

HIGH COURT OF UTTARAKHAND AT NAINITAL

NOTIFICATION

No. 233 /UHC/Admin. A/2026

Dated: June 04th, 2026

The High Court of Uttarakhand (Designation of Senior Advocates) Rules, 2026

In exercise of powers conferred by section 34 (1) read with section 16 (2) of the Advocates Act, 1961 and in accordance with the guidelines laid down by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in its judgment dated 13.05.2025 passed in Criminal Appeal No. 865 of 2025 titled as *Jitender @ Kalla vs. State (Govt. of NCT of Delhi) and Anr.*, the High Court of Uttarakhand makes the following rules for designation of Senior Advocates:

1. Short title, extent and commencement:-

- a) These rules shall be called "The High Court of Uttarakhand (Designation of Senior Advocates) Rules, 2026".
- b) These rules shall extend to entire jurisdiction of the High Court of Uttarakhand.
- c) These rules shall come into force from the date of their publication in the Official Gazette.

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

- a) "**Advocate Act**" means the 'Advocate Act, 1961'.
- b) "**Advocate**" for the purposes of these rules, means an advocate as defined in the Advocate's Act, 1961 and whose name figures on the rolls prepared by the State Bar Council of Uttarakhand; and where his original registration is not with the Bar Council of Uttarakhand, his name has been validly transferred to the rolls of the Bar Council of Uttarakhand at least five years prior to his candidature being considered as a Senior Advocate.
- c) "**Chief Justice**" means the Chief Justice of the High Court of Uttarakhand and includes the Acting Chief Justice.
- d) "**Full Court**" means the Full Court, as described under the Rules of the Court.
- e) "**High Court**" means the High Court of Uttarakhand.
- f) "**Permanent Committee**" means the Permanent Committee for Designation of Senior Advocates, as constituted under rule 4 of these rules.
- g) "**Permanent Secretariat**" means the Permanent Secretariat constituted by the Chief Justice under Rule 5(a) of these rules.
- h) "**Registrar General**" means Registrar General of the High Court.

- i) **"Roll"** means roll of advocates, prepared and maintained under the provisions of the Advocate's Act, 1961 by the State Bar Council.
- j) **"Rules of the Court"** means the Rules of the Court, 1952 (as applicable to High Court of Uttarakhand).
- k) **"State"** means the State of Uttarakhand.
- l) **"State Bar Council"** means the Bar Council of Uttarakhand and shall include the authority exercising its powers under the law.

3. Eligibility condition for designation of Senior Advocate:-

An advocate shall be eligible to be designated as Senior Advocate, if he:

- a) is enrolled with State Bar Council of Uttarakhand.
- b) has minimum standing of 10 years as an advocate before the High Court, or any District Court or any Tribunal/Adjudicatory body, situated in the State of Uttarakhand.
- c) or has at least 10 years combined standing as an advocate and as a District Judge or as a Judicial Member of any Tribunal in India.
- d) at the time of making application for designation of Senior Advocate, has attained age of 45 years, which may be relaxed by the Full Court with reasons to be recorded.
- e) possess ability, special knowledge or experience in law.
- f) has participated in *pro bono* work.
- g) has not been convicted by a competent Court of law for an offence involving moral turpitude or contempt of Court or should not have been punished by the Bar Council of Uttarakhand or by the Bar Council of India for any act of misconduct.

4. Permanent Committee for Designation of Senior Advocates:-

Permanent Committee, which shall be headed by the Chief Justice, and shall consist of the two senior-most Judges of the High Court, shall deal with the matters relating to designation of Senior Advocates, as provided for in these rules.

