

CONVOCATION ADDRESS

BY

HON'BLE Mr. JUSTICE P. SATHASIVAM
CHIEF JUSTICE OF INDIA

AT THE

ELEVENTH ANNUAL CONVOCATION

OF THE

NALSAR UNIVERSITY OF LAW

AT

HYDERABAD

ON

27.07.2013

Hon'ble Shri Justice Kalyan Jyoti Sengupta, Chief Justice
of Andhra Pradesh High Court and Chancellor, NALSAR
University of Law, Hon'ble Shri N. Kiran Kumar Reddy, Chief

Minister of Andhra Pradesh, my esteemed brother and sister Judges, Prof. (Dr.) Faizan Mustafa, Vice-Chancellor of NALSAR University of Law, Faculty of NALSAR, students of NALSAR, members of the legal fraternity, other distinguished invitees and guests, Ladies and Gentlemen-

Good morning to all of you who are present here in this august gathering. I have to say that I'm humbled to be here. Thank you for allowing me the honor to be a part of this graduation ceremony. I want to congratulate all of you - the parents, the brothers and sisters and friends who supported these young gentlemen and ladies in so many ways. Today is your day, as well.

I have been requested to address the young and energetic students of NALSAR on the event of graduation. I take this as a privilege to share few values with you young minds.

From the moment I entered the University, I have been noticing the sense of pride that encapsulate this picturesque campus. This pride emanates not from overconfidence rather with a sense of accomplishment. I have learnt that

National Academy of Legal Studies And Research (the NALSAR) University of Law has been ranked number one on all the eight parameters of ranking such as Rank, Reputation, Quality of Academic Input, Student Care, Infrastructure, Placements, Perceptual Ranking and Factual Ranking. In the words of Felix Frankfurter, eventually "*the law is what the lawyers are; and the law and lawyers are what the law schools make them.*" My sincere appreciation and gratitude to all the professors of this University who are responsible for molding the potential lawyers and judges.

The duty of NALSAR University of Law or any college for that matter does not end with producing clever graduates but it owes the responsibility to produce honest men, men who can be trusted in public and private life, men who are sensitive to the wrongs, the sufferings, and the injustices of the society and who are willing to accept responsibility for correcting those ills. The mission of University must be to infuse unique sense of purpose in every mind of the students. My beloved students, it is imperative for you to realize that legal education is not just a tool of professional success but the true social value of

legal education includes personal empowerment as well as the ability to contribute to social welfare.

Today must be the most special day of your life. Graduating from one of the best Universities in the country, with honors and gold medals. I am aware that most of you are already placed in high positions with attractive packages through your campus placements. Some of you might have chosen the job you have got because it interests you, some for the brand name, some for the attractive packages offered. My beloved graduates, let me confess to you a secret on this day. No money, no brand name, not even the fame that you have achieved will satisfy you when you reach my age. I know it is too early to talk about the tail end of your career. But time just flies, it is always good to be prepared. No attractive salary packages, or working with the brand names can give the satisfaction of work, which you may derive from doing what your heart desires. In my view, this will only be your cherished asset at the later part of your life. Never see law only as a means of livelihood, it should be your mission of life. Law degree is not just a degree rather a license to help others to resolve their

disputes with the aid of law. I am confident that you will choose to join the mission very soon and to those of you who have already decided to join the same, my hearty congratulations. I promise you it will certainly take you to greater heights.

I was raised on country sunshine by farmer parents who made incredible sacrifices to send me even to school. I know there are parents here today who did the same thing for all of you. This is the occasion for you to salute and thank them for their impeccable love they showed on you in all seasons of life.

In those days, parents took decisions for their children, unlike this century where the children make their own choices. With freedom of choice comes immense responsibility. Dear students, this day marks your commencement into the ‘Real’ world, where you will be bound to take numerous decisions on every step of life. On this vital day, I propose to share a guiding thought with you, which I always valued. Never allow any decision of yours at any corner of time to be swayed by the factor of money or fear.

You are heirs to a great legacy. You have brought glory to this University through your meticulous academic endeavors and achievements. As alumni, the legal fraternity would look towards you with pride. Your conduct and performance as legal professionals will lend credibility to this institution, which has shaped your present persona. I pertinently quote Justice Maurice Gwyer: “*never by any act or word of yours show yourselves unworthy of the great tradition which you have inherited.*”

Success is built on the rocks of challenges. If you aspire to be successful then you will have to face your own tests and challenges in the years to come. Challenge yourself! Take some risks in life. Focusing your life solely on making money shows a dearth of ambition. It asks too little of yourself. And it will leave you unfulfilled. Making your mark on the world is hard. If it were easy, everybody would do it. But it's not. It takes patience, commitment, and it comes with plenty of failure along the way.

Personality is partially determined by the attire we wear; similarly the environment we live in largely stimulates our thinking process. According to me, the success of the

five-year integrated course must also be attributed to the environment of a residential campus. When students from all over India reside together and interact, there is a lot of learning, which takes place outside the classroom as well. Peer to-peer interaction also helps in dissolving social boundaries such as those of caste, religion, class and regionalism. In the words of Dr. Rajendra Prasad, “*we have communal differences, caste differences, language differences, provincial differences and so forth. It requires men of strong character, men of vision, men who will not sacrifice the interests of the country at large for the sake of smaller groups and areas and who will rise over the prejudices which are born of these differences.*” This challenge can be effectively met if the young graduates of today take it upon themselves to carve a unique identity for the future, an identity which is premised on a strong set of values, hard work and service to the people of the nation.

There is specific news, which is roving around all the national law schools and other law colleges is about the lack of good academicians in the country. The reasoning being all students sees the job of a professor as unexciting. My

dear students, always remember, creator is valued more than others. Professorship is an art of engraving future leaders. Only a leader himself can create another. I am happy to know that the NALSAR University is kindling this interest in students by giving the platform to the final year students to teach their juniors. I look forward for more students from this University to excel in academic field too.

We are well aware of the scarcity of judicial officers in our legal system. I cannot belittle the gripping need for well-trained and talented individuals to secure interest in the Judicial Services. I realize apprehensions about service environment and inadequate avenues for career advancement which may have been daunting young lawyers from becoming a part of the judicial services; nevertheless I assure you the best efforts on our part to address these problems so as to attract talent to the Bench.

You belong to an epoch when there is immense optimism about India's advancement in various fields and there is no doubt that the present generation has outstanding aptitude to take the country forward. Dear students, you can play a crucial role in spreading legal

awareness among the members of deprived sections who are little aware of even the most basic rights given under our Constitution and other laws. Only laws cannot save democracy, it is the lawyers and judges who inspire the respect for the laws.

NALSAR has been the pioneer in various aspects. Recently, I have learnt that the NALSAR Law University has introduced India's first MBA course that integrates law and management. I applaud this innovative venture of the University. I am confident the judiciary will derive the benefits of the venture in the near future.

I wish to conclude my address by sharing a thought with you, which I hope you will carry on to your whole life.

Purity, patience and perseverance are the three essentials to success and above all have passion in all your undertakings.

Congratulations, Class of 2013. God bless you. May you see all the heights of success in your career and in your personal life.

Thank You!

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