

1st November, 1940 – 23rd March, 2022

Full Court Reference in the memory of

Late Hon'ble Mr. Justice R.C. Lahoti

Former Chief Justice of India

held on Tuesday, the 11th October 2022

*at 4.30 p.m. in the Auditorium at 3rd Floor, 'C' Block,
Additional Building Complex, Supreme Court of India*

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Letter from the Registrar, Supreme Court of India

H. Shashidhara Shetty
Registrar
Supreme Court of India



Tel.: 011-23112564
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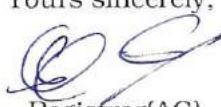
F.No.99/Ref/2021/SCA(Genl)
Dated the 12th October, 2022

Mrs. Kaushalya Lahoti,
Flat No. 1202, Tower D-1,
Cleo County, Sector-121,
Noida-201301,
Uttar Pradesh.

Madam,

There was a Full Court Reference in the Auditorium of the Additional Building Complex, Supreme Court of India on 11th October, 2022 in the memory of late Hon'ble Mr. Justice R.C. Lahoti, former Chief Justice of India. Rich tributes were paid to His Lordship by Hon'ble Shri Uday Umesh Lalit, Chief Justice of India, Shri R Venkataramani, Learned Attorney General for India and Shri Vikas Singh, President, Supreme Court Bar Association. After the references were read, two minutes' silence was observed. I have the honour of forwarding a booklet containing memorial speeches delivered at the Full Court Reference, as aforesaid.

Kindly permit me to convey the heart-felt condolences of the Officers and members of the staff of the Supreme Court Registry to you and other members of the family.

Yours sincerely,

Registrar(AG)

Encls: As above

*List of Business for 11th October, 2022 in respect of
Full Court Reference*



SUPREME COURT OF INDIA

LIST OF BUSINESS FOR TUESDAY THE 11TH OCTOBER, 2022

**IN THE AUDITORIUM AT 3RD FLOOR, 'C' BLOCK, ADDITIONAL
BUILDING COMPLEX, SUPREME COURT OF INDIA**

AT 04.30 P.M.

FULL COURT REFERENCE IN THE MEMORY OF
LATE HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE R.C. LAHOTI
AND LATE HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE KAMAL NARAIN SINGH,
FORMER CHIEF JUSTICES OF INDIA

Coram of Hon'ble Judges at the Full Court Reference

- ❖ Hon'ble Shri Uday Umesh Lalit, Chief Justice of India
- ❖ Hon'ble Dr. Justice D.Y. Chandrachud
- ❖ Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul
- ❖ Hon'ble Mr. Justice S. Abdul Nazeer
- ❖ Hon'ble Mr. Justice K.M. Joseph
- ❖ Hon'ble Mr. Justice Mukeshkumar Rasikbhai Shah
- ❖ Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ajay Rastogi
- ❖ Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanjiv Khanna
- ❖ Hon'ble Mr. Justice Surya Kant
- ❖ Hon'ble Mr. Justice Aniruddha Bose
- ❖ Hon'ble Mr. Justice A.S. Bopanna
- ❖ Hon'ble Mr. Justice Krishna Murari
- ❖ Hon'ble Mr. Justice S. Ravindra Bhat
- ❖ Hon'ble Mr. Justice Hrishikesh Roy
- ❖ Hon'ble Mr. Justice Abhay S. Oka
- ❖ Hon'ble Mr. Justice Vikram Nath
- ❖ Hon'ble Mr. Justice J.K. Maheshwari
- ❖ Hon'ble Mrs. Justice B.V. Nagarathna
- ❖ Hon'ble Mr. Justice C.T. Ravikumar
- ❖ Hon'ble Mr. Justice M.M. Sundresh
- ❖ Hon'ble Ms. Justice Bela M. Trivedi
- ❖ Hon'ble Mr. Justice Pamidighantam Sri Narasimha
- ❖ Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia

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Reference made on 11th October, 2022

by

**Hon'ble The Chief Justice of India
Shri U. U. Lalit**

in the memory of

Late Mr. Justice R. C. Lahoti

&

**Late Mr. Justice Kamal Narain Singh
Former Chief Justices of India**

Brother and Sister Judges, learned Attorney General Shri R. Venkataramani, learned Solicitor General Shri Tushar Mehta, learned law officers, Shri Vikas Singh, President, Supreme Court Bar Association, Shri Manoj Kumar Mishra, President Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record Association, Members of the Bar, Family Members of late Shri Justice R.C. Lahoti and late Shri Justice K.N. Singh, who are present here and who have joined online, ladies and gentlemen.

We have congregated this afternoon to remember and pay homage to Shri Justice R.C. Lahoti and Shri Justice K.N. Singh, former Chief Justices of India.

Shri Justice R.C. Lahoti

Shri Justice Ramesh Chandra Lahoti was born on 1st November, 1940. After completing B.Com. (Hons.) from Bombay, he chose to follow the footsteps of his father, Shri Ratan Lal Lahoti who was an eminent Advocate, social worker and a freedom fighter. He acquired his Law degree from Holkar College, Indore and was also awarded a gold medal for securing first position in the University.

He joined the Bar in District Guna in the year 1960 and enrolled himself as an Advocate in the year 1962. In April, 1977, he was recruited directly from the Bar to the State Higher Judicial Service and was appointed as a District & Sessions Judge. However, after functioning in that capacity for a year, he resigned in May, 1978 and rejoined the Bar for practice mainly in the High Court.

He was well known for his knowledge of law and was having finest legal mind with sharp intellect. He appeared in constitutional, taxation, civil, criminal and labour cases of importance. He was appointed as an Additional Judge of the Madhya Pradesh

High Court on 3rd May, 1988 and became permanent Judge on 4th August, 1989. He was later transferred to Delhi High Court on 7th February, 1994 where he remained actively associated with the judicial officers' training programme during his tenure in Delhi High Court.

In 1995, the Supreme Court appointed him as One-man Inquiry Commission to investigate into the claims of frustrated buyers of flats from M/s. Skipper Construction Company where more than 800 claims were decided by him within a year.

In 1996, he was appointed as One-man Court of Inquiry to investigate into the cause of mid-air collision between Saudi Arabia Boeing-747 and Kazakhstan IL-76 at Charkhi-Dadri, near Delhi and to make recommendations for avoiding any such accidents again. Within a short period of nearly 8 months, the Inquiry report was submitted by him.

Both the commissions were conducted without suspending the judicial work in the High Court.