5. Permanent Secretariat for designation of Senior Advocates:-

- a) There shall be a Permanent Secretariat for the purpose of process of applications for designation of Senior Advocates in the High Court, which shall be constituted by the Chief Justice.
- b) Subject to general control of the Chief Justice, Permanent Secretariat shall work under the Registrar General.
- c) The main functions of the Permanent Secretariat shall be as under:

- i. Publication of notice inviting applications for designation of Senior Advocate on the official website of the High Court and to provide information of the notice to the State Bar Council, Bar Association of the High Court and District Bar Associations.
- ii. Receipt and processing of applications for grant of designation of Senior Advocates in the manner and form as prescribed in these rules.
- iii. Collection and compilation of relevant data and information required.
- iv. Maintenance of records and handling documentation relating to the exercise of conferral of designation of Senior Advocates.
- v. Facilitating communication between the Full Court and other stakeholders;
- vi. Maintaining institutional memory and ensuring continuity of operations.
- vii. Any other function relating to exercise of designation of Senior Advocate(s), which are assigned by the Chief Justice from time to time.

6. Procedure:-

- a) The exercise of designation of Senior Advocates, as prescribed in these rules, as far as possible, be undertaken every calendar year.
- b) The Permanent Secretariat shall initiate process for designation of Senior Advocates with prior approval of the Chief Justice.
- c) The notice inviting applications shall be published on the official website of the High Court and its information shall also be given to the High Court Bar Association and the District Bar Associations through the respective District Judges for wide publicity.
- d) Applicants shall apply in form as per Appendix-A along with relevant documents and submit the same to the designated person in the Permanent Secretariat.
- e) The applicants shall submit along with their applications, copies of reported/unreported judgments for the last five years, wherein they have appeared as an advocate and have argued the case.
- f) The Secretariat will publish list of applications received by it on website of the High Court to invite suggestions/views of other stakeholders on the applications. Where the advocate applying for designation of Senior Advocate is practicing before a District Court or Tribunal or any Adjudicatory Body, the suggestions/views shall also be invited from the concerned District Judge or the Presiding Officer of the Tribunal/Adjudicatory Body, as the case may be.

These suggestions/views shall also be placed before the Permanent Committee. Thereafter, alongwith the remarks/views (if any) of the Permanent Committee, applications of the eligible candidates shall be placed before the Full Court for consideration.

- g) The decision on applications for designation of Senior Advocates shall be of the Full Court and as far as possible by consensus. However, if a consensus on designation of Senior Advocates is not arrived at, the decision shall be by a democratic process and shall be by majority of votes, in which, the Chief Justice will not cast the vote. However, in case of tie, Chief Justice shall have the casting/deciding vote.
- h) Decision of the Full Court conferring designation of Senior Advocate shall be final.
- i) Full Court may, in deserving cases, consider and confer designation of Senior Advocate upon an advocate, notwithstanding, no application has been received from such an advocate or he is registered with Bar Council of any other State and fulfills the eligibility criteria. However, before conferring such designation, Full Court shall obtain consent of the advocate.
- j) The Full Court may any time, also confer designation of Senior Advocate upon any former Chief Justice or former Judge of other High Court, on his letter accompanied with the details in Appendix-B.

7. Designation of Advocates as Senior Advocates:-

- a) Upon an advocate is designated as Senior Advocate, Registrar General shall communicate the same to the advocate and also to the Supreme Court of India, all the High Courts, Bar Council of India, Bar Council of Uttarakhand, all the District and Sessions Judges of the State Judiciary and all the other concerned.
- b) Registrar General shall also notify names of the advocates, designated as Senior Advocates by the Court, and shall also publish the names on the official website of the High Court.

8. Restrictions on Senior Advocates:-

A Senior Advocate shall be subject to such restrictions, as the Supreme Court of India, High Court, Bar Council of India or the Bar Council of Uttarakhand may fix from time to time.

9. Review and Recall:-

- a) If it is found that a Senior Advocate has-
 - i. committed any professional misconduct.
 - ii. shown intemperate or indecorous behavior either inside or outside the Court or during the virtual hearing.

- iii. been found invariably negligent in discharging his professional duties.
- iv. been found to have committed professional misconduct by Bar Council of India or State Bar Council or Bar Council of any other State.
- v. been convicted of an offence involving moral turpitude or for contempt of the Court.
- vi. been adjudged or declared insolvent under any law relating to insolvency in force in any part of India and the insolvency still continues.
- vii. been found suffering from such mental illness, which renders him incapacitated for discharging his professional duties.
- viii. for any other reason, lost privilege to be a Senior Advocate.

the name of such an advocate shall be placed before the Chief Justice for placing the matter before the Full Court.

