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भारतीय विधिज्ञ परिषद् BAR COUNCIL OF INDIA

(Statutory Body Constituted under the Advocates Act, 1961)

21, Rouse Avenue Institutional Area, New Delhi - 110 002

BCI:D:3531/2025

Date: 16.05.2025

To,

The President/Secretary,
Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA),
Supreme Court of India, New Delhi.

The President/Secretary,
Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record Association (SCAORA),
Supreme Court of India, New Delhi.

Sub.: Urgent appeal for reconsideration of farewell for Hon'ble Justice Bela M. Trivedi being a matter of institutional tradition, judicial integrity, and professional respect

Sir/s,

I write to you with a sense of urgency and earnestness regarding the disconcerting decision to forgo the traditional farewell for Hon'ble Justice Bela M. Trivedi, whose official last working day at the Supreme Court was observed on May 16, 2025. Such occasions have historically been a hallmark of institutional respect and recognition for the distinguished services rendered by retiring judges. The refusal to accord a farewell not only disrupts long-established traditions but also sends an unintended yet disheartening message to the judicial community and the broader legal fraternity.

Justice Bela M. Trivedi has exhibited an unshakable dedication to the ideals of justice, integrity, and judicial decorum throughout her tenure. Her contributions extend beyond the routine dispensation of justice, they include seminal judgments that have fortified the very edifice of legal practice in India. Notably, her landmark judgment in the DK Gandhi case, dated May 14, 2024 (Civil Appeal No. 2648 of 2009), serves as a powerful reflection of her exceptional legal acumen and her uncompromising stance in safeguarding the interest and dignity of the legal profession.

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In the D. K. Gandhi judgment, Justice Trivedi sitting with Hon'ble Mr. Justice Pankaj Mittal meticulously addressed the critical issue of whether legal services rendered by advocates fall under the ambit of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986/2019. By unequivocally declaring that legal services do not constitute a service under the Consumer Protection Act, she has set a precedent that safeguards the sanctity of the legal profession against unnecessary and vexatious litigations. This judgment has been lauded as a decisive intervention in protecting the dignity and independence of the legal fraternity, emphasizing the unique and irreplaceable nature of legal practice as a noble calling.

Furthermore, throughout her tenure, Justice Trivedi has been a symbol of judicial fortitude and moral rectitude. Her consistent emphasis on fairness, accountability, and ethical conduct has been a guiding light. Despite facing challenging circumstances, she has remained unyielding in her dedication to the principles of justice, refusing to yield to external pressures and always acting in accordance with her inner conscience.

The denial of a farewell to a judge of such stature raises questions about the institutional values that we, as a collective body of legal professionals, stand for. To ignore her contributions and deny her the respect she rightfully deserves is to diminish the very principles of equity, fairness, and integrity that Justice Trivedi has ardently upheld throughout her illustrious career.

It is pertinent to highlight that the SCBA and SCAORA have been longstanding pillars of the legal fraternity, exemplifying leadership, wisdom, and a strong sense of obligation. The exemplary work undertaken by you has been a source of inspiration not only for legal professionals but for the nation at large. Your actions, decisions, and stance resonate beyond the precincts of the Supreme Court, serving as a reflection of their deep-seated commitment to upholding justice and institutional dignity. By reconsidering the decision to deny a farewell to Justice Bela Trivedi, the SCBA and SCAORA would reinforce their status as esteemed custodians of tradition and integrity, demonstrating to law students, lawyers, and citizens alike the important responsibilities they shoulder in shaping the legal framework.

We, therefore, humbly urge the Supreme Court Bar Association and SCAORA, to reconsider their decision, as a gesture of institutional respect and gratitude for her notable contributions to the judiciary. Such a farewell is not merely a matter of protocol but a reaffirmation of our collective commitment to the traditions, principles, and decorum that define the judicial institution. Let us not forget that institutions are sustained by traditions, and traditions are upheld by the respect we accord to those who serve them with distinction and honor.

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In light of the above, it is earnestly requested that the Supreme Court Bar Association and SCAORA reconsider its decision and organize a farewell to appropriately honor Justice Bela Trivedi's exemplary service to the judiciary. Such a gesture will not only preserve our traditions but also reaffirm our enduring respect for the bench and the bar alike.

Thank you for your understanding, attention, and consideration of this urgent matter.



(Manan Kumar Mishra)
Senior Advocate, Supreme Court of India
Chairman, Bar Council of India