On 9th December, 1998, he was appointed as Judge, Supreme Court of India and became the 35th Chief Justice of India on 1st June, 2004.

During his tenure in the Supreme Court, he authored as many as 342 judgments. He gave many important judgments such as:

- (a) *AIIMS Students' Union vs. AIIMS, (2002) 1 SCC 428;*
- (b) *Anil Panjwani, In re. (2003) 7 SCC 375;*
- (c) *State of Gujarat vs. Mirzapur Moti Kureshi Kassab Jamat (2005) 8 SCC 534, dealing with Article 25 of the Constitution of India relating to essential religious practices;*
- (d) *P.A. Inamdar vs. State of Maharashtra (2005) 6 SCC 537, relating to the admission procedure and fee structure in professional unaided (minority and non-minority) educational institutions. He opined on the issue of obligations and duties of an institution to maintain requisite standards of professional excellence by giving admissions based on merit and making it equally accessible to eligible students through a fair and transparent admission procedure and based on a reasonable fee structure;*

As a lawyer, I had the privilege to appear in the matter.

- (e) *P. Ramachandra Rao vs. State of Karnataka (2002) 4 SCC 578. Speaking*

- for a Seven Judge Constitution Bench concerning right to speedy trial under Article 21 of the Constitution of India, he held that the Supreme Court cannot fix any time limit for conclusion of criminal proceedings or trial, thereby entitling the accused to be acquitted on the ground of delay;*
- (f) *K. Prabhakaran vs. P. Jayarajan (2005) 1 SCC 754 was an important judgment dealing with the question whether a person who has been convicted for various offences and sentenced for each offence to periods of less than two years, but cumulatively and consecutively for a period of over two years in one and the same trial, is disqualified to contest an election under Section 8(3) read with Section 100(1)(a) of the Representation of the People Act, 1951;*
- (g) *Javed vs. State of Haryana (2003) 8 SCC 369. Dealing with the Panchayat and Zila Parishad Elections in the State of Haryana, he affirmed that a person having more than two living children cannot contest election and he would be disqualified;*
- (h) *In Sarbananda Sonowal vs. Union of India, where a public interest litigation was filed seeking repeal of the Illegal Migrants (Determination by Tribunals) Act, 1983 and by which the Act placed the responsibility to prove an individual as an illegal migrant upon the police as opposed to the individual having to furnish proof of citizenship, as provided in the Foreigners Act, 1946. A three Judge Bench presided over by Justice Lahoti held the Act to be violative of the Constitution. It was held that the reversal of this burden of proof in cases under the IMDT Act acted as a barrier to the detection of illegal migrants and was discriminatory against the people of Assam.*

Chief Justice Lahoti demitted the office on 31st October, 2005.

He participated in several international conferences and seminars abroad relating to law and justice. After retirement, Justice Lahoti also served as an arbitrator in several high-profile matters. In the year 2015, he was named the arbitrator in the Vodafone tax case. The dispute pertained to issues of retrospective taxation, capital gains taxes and transfer pricing.

He was a Karmyogi, mentor, friend and a Godfather to many in the legal fraternity, philanthropic, social and education circles. He believed in the ideology of Swami Vivekananda and religiously followed his principles in life.

His behaviour towards the members of the Bar was cordial, friendly and excellent. He taught the young lawyers like a professor and mentor. He was always kind and supporting to the members of the Bar and was held in high esteem and commanded respect from the Bench, Bar and litigants throughout the country.

He had immense interest in legal aid services and ADR systems and made significant contribution in promoting ADR mechanism, ensuring cheap and speedy justice, and achieving vision of Access to Justice for All, particularly the downtrodden and weaker sections of society, which upholds the faith of the public in the justice delivery system.

He maintained a very healthy and disciplined lifestyle. He was not only an avid reader himself, but encouraged others to read. Gifting people books containing messages on how to derive maximum benefit from them was something he relished. He was a champion of social causes and donated anonymously. He was always eager to learn and open to experiment, which allowed him to remain ahead of the curve.

He was of the firm belief that reading spiritual, motivational, inspirational books and biographies/autobiographies is an essential source to augment the knowledge and improvise one's own personality.

To him, work was worship. He never shied away from learning something new as he believed that it is never too late to learn. He never compromised on anything less than the best and believed that if you have accepted an assignment, you must put your heart into it.

He left for heavenly abode on 23rd March, 2022 and is survived by his wife, Smt. Kaushalya ji Lahoti, son Shri Ujjwal Lahoti, daughters Smt. Pankaj Soni, Prof. Archana Mantri and Dr. Vandana Marda and their families.

Shri Justice K.N. Singh

Shri Justice Kamal Narain Singh was born on 13th December, 1926 into a family of landed farmers in a village called Chakdiha which was a part of United Provinces in the British India. He was the first in the family to receive formal western education. He completed his B.A. Programme in the year 1946. Although he was selected to join the Air Force but he eventually turned to law. Having a great thirst for knowledge, he did a combined course of LL.B. and M.A. degree programme at the University of Allahabad in the year 1949. As a young man filled with the spirit of nationalism, he came in contact with the freedom fighters and even took part in the freedom movement. During his initial days, he gave night classes to educate the illiterate masses.

In the year 1950, he enrolled as a Pleader in the District Court of Allahabad but started practicing only in the year 1957 since he continued to be politically active mainly in the rural parts of Allahabad district. He practiced on Civil, Constitutional and Taxation matters at Allahabad. He specialized in Election Law and represented many politicians such as Lal Bahadur Shastri, Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia, Chaudhary Charan Singh, Raj Narain among others.

He was appointed as the Junior Standing Counsel for the Government of Uttar Pradesh in the year 1963 and became the Senior Standing Counsel in the year 1967. He was appointed as the Advocate General of Uttar Pradesh in March, 1970 but he held that post only till May, 1970.

He was appointed as an Additional Judge of the Allahabad High Court in August, 1970 and became a permanent Judge in the year 1972.