- b) Before the matter is placed before the Full Court, a notice shall be issued to the Senior Advocate, calling upon him to explain why his designation as Senior Advocate should not be withdrawn for any of the reasons mentioned above; and thereafter alongwith the explanation, the matter shall be placed before the Full Court.
- c) If the Full Court is of the view that the advocate has forfeited his privilege for being a Senior Advocate, for any of the aforesaid reason, it may recall designation of the advocate as Senior Advocate.
- d) The process of review or recall of designation as Senior Advocate by Full Court shall be the same, as the process for conferring the designation, as mentioned in Rule 7 (g) of these rules.
- e) Upon withdrawal of designation as Senior Advocate, Registrar General shall notify and communicate the withdrawal in the same procedure, as is applicable for conferment of the designation, mentioned in rule 8 of these rules.

10. Surrender of designation by the Advocate:-

Nothing contained in these rules shall prevent an Advocate from surrendering his designation as a Senior Advocate. The application for surrender of designation shall be placed before the Full Court for appropriate orders.

11. Reconsideration:-

If an application of an advocate for designation as a Senior Advocate is not favorably considered by the Full Court, no fresh application of such an advocate shall be entertained in next two years.

12. Maintenance of Records:-

- a) Records of all procedures and the decisions relating to designation as a Senior Advocate and as well as relating to recall/ withdrawal/ surrender shall be maintained by the Permanent Secretariat.
- b) Permanent Secretariat shall also maintain list of the Senior Advocate, and it shall update the list on conferment of new designations, recall/withdrawal/surrender of the designations, and also on demise of the designated Senior Advocate.

13. Interpretation:-

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

14. Repeal and Saving:-

- a) Uttarakhand High Court (Designation of Senior Advocates) Rules, 2018 and all the other previous rules, guidelines, criteria governing designation of an advocate as a Senior Advocate with all amendments/ modifications therein, are hereby repealed; however, the repeal shall not by itself affect the decisions and actions taken under the rules, guidelines, criteria so repealed.
- b) Notwithstanding aforesaid repeal, all the pending proceedings for designation of Senior Advocates under the Uttarakhand High Court (Designation of Senior Advocates) Rules, 2018, rules shall remain unaffected and shall continue, as if these rules have not come into force.

FORM OF APPLICATION FOR DESIGNATION AS SENIOR ADVOCATE

**Latest
Passport
Size
Photograph
of the
Applicant**

1.	Name	
2.	Father's/Husband's Name	
3.	Age/Date of Birth	
4.	Address	Permanent Address
		Address for correspondence
5.	Phone No.	
	Email	
6.	Aadhaar No. (Enclose copy)	
	PAN Card No. (Enclose copy)	
7.	Professional Qualification (Enclose copy)	
8.	Additional Qualification (Enclose copy)	
9.	Enrollment No. Bar Council & Enrollment Date (Enclose copy)	
10.	Name of the Bar Association/Associations of which you are a member.	
11.	If you have been transferred to the Rolls of the Uttarakhand State Bar Council, Please state the date of transfer.	
12.	If you are enrolled as a member of the Uttarakhand High Court Bar Association, please give details.	
13.	Number of years of practice, and in which Court/s.	
14.	If specialized in any branch of Law, please give the particulars.	
15.	Year from which you are an Income tax assesses in respect of the professional income (Enclose copies of relevant documents).	
16.	Average net professional income for the past five years (Gross professions Income- deductions i.e. professional Income on which tax was actually paid with copies of ITRs).	
17.	If you have been in the panel of Advocates of the State or Central Government or a public sector undertaking or a statutory body, or institution. If so, details thereof.	
18.	Particulars of important matters involving question of law in which you have appeared in the last five years, and particulars of at least ten citations of such reported cases during this period.	
19.	Names and particulars of Advocates associated with him/her in legal profession.	

