate hereby gives consent for being designated as Senior Advocate.

I hereby verify that the information furnished above is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief. Nothing material is concealed or suppressed therefrom. I understand that furnishing of false information or suppression of any factual information would render me unfit for being designated as Senior Advocate

Date :

[Signature of the Applicant]

Note : Applicants should read the instructions while filling the Form and furnish the required information in the prescribed formats appended hereto.

FORM-II

Certificate

[Rule- 6(2)]

I _____ **Advocate**, certify that I have not applied to any other High Court for being designated as a Senior Advocate and / or that my application has not been rejected by the High Court of Bombay within a period of two years prior to the date of the application. (*strike out the irrelevant part*)

Date :

[Signature of the Applicant]

PRESCRIBED FORMATS**(1) LEAD ARGUING COUNSEL**

(List of Reported Judgments (excluding orders not laying down any principle of law) in the last five years)

Sr. No.	Court(s)	Citation / Case Number	Cause Title and Subject Matter	Decided on	Legal formulation advanced by the applicant

(2) ASSISTING COUNSEL

(List of Reported Judgments (excluding orders not laying down any principle of law) in the last five years)

Sr. No.	Court(s)	Citation / Case Number	Cause Title and Subject Matter	Decided on	Legal formulation advanced by the applicant

(3) LEAD ARGUING COUNSEL

(List of Unreported judgments (excluding orders not laying down any principle of law) in the last five years)

Sr. No.	Court(s)	Citation / Case Number	Cause Title and Subject Matter	Decided on	Legal formulation advanced by the applicant

(4) ASSISTING COUNSEL

(List of Unreported Judgments (excluding orders not laying down any principle of law) in the last five years)

Sr. No.	Court(s)	Citation / Case Number	Cause Title and Subject Matter	Decided on	Legal formulation advanced by the applicant

(5) FOR ADVOCATES PRACTICING ONLY AT DISTRICT COURT / TRIBUNAL
Cases that culminated in the reported / unreported Judgments of the High Court / Supreme Court wherein the applicant appeared and argued on a law point before the District Court / Tribunal.

(List of Judgments (excluding orders not laying down any principle of law) in the last five years)

Sr. No.	District / Sessions Court / Tribunal	Case Number	High Court / Supreme Court Case Number / Citation	Cause Title and subject matter	Date of Decision of the High Court / Supreme Court.	Legal formulation advanced by the applicant before the District / Sessions Court / Tribunal.

(6) FOR ADVOCATES PRACTICING ONLY AT DISTRICT COURT / TRIBUNAL
List of Cross-examinations in case of Advocates practicing on the original side of
the High Court or Trial and District Court or Specialized Tribunals during Last
Five years .

(List should contain maximum 20 Best Cases)

Sr. No.	High Court / District /Sessions Court / Tribunal	Case Number	Cause Title and subject matter	Date of cross examination.

(7) List of matters in which the Applicant / Advocate has appeared as Pro Bono/Amicus Curiae in the last five years

Sr. No.	Court(s)	Citation / Case Number	Cause Title and Subject Matter	Decided on	Reportable/ Un-Reportable Judgment

(8) FOR ADVOCATE PRACTICING IN THE HIGH COURT ONLY

Details of five Synopsis

Sr. No.	Court(s)	Case Number	Cause Title	Details

(9) Details of academic articles/books published, experience of teaching assignments in the field of law, guest lecturers delivered in law schools or professional institutions connected with law

Sr. No.	Topics of published academic articles/ Books/Lecture/ Courses	Experience details of teaching assignment and guest lecturers delivered in law schools or professional institutions connected with law	Names of law schools or professional institutions connected with law.	Any other relevant details

High Court of Judicature at Bombay,
Appellate Side, Bombay,

Dated : 26th February 2026.

S. C. KHATI,
Registrar General.