He was elevated to the Supreme Court of India on 10th March, 1986. On 25th November, 1991 he assumed the Office of the Chief Justice of India. During his tenure in the Supreme Court, he authored many important judgments such as:

- (a) *Irrigation Department, Government of Orissa vs. G.C. Roy (1992) 1 SCC 508, dealing with the Arbitration Act, 1940, on the issue of interest pendente lite. He held that the interest pendente lite can be awarded by arbitrator having regard to the facts and circumstances of the case for doing complete justice between the parties where claim as to interest is made by the parties and the agreement does not contain anything to the contrary;*
- (b) *Shashi Nayar (Smt.) vs. Union of India (1992) 1 SCC 96, relating to the petition filed under Article 32 of the Constitution of India challenging the constitutional validity of death penalty. While holding the provision for death sentence not violative of Article 21, he held that capital punishment be awarded in rarest of rare cases;*
- (c) *Charan Lal Sahu vs. Union of India (1990) 1 SCC 613, in a concurring judgment delivered on the issue of Bhopal Gas Leak disaster, he affirmed the constitutional validity of Bhopal Gas Leak Disaster (Processing of Claims) Act, 1985. In this case directions were not only given for interim compensation or maintenance but suggestions were also made for taking precautionary measures and for effectively dealing with such industrial disasters in future;*

- (d) *Delhi Judicial Service Association vs. State of Gujarat (1991) 4 SCC 406, in which some police officers had assaulted, arrested and handcuffed a Chief Judicial Magistrate to wreak vengeance and to humiliate him in order to show superiority of police power and privilege, he found that a case of criminal contempt against the police was made out and laid down the guidelines to be followed by the State Governments as well as the High Courts while arresting judicial officers;*
- (e) *M.C. Mehta vs. Union of India (1987) 4 SCC 463. In a writ petition against Ganga Water pollution, he gave a supplementing judgment and issued directions for the closure of the tanneries which had failed to take minimum steps required for the primary treatment of industrial effluents. It was also held that the closure of tanneries may bring unemployment, loss of revenue, but life, health and ecology have greater importance to the people.*

He demitted the office on 12th December, 1991.

Post his retirement, he was appointed as the Chairman of the 13th Law Commission of India in the year 1992 which post he held till the year 1994. He also presided over many arbitration tribunals. He was an avid golfer and even served as the President of the Delhi Golf Club.

He was religious and spiritual and was a firm believer of karma. He selflessly helped others. He treated everyone with equal respect.

One of his daughters, Smt. Sunita Singh has penned a book on her father titled 'Making of a Chief Justice of India, Life and Times of Justice Kamal Narain Singh' which was released recently.

He left for heavenly abode on 08th September, 2022 and is survived by his son Justice Devendra Pratap Singh, former Judge of the Allahabad High Court, daughters Smt. Usha Singh, Smt. Sadhana Singh and Smt. Sunita Singh and their families.

My Brother and Sister Judges join me in conveying our heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families and we pray to the Almighty to give them strength to bear this irreparable loss with fortitude.

May the departed souls rest in peace.

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*Reference made on 11th October, 2022
by*

***Attorney General For India
Shri R. Venkataramani***

in the memory of

***Late Mr. Justice R. C. Lahoti
Former Chief Justice of India***

Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India, Hon'ble Judges of the Supreme Court, the Solicitor General of India, the Additional Solicitors General, President and Office Bearers of the Supreme Court Bar Association, President and Office Bearers of the Supreme Court Advocates on Record Association, members of the Bar, ladies and gentlemen:

It is with immense sense of sadness that we have assembled today to condole the demise of Mr. Justice Ramesh Chandra Lahoti, former Chief Justice of India and former Judge, High Courts of Madhya Pradesh and Delhi.

Education and Career

Justice R. C. Lahoti was born on 01st November 1940 in District Guna, Madhya Pradesh. He did his B.Com (Hons.) from R. A. Poddar College at Bombay, and was awarded the LL.B. degree from Holkar College, Indore. His distinctions earned him a Gold medal in the hands of the then Vice President of India, Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan. He joined the Bar in his home district in 1960, and was enrolled as an Advocate in 1962. After serving as a District & Sessions Judge for a year, in May 1978, he reverted to the Bar to pursue his practice, primarily in the High Court.

On 3rd of May 1988, Justice Lahoti was appointed as an Additional Judge of the Madhya Pradesh High Court, and was made a permanent Judge on 04.08.1989. Thereafter, he was transferred to High Court of Delhi on 07.02.1994 and later appointed as a judge of the Supreme Court on December 9, 1998. Justice Ramesh Chandra Lahoti was appointed the 35th CJI on June 1, 2004 and served for 17 months before he retired on 31 October, 2005.

During his tenure as the Judge, Justice Lahoti by dint of his legal acumen had earned great respect and regard not only from his colleagues on the Bench but from the bar too.

His colleagues on the Bench recall him as an extremely compassionate person, and equally blessed with a sense of humour in good measure, which was on display both on and off the Bench. He brought liveliness to the Court proceedings by keeping the atmosphere light and his wit and humour had always diffused the stress in the Court. Self effacing but persuasive, soft endearing but assertive- qualities that he bore ever.

Judgments, betray the Judge, unlike theories of science. They tell you his values; they tell you his ability to perceive human suffering, in the larger sense of the word and his capacity for sharing, the scales of his empathy. They are a measure of his praxis in transforming the Institutions of Justice to more civilised and humane levels. Judging Judges is a journey through fairy tales and noble dreams amongst others, said Simon Lee. We gather and recollect our memory of the great solemn moments of doing justice as chronicles integral to our vibrant institutions of Justice.

During his tenure of about 5 and half years as the Judge of this Court, Justice Lahoti has penned about 342 judgments, many of which have shaped the jurisprudence of the Country. Of the 342 judgments authored by Justice Lahoti during his tenure, his authorship was mostly on criminal (21.6%), civil (18.1%), commercial and tenancy (14.9%) related matters.

By virtue of his deep knowledge, wisdom and ability, Justice Lahoti reached the highest position in the Indian judiciary, coming though from a very humble background.

Subject-Wise Judgments

Criminal	-	74
Civil	-	62
Tenancy	-	51
Property	-	36
Constitution	-	30
Election	-	27

Chart: Supreme Court Observer Source: Manupatra

Notable Judgments:

I will not be doing justice if I attempt to summarise the illustrious judicial career of Justice Lahoti in this short span. I am constrained to confine myself to only some of the remarkable opinions penned by him.

1. Justice Lahoti presided over a 3-judge bench in Sarbananda Sonowal v. Union of

India. The Chief Minister of Assam, Sarbananda Sonowal, filed a petition asking for the repeal of the Illegal Migrants (Determination by Tribunals) Act, 1983. The Act placed the burden of proof upon the police as opposed to the individual having to furnish proof of citizenship, as provided in the Foreigners Act, 1946. In a judgment authored by Chief Justice Lahoti, the Court annulled the Act on the ground of violation of Articles 14 and 355 of the Constitution of India. The reversal of burden of proof in cases under the IMDT Act according to the opinion acted as a "barrier" to the detection of illegal migrants and discriminatory against the bonafide residents of Assam.