20.	Particulars of cases in which you have appeared as an arguing Counsel, on behalf of another Advocate, (not being an advocate from your chamber/office), during the preceding five years, and the name and particulars of the advocates on whose behalf you have appeared.	
21.	Particulars of articles, if any, published in any journal or books, if any, authored.	
22.	Whether associated with any faculty of Law. (If so, the particulars thereof)	
23.	Particulars of the cases in which you have provided free legal aid.	
24.	Particulars of the pro-bono work performed.	
25.	Whether or not your name was considered for being designated as Senior Advocate in the last two years.	
26.	Whether you have been convicted in any criminal case or found guilty in any disciplinary proceedings by the State Bar Council. If so, the details thereof.	
27.	Whether you have been punished in any contempt proceeding.	
28.	Whether any adverse remark has ever been passed against you in any order/judgment by any Court of law. If so, enclose copy thereof.	
29.	Whether you are involved in any collateral activities, which may disqualify you for being designated as a Senior Advocate.	
30.	Any other information with copies of relevant documents, you wish to give in support of your application for designation of Senior Advocate.	

(Signature of the Applicant)

I, the undersigned Advocate, practicing in the State of Uttarakhand, submit my application for being designated as a Senior Advocate, and give my consent to be so designated by the High Court.

I, further declare that the information furnished in this application is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief, and nothing material has been concealed or suppressed.

Dated:

(Signature)

**REQUEST-CUM-CONSENT LETTER FOR DESIGNATION OF SENIOR
ADVOCATE**

(For Former Chief Justices/Judges of the High Court)

<p>Latest Passport Size Photograph of the Applicant</p>
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1.	Name of the Applicant: (Dr./Mr./Mrs. /Ms. Justice)	
2.	Chief Justice/ Judge of High Court from where retired	
3.	Age as on date	
4.	Address	Office
		Residence
5.	Contact Details	Landline
		Mobile
		Email
6.	(a) Date of enrolment as Advocate (b) Enrolment Number (c) Date of resumption of practice (Copies of certificates to be provided)	
7.	Bar Council, where registered	
8.	Field of law in which applicant has specialization/ expertise (Special knowledge or experience in law)	
9.	Number of reported judgments delivered as Judge/ Chief Justice of High Court (List of citations to be provided)	
10.	High Courts where served as Judge/Chief Justice (Please specify duration)	
11.	Total period served as Judge/Chief Justice of High Court	
12.	Date of elevation and retirement as Chief Justice/Judge of High Court	
13.	Whether held/accepted any post-retirement assignment. If so, give details thereof.	
14.	Whether applied for being designated as Senior Advocate earlier before the Supreme Court/High Court, if so, the status thereof.	
15.	Whether party to any criminal or other litigation, at present or in the past. If so, the status thereof.	
16.	Any other information, desired to be given.	

DECLARATION

I, , hereby give consent for being designated as Senior Advocate.

The information furnished above is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief and nothing material has been concealed or suppressed.

Dated:

(Signature of the Applicant)

**By order of the Court,
Sd/-
(Yogesh Kumar Gupta)
Registrar General**

No. 3975/UHC/Admin.A/2026 Dated: June 04th, 2026.

Copy forwarded for information and necessary action to:

1. Secretary General, Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, New Delhi.
2. P.P.S. to Hon'ble the Chief Justice with the request to place the notification for kind perusal of His Lordship.
3. P.S. /P.A. to Hon'ble Judges of the Court with the request to place the notification for kind perusal of His Lordships.
4. Advocate General, Government of Uttarakhand, Nainital.
5. President/Secretary, High Court Bar Association, Nainital.
6. Secretary, Bar Council of Uttarakhand, Nainital.
7. Principal Secretary (Law)-cum-L.R., Government of Uttarakhand, Dehradun.
8. All the District Judges of the State Judiciary.
9. P.S./P.A. to Registrar General.
10. All the Registrars of the Court.
11. O.S.D./Secretary, H.C.L.S.C./ C.P.C. of the Court.
12. Librarian of the Court.
13. Assistant Registrar (I.T.) of the Court for uploading the notification on the official website of the High Court of Uttarakhand.
14. Director, Printing & Stationery, Government Press, Roorkee, Haridwar for publication of the notification in the next Gazette of the Uttarakhand.
15. Guard File.

Joint Registrar-I