

MANAN KUMAR MISHRA

Senior Advocate

CHAIRMAN



Phone : 011-4922 5000
Fax : 011-4922 5011
E-mail : info@barcouncilofindia.org
Website : www.barcouncilofindia.org

भारतीय विधिज्ञ परिषद् BAR COUNCIL OF INDIA

(Statutory Body Constituted under the Advocates Act, 1961)

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

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We have seen the reaction of Supreme Court Advocate-on-Record Association (SCAORA) and the Executive Committee of Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) and also of a Senior Advocate of Supreme Court in the matter of alleged contempt-threat to the Senior Advocate Mr. Gopal Sankaranarayanan by Mr. Justice Arun Mishra. Both Executive Members of Supreme Court Bar Association and Supreme Court Advocate-on-Record Association have passed some resolutions showing their concern over this issue. These Associations have gone upto reminding the Judge of his duty to maintain dignity and decorum of the Court.

The letter of Mr. Vikas Singh, former President of Supreme Court Bar Association who is also a candidate in the ensuing election asking Supreme Court Bar Association to convene a meeting and pass some resolution to lodge the protest not to stand in court while the particular Judge enters the court room, is somewhat disturbing. This letter has also been sent for publication and has been published in the electronic medias. In my opinion when the Executive Committee had already taken up the issue, there was no need to publicise such letter.

What we mean to say is something different. For last 3-4 years, all of us are noticing the frequent misbehaviors and misconduct of a handful of Advocates and also of a few Senior Advocates in the Courts. We are reminded of the days of Hon'ble Mr. Justice Dipak Misra and Mr. Justice Ranjan Gogoi, the two former Chief Justices of the Supreme Court; How and upto what extent 2-3 members of the Bar went to harass and torture them for ulterior purposes. It was all plotted, planned. The Supreme Court Bar Association, Supreme Court Advocate-on-Record Association and almost all the senior and other Advocates were fully aware of these misconducts and contemptuous acts. Everyone used to criticize these Advocates in corridors, but neither Supreme Court Bar Association nor Supreme Court Advocate-on-Record Association ever came forward to get such misconducts stopped. It was the duty of the Supreme Court Bar Association to maintain the dignity and decorum of the Court and to stop the such lawyers from creating frequent nuisances in court rooms and from unnecessary criticizing and targeting any particular Judge.

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Mr. Vikas Singh is a seasoned Senior Advocate, he has been a witness of all these nasty things during his tenure as the President of Supreme Court Bar Association. Therefore, We hope and trust that he will rethink and will not do anything which could lay a bad precedent for future. Moreover, he is a candidate in the elections also. From that point of view too, it is not advisable to make such proposals.

The Institution belongs to both, the Lawyers and Judges. It is our foremost duty to respect the Institution. There were/are many decent ways to resolve such issues. Instead of going in public and making it an issue, the responsible office-bearers of Supreme Court Bar Association could have met the Hon'ble Judge in his chamber and expressed their views. Even Hon'ble Chief Justice of India could have been requested to mediate.

Mr. Gopal Sankaranarayanan is a respectable Senior Advocate, therefore, the Supreme Court Bar Association's Executive Committee could have tried for a respectable means to settle the matter before passing the resolution. No senior and responsible Advocate ever likes to make such letter/matter public. It affects the Institution as well as his reputation also.

Our Supreme Court Bar Association is the most respected Bar Association of the country. Our office-bearers and members of Executive Committee are ideals for the entire nation.

The elections of Supreme Court Bar Association are going to be held soon, and we need dynamic office-bearers who would be able to resolve such matters tactfully in a dignified way and not in a manner to get undue advantage for their own personal gain.

Our few hasty resolutions have far-reaching effects, therefore, these extreme steps should not be taken without exhausting the other dignified remedies available to the Bar and its leaders.

We should also examined our role before passing any resolution. A few members have been targeting the particular Judge, frequently criticizing his every action/order. How far we are correct and justified? Who will control the Bar? Only you, the Supreme Court Bar Association and Supreme Court Advocate-on-Record Association! None else! Your tenure as the office-bearer or a member of Executive Committee will be only for one year; but, your deeds will be echoing its good or bad effects for several years in future. You are to draw the road map and show it to the youngsters at the Bar.

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We hope that our new Executive Committee (to be constituted after 12th December) will act with utmost responsibility and transparency. Bar Council of India wishes a good, active, honest, diligent and responsible executive committee to come this time. Our experience for past two consecutive terms has been very bad. We are also voters, and we appeal to our colleagues in Supreme Court Bar Association to ensure an effective Executive Committee and deserving office-bearers this time. The way we see the messages on social medias about some of the office-bearers and members of the Committee is really horrible. Before voting, we, the common lawyers, are to keep everything in mind.



(Manan Kumar Mishra)
Chairman
Bar Council of India



(S. Prabakaran)
Co-Chairman
Bar Council of India