2. *Justice Lahoti led the seven-judge bench [State of Gujarat vs. Mirzapur Moti Kureshi Kassab Jamat (2005) 8 SCC 534] that overturned a 1959 Supreme Court ruling in the case of Mohd. Hanif Quareshi vs. State of Bihar (1959 SCR 629), which laid down that the ban on slaughter of the cow's progeny - old bulls and bullocks - was unconstitutional. The endeavour to position the diverse perspectives on this highly sensitive issue shows remarkable Statesmanship.*
3. ***P.A. Inamdar vs. State of Maharashtra (2005) 6 SCC 537 [7 Judges Bench]*** has virtually changed the landscape of higher education institutions and has laid the foundations for a variety of regulatory measures.
4. ***Central Board of Dawoodi Bohra Community v. State of Maharashtra, (2005) 2 SCC 673*** will always be remembered for the sterling emphasis on the discipline of abiding by Precedents of co-equal benches.
5. ***In Atma Ram Properties (P) Ltd. v. Federal Motors (P) Ltd., (2005) 1 SCC 705.***

His Lordship held that while passing an order of stay under Rule 5 of Order 41 of the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, the appellate court has jurisdiction to put the tenant on such reasonable terms in order to compensate the landlord for the loss occasioned by delay in the execution of decree by the grant of an order of stay. This judgment has been followed more than 500 times by Appellate Courts across the Country and has reduced the agony of the landlords who even after having successfully obtained decrees of eviction had to wait decades for their enforcement while being paid a paltry sum as rent.

6. *It is said that a judge speaks through his judgments; they reflect his philosophy, approach and thinking process. Though identified as a traditional, typically conservative Justice Lahoti has earned a place in the long line of purposive*

constructionists. He could easily and deftly mould relief as to render complete justice.

The opening paragraph of the judgment in BP Achala Anand v. S Appi Reddy authored by him proves the point. His Lordship observed as under:

"Unusual fact situation posing issues for resolution is an opportunity for innovation. Law, as administered by Courts, transforms into Justice."

This is very close to what Benjamin Cardozo said in the 'The Nature of the Judicial Process'. I quote:

"We no longer interpret contracts with meticulous adherence to the letter when in conflict with the spirit. We read covenants into them by implication when we find them "instinct with an obligation" imperfectly expressed."

Unquote

Thus, Justice Lahoti granted relief to an estranged wife and allowed her to resist a decree of eviction from a rented premises in the occupation of the husband tenant.

Post-retirement life

On account of his competence and reputation, Justice Lahoti served as an arbitrator in many high-profile matters after retiring as Chief Justice. In 2015 Justice Lahoti was named the arbitrator in the Vodafone tax case that arose over Vodafone's acquisition of Hutchison Whampoa Ltd's telecom assets in India. The dispute pertained to issues of retrospective taxation, capital gains taxes and transfer pricing. He also presided as an independent Director of the Board of Directors of the Press Trust of India.

Awards

For his contribution towards the administration of justice and the legal education, Justice Lahoti was widely acknowledged and conferred several honours. He was conferred the degree of Doctor of Laws (Honoris Causa) in the august presence of Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam, the then President of India, by the Rani Durgawati Vishwavidyalaya, Jabalpur on 12.10.2006. He was also presented with the National Law Day Award, 2006 for his unique contribution in the field of administration of justice. On 22.08.2007, Lok Jagran, Tulsi Shodh Sansthan, Allahabad decorated His Lordship with 'Goswami Tulsidas Samarohan Samman'. On 02.03.2008 Vikram Vishwavidyalaya, Ujjain conferred the degree of Doctor of Laws (Honoris Causa) in the august presence of Dr. Balram Jakhar, Governor of Madhya Pradesh and Sh. Naval Kishore Sharma, Governor of Gujarat. On 18.07.2008 (Guru Purnima Divas) - he was decorated with 'Shri

Ramkinkar Samman, by Shri Ramayanam Trust , Shree Dham Ayodhya. He was also decorated with 'Swami Shree Akhandanand Saraswati Alankaran, 2009' by Shree Rajeev-Lochanam Trust, Jabalpur for achieving ideals worth being emulated in the field of Samskaar-Srijan, Sanskriti-Poshan, Sewa-Samarpan. He was decorated with the National honour – 'Shree Bhav Bhaveshwar Rashtranidhi Ratna' by Shree Sadguru Swami Akhandanand Memorial Charitable Trust, Varumaal (Gujarat) for exceptional contribution made in the field of judicial reforms and upholding constitutional rights of citizens of India.

Personal Experience

I have appeared before Chief Justice Lahoti while he was in the Delhi High Court and in this Hon'ble Court in many cases. The evolution of a great Judge was so evident. I have both seen in the abundance and shared the dais with His Lordship in several public functions and seminars. I have fond memories of the sweep of his erudition expressed without self importance. I recollect his visit to my humble abode few years ago and the long discussions on life journeys, ethics and the search for Truth.

Personality and conclusion

Justice Lahoti has lived a very principled life both on and off the Bench. He was a teetotaller, vegetarian and a nonsmoker.

Justice Lahoti was passionate about Legal Aid Services and Alternate Dispute Resolution. Justice Lahoti will always be remembered for upholding the Rule of Law as a fearless and independent Judge. His Lordship's outstanding contributions to administration of justice and emphasis on speedy justice to the underprivileged will always be remembered.

Justice Lahoti left for his heavenly abode on 23rd March, 2022 at the age of 81 years after having an illustrious judicial career. He is survived by his wife Ms. Kaushalya – a Social Worker; three daughters Ms. Pankaj Soni, Dr. Archana Mantri and Dr. Vandana Marda; one Son Mr. Ujjwal Lahoti; brother Justice K. K. Lahoti; sister-in-law Ms. Asha Lahoti; brother Mr. O. P. Lahoti; sister-in-law Ms. Shyama Lahoti; Nephew Dr. Amit Lahoti; grandsons Advocate Divyakant Lahoti and Advocate Kartik Lahoti.

I join the Hon'ble Judges and Members of the bar to pay homage to the departed soul of Justice R.C. Lahoti.

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Reference made on 11th October, 2022

by

***Shri Vikas Singh (Sr.)
President, SCBA***

in the memory of

***Late Mr. Justice R. C. Lahoti
&***

***Late Mr. Justice Kamal Narain Singh
Former Chief Justices of India***

Justice UU Lalit - Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India, Shri.R. Venkataramani, Ld. Attorney General for India, Hon'ble Judges of this Hon'ble Court, Law Officers, Members of the family of Late Justice Lahoti and Justice Kamal Narain Singh, Members of the Executive Committee of SCBA, Members of the Bar, ladies and gentlemen.

Death is ultimate and inevitable but the intellectual vibrations of a personality always echo around us. We have assembled here to honour the everlasting legacy left behind by My Lords, the late Justice Lahoti and Justice Kamal Narain Singh, who embodied the spirit of judicial fidelity, propriety and probity.

Justice R.C. Lahoti

Justice Lahoti was neither a typical Chief Justice nor an ordinary human being. He was truly a blessed soul. A paradigm and embodiment of integrity, intelligence, simplicity, humility and clarity of thought. Justice R. C. Lahoti was born on 1st November 1940 in District Guna, Madhya Pradesh. He did his B.Com (Hons.) from R. A. Poddar College, Bombay, and was awarded the LL.B. degree from Holkar College, Indore. For standing first class, first, he was awarded the Gold medal by the then Vice President of India, Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan.

He joined the Bar in his home district in 1960 and was enrolled as an Advocate in 1962. In April 1977, Justice Lahoti was recruited directly from the bar to the State Higher Judicial Service and was appointed as a District & Sessions Judge. After serving as a District & Sessions Judge for a year, in May 1978, he tendered his resignation and

reverted to the Bar to pursue his practice, primarily in the High Court. He was appointed as an Additional Judge of the Madhya Pradesh High Court on 3rd May 1988 and was made a permanent Judge on 4th August 1989. Justice Lahoti was also an active Rotarian for about 21 years (1973-1994) and was also a Founder Member of the Rotary Club of Guna.

Justice Lahoti was transferred to Delhi High Court on 7th February 1994. During his tenure, Justice Lahoti, by dint of his legal acumen and work ethic, earned great respect and regard, not only from his colleagues on the Bench but also from the Bar. He conducted the proceedings in his Court while keeping the atmosphere light, and his wit and humour diffused the stresses and tensions in the Courtroom. He always had a complete grip on every matter and was very balanced and equity-minded in his approach.

In 1995, the Supreme Court of India appointed Justice Lahoti as the One-Man Inquiry Commission to investigate claims of frustrated buyers of flats from M/s. Skipper Construction Company Ltd. More than 800 claims were investigated and decided within 12 months. On 5th November 1996, he was appointed One-Man Court of Inquiry to investigate into causes of the mid-air collision between Saudi Arabia Boeing-747 and Kazakhstan IL-76 at Charkhi — Dadri (near Delhi) and make recommendations for avoiding such accidents in future. The Inquiry Report was submitted on 15th July 1997 by accomplishing the task of magnitude and international significance within a record time of 8 months. Both commissions were conducted without suspending the judicial work in the High Court.

Justice Lahoti was appointed as a Judge of the Supreme Court of India on 9th December 1998. During his nearly 7-year tenure in the Supreme Court, Justice Lahoti authored 342 judgments. He authored 66 of his judgments in the year 2002. Of the 342 judgments written by Justice Lahoti during his tenure, his authorship was mostly on criminal (21.6%), civil (18.1%) and tenancy (14.9%) related matters. Justice Lahoti was appointed as the 35th Chief Justice of India on 1st June 2004. In November 2004, Justice Lahoti broke ground with many of his predecessors who had expressed concern about the growing corruption within the judiciary, by proclaiming that the judiciary in India was 'clean'. His tenure as CJI was marked by the way he carried all colleagues along with him and how all decisions were taken with consensus. Justice Lahoti demitted the office of the Chief Justice of India on 31st October 2005. He retired on his

65th birthday giving him a term of 17 months. His predecessor (Chief Justice Rajendra Babu) had a term of just 1 month.

In his distinguished career as a judge of the Supreme Court, Justice Lahoti gave many important judgements. Some of the insightful quotes from his judgments are mentioned below: "Every citizen of India is fundamentally obligated to develop a scientific temper and humanism. He is fundamentally duty-bound to strive towards excellence in all spheres of individual and collective activity so that the nation constantly rises to higher levels of endeavour and achievements." **R.C. Lahoti, J. in AIIMS Students' Union v. AIIMS, (2002) 1 SCC 428, para 58** "The dignity of the ocean lies not in its fury capable of causing destruction, but in its vast expanse and depth with enormous tolerance (on scurrilous statements by a party against a Judge of the Supreme Court)." **R.C. Lahoti, J. in Anil Panjwani, In re, (2003) 7 SCC 375, para 10** "Courts can declare the law, they can interpret the law, they can remove obvious lacunae and fill the gaps but they cannot entrench upon in the field of legislation properly meant for the legislature." **R.C. Lahoti, J. in P. Ramachandra Rao v. State of Karnataka, (2002) 4 SCC 578, para 27**

Justice Lahoti led the seven-judge bench that overturned a 1959 Supreme Court ruling, which laid down that the ban on slaughter of the cow's progeny - old bulls and bullocks - was unconstitutional. Justice Lahoti presided over a 3-judge bench *Sarbananda Sonowal v. Union of India*. The Chief Minister of Assam, Sarbananda Sonowal, filed a petition asking for the repeal of the Illegal Migrants (Determination by Tribunals) Act, 1983. The Act placed the responsibility to prove an individual as an illegal migrant upon the police as opposed to the individual having to furnish proof of citizenship, as provided in the Foreigners Act, 1946. The Court in a judgment authored by Chief Justice Lahoti repealed the Act because it was violative of Articles 14 and 355 of the Constitution of India. It was held that the reversal of this burden of proof in cases under the IMDT Act acted as a "barrier" to the detection of illegal migrants and was discriminatory against the people of Assam. Justice Lahoti upheld a Haryana law that did not allow those with more than two children to contest local body elections. He rejected arguments based on the right to privacy and religion.

Justice Lahoti was passionate about Legal Aid Services and Alternate Dispute Resolution. Justice Lahoti has also served as an arbitrator in many high-profile matters after retiring as Chief Justice. In 2015, on account of his competence and reputation,

Justice Lahoti was appointed as an arbitrator by the Government of India in the Rs. 20,000 crore high-profile tax dispute case with the telecom major Vodafone. The Vodafone tax case arose over Vodafone's acquisition of Hutchison Whampoa Ltd's telecom assets in India. The dispute pertained to issues of retrospective taxation, capital gains taxes and transfer pricing.

Justice Lahoti was on the Advisory Board of the Indian International Model United Nations. He was also the Chairperson of the Advisory Board of the Faculty of Law at Manav Rachna University. He was appointed as the Chairman of the Advisory Board of Sri Aurobindo Foundation for Integral Management (SAFIM) Pondicherry, on 19th October 2011. He also presided as an independent Director of the Board of Directors of the Press Trust of India. He headed the Akhil Bharatiya Adhivakta Parishad's Nyay Chaupal, a forum set up with the stated aim of solving civil disputes that are an outcome of the "crumbling family structure in the new societal order".

Justice Lahoti has been a part of several international conferences and seminars related to law and justice. To enlist a few of them, he attended the Law-Asia Conference held in Tokyo, Japan (August–September 2003). He was a part of the SAARCLAW Conference held in Karachi, Pakistan (February, 2004), the Biennial Conference of International Law Association held in Berlin, Germany (August, 2004) and Yale Law School Seminars on Global Constitutionalism in (2000, 2003 and 2005). He was also a member of the Fourth Indo-US Legal Forum Meet held in Washington and San Francisco in October 2002. He had participated in several other conferences around the globe.

Realising an overwhelming need for reforming the judicial sector in India through the adoption of new technologies and devising a National Policy and Action Plan to implement ICT in courts, Justice R.C. Lahoti proposed the constitution of the e-Committee. The e-Committee was to assist in formulating a National Policy enabling the Indian judiciary to prepare itself for the digital age, to adapt and apply technologies and communication tools making the justice delivery system more efficient and thus benefit its various stakeholders. The digital platforms created by the e-Committee since then have enabled stakeholders- litigants, lawyers, governmental/law enforcement agencies and ordinary citizens to access judicial data and information in real time.

An eminent jurist, Justice Lahoti rose from a humble background to reach the pinnacle of the Indian judiciary, by virtue of his ability, knowledge and wisdom. He will

always be remembered for upholding the Rule of Law as a fearless and independent Judge. Justice Lahoti's outstanding contributions to the judiciary of the country and emphasis on speedy justice for the underprivileged will always be admired. Alongside his profound learning and clarity on every branch of law, was his deep humility in expressing his views and suggestions. He was not only a great Judge but also an academic. His approach to decision-making was driven by logic, and the quality or ideal of being just, impartial and fair. He was aware that none in the human race would ever rise above criticism. He accepted every commentary, whether complimenting or being critical of his verdicts, with equanimity. He was also an ardent listener. He considered any knowledge or information as wealth. He was not an impulsive responder and would never indulge in loose talk or criticism. Rather, he will compliment wherever he found an occasion to do that. He had gratitude galore.

*For his contribution towards the administration of justice and legal education, Justice Lahoti was widely acknowledged and conferred various honorariums. He was conferred the degree of Doctor of Laws (*Honoris Causa*) in the august presence of Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam, the then President of India, by the Rani Durgawati Vishwavidyalaya, Jabalpur on 12th October 2006. He was also presented with the National Law Day Award, 2006 for his unique contribution in the field of administration of justice, for making it more friendly to the people at large, by the then Prime Minister of India Dr. Manmohan Singh, on 26th November 2006. On 22nd August 2007, Lok Jagran, Tulsi Shodh Sansthan, Allahabad decorated Justice Lahoti with '*Goswami Tulsidas Samarohan Samman*'. On 2nd March 2008 Vikram Vishwavidyalaya, Ujjain conferred the degree of Doctor of Laws (*Honoris Causa*) in the august presence of Dr. Balram Jakhad, Governor of Madhya Pradesh and Sh. Naval Kishore Sharma, Governor of Gujarat. On 18th July 2008 (*Guru Purnima Divas*) - he was decorated with '*Shri Ramkinkar Samman*, by Shri Ramayanam Trust, Shree Dham Ayodhya. He was also decorated with '*Swami Shree Akhandanand Saraswati Alankaran, 2009*' by Shree Rajeev-Lochanam Trust, Jabalpur for achieving ideals worth being emulated in the field of Samskaar-Srijan, Sanskriti-Poshan, Sewa-Samarpan. He was decorated with the National honour – '*Shree Bhavbhaveshwar Rashtranidhi Ratna*' by Shree Sadguru Swami Akhandanand Memorial Charitable Trust, Varumaal (Gujarat) for exceptional contribution made in the field of judicial reforms and upholding constitutional rights of citizens of India.*

Justice Lahoti was not only an avid reader himself, but encouraged others to read.

Gifting people books containing messages on how to derive maximum benefit from them was something he relished. Justice Lahoti was deeply spiritual and dived deep into several dimensions and schools of thought of spirituality. He had an entire library of books relating to wisdom, spirituality, religion and even scriptures. He did a lot of reading of ancient scriptures of different geographies and civilizations. He often advised people to take out 1-2 hours a day to read about philosophy and all religions and their teachings. He said this would help a person in finding the real fundamentals of life and work ethics. He emphasized the teaching of the Sanskrit language in the schools as our ancient literature has a lot of knowledge and is not reaching the masses because the scriptures are in Sanskrit. He said that “We must start reading Upnishads which are in the forms of stories.” He shared that “I have firm faith in God. I always valued the blessings of elders good wishes of friends & young ones. I never competed with others but only with myself.” Sharing simple tips on work-life balance, he emphasized rising early, doing prayers, pranayama, yoga and meditation. There should be just one TV in the house in the living area where all can watch it together. No mobile phones and laptops should be carried to the bedroom. News should be viewed and read-only for 15 minutes a day. He further added that the picture on the walls and the books on the shelves of a house can easily determine the characters of the persons living in there. He was a very strict vegetarian.

Justice Lahoti was a champion of social causes and donated extensively, more often than not, anonymously. He was always eager to learn and open to experimenting, which allowed him to remain ahead of the curve. Justice Lahoti serves as an inspiration to many and will always be remembered for his contributions to the judiciary, and his emphasis on ensuring speedy justice for the underprivileged. He was known in legal circles as a man of few words. He was very compassionate and was also a man of robust humour. For him, his conscience was his glory. He is a firm believer in Indian values and culture. He said that “We are living in exploding times and if values perish from our lives, the world will be a set of walking bodies without souls.” He said, “Values are not just ethics, morality or simply being good. They are the enduring beliefs of righteousness, goodness or inherent desirability. These are the principles which are shared by the members of one culture to make choices about what is good or bad, desirable or undesirable. Values contribute to developing the philosophy of life including our aims and ideals, which determine the way we think, behave or conduct ourselves. Values are like fingerprints. No two fingerprints are the same but you leave

your fingerprints wherever you go and whatever you touch.” On the work front, he strongly emphasized people to be respectful of each other's work portfolio and privacy and be tolerant. While working in teams, people should be transparent, considerate and consistent.

Justice Lahoti was a man who could never be caged. He was a man who wanted to soar to the greater heights of wisdom and spirituality, and for him, that was the eventual accomplishment. Justice Lahoti had been under the weather since January. After a brief period of precautionary hospitalization, he returned home and was doing fine. Despite being hospitalized, his vitals were pretty much stable, and he was attending hearings virtually from the medical facility. He logged in to an arbitration moments before he left us for the heavenly abode, on 23rd March 2022, exemplifying the definition of a true karma yogi. He is survived by his wife Ms. Kaushalya – a Social Worker; three daughters Ms. Pankaj Soni, Dr. Archana Mantri and Dr. Vandana Marda; one Son Mr. Ujjwal Lahoti; brother Justice K. K. Lahoti; sister-in-law Ms. Asha Lahoti; brother Mr. O. P. Lahoti; sister-in-law Ms. Shyama Lahoti; Nephew Dr. Amit Lahoti; grandsons Advocate Divyakant Lahoti and Advocate Kartik Lahoti. Former Chief Justice of India (CJI) Ramesh Chandra Lahoti died at a hospital in New Delhi.

He leaves behind a lasting legacy. As Justice Lahoti said, “Blessed are those who have a purpose of life; who live a life of purpose; with dedication and determination to achieve the purpose; and one day, before biding a goodbye for good, they depart as having been winner.”

Justice Kamal Narain Singh

Justice Kamal Narain Singh was born into a family of landed farmers on 13th December 1926 in a village called Chakdiha which was a part of the United Provinces, in British India. The family belonged to the same family tree as Raja of Manda, Vishwanath Pratap Singh, former Prime Minister of India. Justice Singh's father, Dev Raj Singh, was semi-literate but laid great stress on education. Justice Singh's initial schooling began in a small village school, but later he was admitted to Lala Ram Lal Agarwal High School in Sirsa, Allahabad. It was here that he came in contact with freedom fighters and would go for prabhatpheri in the mornings and give night classes to educate the illiterate masses. He studied English, Hindi Literature and History and completed his B.A. Programme from the prestigious Ewing Christian College, Allahabad in 1946. Having a great thirst for knowledge, he did a combined course of

L.L.B. and M.A. degree programme at the University of Allahabad. Thus, Justice Singh, became the first university and law graduate of the Raja of the Manda clan and receive a formal Western education. As a young man filled with the spirit of nationalism and was a Gandhian. He took part in the freedom struggle and was arrested caught by the police, twice, for distributing patriotic literature and was also jailed briefly. Subsequently, after India got Independence, he was heavily involved in the upliftment of rural areas especially his native place Manda and helped out poor farmers to fight cases. Justice Singh's biography, written by his daughter, Sunita Singh, 'The Making Of A Chief Justice Of India, Life And Times Of Justice Kamal Narain Singh', which has recently been released, has been written in the backdrop of the political and social life of those times. It talks about his part in the freedom struggle. Justice Singh comes from the time when the country was transitioning from the rural to the urban, fighting the baton of the British Raj, creating new concepts of nationhood, filled with the zeal to look at the world with a newfound confidence - new laws, new paths, new governments. The story of Justice Singh and India moves simultaneously, facing challenges, overcoming obstacles, armed with the determination to move ahead towards freedom and self-reliance.

In his early years, he was very much fascinated by planes and wanted to become a pilot. He held a private pilot's licence and was selected to join the Air Force. However, his father who was involved in heavy litigation inspired him to join the District Bar as a Pleader. He was enrolled as a District Pleader in Allahabad in 1950, but later he started practicing law only in 1957 since he continued to be politically active mainly in the rural parts of Allahabad district. (Enrolled 4th September 1957). He also won the election of the Allahabad District Board which was subsequently superseded by the Zila Panchayat. After a brief stint in local politics where he also fought an election, and won it, he began his career in the legal world. It is fortunate for us that he gave up his political ambitions and joined the profession. He had joined the chambers of Sr. Adv. S.C. Khare in the Allahabad High Court who had represented Indira Gandhi in the election petition. S.C. Khare was the person who in a way coerced Justice Singh to join the profession after seeing Justice Singh argue while opposing him as a junior counsel in the District Court. He presented Justice Singh with some books and convinced Justice Singh to join his chamber. Justice Singh took up Civil, Constitutional and Taxation matters in Allahabad. He specialized in election law and represented many famous politicians such as Lal Bahadur Shastri, Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia, Charan Singh, Raj Narain among many others.

In 1963, Justice Singh was appointed as the Junior Standing Counsel for the Government of Uttar Pradesh and later in April 1967, he became the Senior standing counsel. He was appointed the Advocate General of Uttar Pradesh from 3rd March 1970 to 3rd May 1970. On 25th August 1970, he became an Additional Judge of the Allahabad High Court at the age of 43. Like many Supreme Court judges who held roles in local government prior to their judicial service, Justice Singh played an active role in Allahabad's municipal governance for over a decade (serving from 1951 to 1958 on the Allahabad District Board and from 1958 to 1962 on the Allahabad Zilla Parishad).

Justice Singh stepped into the corridors of justice from the District Courts of Allahabad to the Supreme Court of India. He was appointed as the Additional Judge of the Allahabad High Court in 1970. After two years, he was made a Permanent Judge on 25th August 1972. His egalitarian attitude was the reason he was the President of the High Court Employees Association.

After more than 15 years at Allahabad High Court, he was elevated to the Supreme Court of India on 10th March 1986. Although he was not in line to be the CJI, but destiny had other plans. After almost 5 years, he succeeded Justice Ranganath Misra to become the 22nd Chief Justice of India from 25th November 1991 to 12th December 1991 thereby, making him the CJI with the shortest tenure.(18 days) He is among the five judges of the Allahabad High Court who have adorned the office of Chief Justice of India, namely, Sarvashri K N Wanchoo, Mirza Hameedullah Beg, Raghunandan Swarup Pathak and Visheshwar Nath Khare.

During his tenure at the Supreme Court, Justice Singh authored 100 judgments and was a part of 336 Benches. Most of his judgments were on Service (32) and Constitutional law (18) matters.

Notable Judgments:

In M.C. Mehta v. Union of India, also known as the Ganga Pollution Case, was one of the first river-pollution cases brought to the Court as public interest litigation. The two-judge Bench presided over by Justice Singh noted that despite the provisions in the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, neither the State authorities nor the Central Government had taken any effective steps to stop the discharge of industrial waste in the river. The Bench ordered the tanneries to set up primary treatment plants, as a minimum. In a further

order, it was also directed that licenses to establish new factories should be refused if they did not have an adequate waste treatment plan.

In Shashi Nayar v. Union of India, the constitutional validity of the death sentence was challenged. The method of execution of the death sentence by hanging was also challenged. Justice Singh held that capital punishment had a social purpose - the country was not ready for its abolition as it had a deterrent effect. He also held that the execution of death sentence by hanging was reasonable and not violative of Article 21. It was scientific and one of the least painful methods of execution.

Justice Singh was also a part of the five-judge Bench in Charan Lal Sahu v. Union of India. The constitutional validity of the Bhopal Gas Leak Disaster (Processing of Claims) Act, 1985 was challenged. Under the Act, the Central Government assumed power to represent all the victims of the disaster in all cases. The Bench held that the Act was constitutional: the government was merely facilitating the proceedings, and not adjudicating it, to make it easier for the victims who might not be capable to represent themselves fairly.

Post his retirement, he became the Chairman of the 13th Law Commission of India which was established in 1991 and stayed in office till 1994. Justice Singh continued to work and served as the President of the Managing Committee of the Udaipur Pratap College Educational Society in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh. During his time there, he established two additional institutions in the Society. He was honored with "Proud Past Alumni" by the University of Allahabad Alumni Association.

Justice Singh believed that "An independent and honest judiciary is a sine qua non for rule of law. If judicial officers are under constant threat of complaint and enquiry on trifling matters and if High Courts encourages anonymous complaints to hold the field, the subordinate judiciary will not be able to administer justice in an independent and honest manner. It is therefore imperative that the High Court should also take steps to protect its honest officers by ignoring ill-conceived or motivated complaints made by unscrupulous lawyers and litigants."

Justice Singh was a stickler for disciplined and valued time. He also presided over many arbitration after his retirement. Even at the age of 95, he would sit at his office from 5:30 pm till 9 pm every day. He would get up at 5 am every morning and often play golf. Justice Singh was an enthusiastic golfer and was the President of the Delhi Golf Course. One of his fondest memories was playing golf in Kashmir. He was also very

active socially and most of his friends were younger than his sons and preferred their company. He was always immaculately dressed and would prefer people to have a clean shave as he perceived that to be tidier. He loves travelling and is very well-travelled. During his tenure as the Advocate General, he would go to Nainital with his family for one month.

He was very humble and down to earth and would compassionately speak to everyone regardless of their social or economic background. He could speak to the people who could not speak in English with ease and would try to converse with them in their native tongue (of his hometown).

After leading an active life for 96 years, he passed away peacefully, on 8th September 2022, in Allahabad. (He received a State funeral) Justice Singh was the eldest of five brothers and three sisters. His younger brother was also a judge in the Allahabad High Court. Justice Singh is survived by his son Justice D.P. Singh (retd.) along with three daughters Mrs Usha Rani Singh (settled in Seattle, USA), Mrs Sadhna Singh (settled in Jaipur) and Mrs Sunita Singh (settled in Delhi). Justice Singh leaves behind many granddaughters, grandsons and also great-grandchildren. His grandson Devansh Rathore is also a member of the bar at Allahabad. Apart from this, he was a dedicated family man who was a patriarch to even his extended family members. Recently when he passed away, scores of ordinary people thronged to pay tribute and said that in a world where they are never counted, he always had time to talk to them and ask about their welfare.

It is said that the "Lives of great men all remind us, we can make our lives sublime, and, departing, leave behind us, footprints on the sands of time". I, on behalf of the Supreme Court Bar Association, offer my heartfelt condolences to the members of the family of the late Justice R.C. Lahoti and Justice Kamal Narain Singh. May their souls rest in divine peace.

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List of Attendees at the Full Court Reference

- ❖ *Shri R Venkataramani,
Ld. Attorney General for India.*
- ❖ *Shri Tushar Mehta,
Solicitor General of India.*
- ❖ *Shri Vikas Singh, (Sr.)
President,
Supreme Court Bar Association.*
- ❖ *Shri Pradeep Kumar Rai, (Sr.)
Vice President,
Supreme Court Bar Association.*
- ❖ *Shri Rahul Kaushik,
Hony. Secretary,
Supreme Court Bar Association.*
- ❖ *Shri Manoj K. Mishra,
President,
Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record Association.*
- ❖ *Shri Snehasish Mukherjee,
Vice President,
Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record Association.*
- ❖ *Shri Devvrat,
Hony. Secretary,
Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record Association.*

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Family Members of
Late Hon'ble Mr. Justice R.C. Lahoti
Former Chief Justice of India
at the Full Court Reference

- ❖ *Mrs. Kaushalya Lahoti, Wife*
- ❖ *Ms. Vandana Marda, Daughter*
- ❖ *Justice Shri K. K. Lahoti (Retd.), Brother*
- ❖ *Mrs. Asha Lahoti, Sister-in-law*
- ❖ *Mr. Divyakant Lahoti, Nephew*
- ❖ *Mr. Kartik Lahoti, Grandson*
- ❖ *Mr. Rahul Maheshwari, Grandson*
- ❖ *Mr. Ram Niwas Lahoti, Brother*
- ❖ *Mrs. Kanta Lahoti, Sister-in-law*
- ❖ *Dr. G. K. Lahoti, Brother*
- ❖ *Mrs. Neelima Lahoti, Sister-in-law*
- ❖ *Mr. O. P. Lahoti, Brother*
- ❖ *Mrs. Shyama Lahoti, Sister-in-law*
- ❖ *Mr. Anil Kumar Lahoti, Brother*
- ❖ *Mrs. Meenu Lahoti, Sister-in-law*
- ❖ *Mrs. Pankaj Soni, Daughter*
- ❖ *Prof. Mrs. Archana Mantri, Daughter*
- ❖ *Mr. Ujjwal Lahoti, Son*
- ❖ *Ms. Deepshri Lahoti, Daughter-in-law*
- ❖ *Mrs. Krishna Prabha Maheshwari, Sister*
- ❖ *Mrs. Sushila Jaju, Sister*
- ❖ *Mrs. Anjana Palod, Sister*

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THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA
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