PRL. DISTRICT COURT : WEST GODAVARI : ELURU : Dt. 03.04.2024

Communicated the Hon'ble High Court's ROC.No.139/SO/2024, Dt.01.04.2024, and Circular No.6/2024, to all the Judicial Officers working in the unit of West Godavari District.

PRL. DISTRICT JUDGE,
W.G., ELURU.

Copy to:

1. All the Judicial Officers working in the Unit of West Godavari, for information.
2. The Secretary, DLSA, Eluru.
3. The Chairman, PLAPUS.
4. All the Bar Associations in the Unit of West Godavari.
5. The Incharge System Officer (eCourts project), Principal District Court, Eluru, with a direction to place the same in District Court's website and send **emails** to all the Officers.

DIS NO. 3060
DATE 3/4/24

02 APR 2024

HIGH COURT OF ANDHRA PRADESH:: AMARAVATI

ROC.NO.139/SO/2024 **Date.01.04.2024**

CIRCULAR NO. 6 /2024

R4326 2/4/24

Sub: High Court of Andhra Pradesh – Wearing of black coat and gown by the Advocates before the District Judiciary during summer is optional – Certain instructions – Reg.

Ref: Circular in ROC.No.339/SO-1/2002, dt.19.04.2002 issued by the erstwhile High Court of Andhra Pradesh.

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It is noticed that wearing coat and gown by Advocates before the District Judiciary during torrid summer heat becomes unbearable, as it can lead to discomfort, overheating, and possibly health issues like heat exhaustion or heat stroke. The dress code of Advocates, including in summer, is governed by **Rule IV of Chapter IV of Bar Council of India Rules**, framed under Section 49(1)(gg) of Advocates Act, 1961, which reads as under:

"Advocates, appearing in the Supreme Court, High Court, Subordinate Courts, Tribunals or Authorities shall wear the following as part of their dress which shall be sober and dignified;

I.Advocates:

(a) A black buttoned-up coat, chapkan, achkan, black sherwani and white bands with Advocate's Gowns.

(b) A black open breast coat. White shirt, white collar, stiff or soft, and white bands with Advocates' Gowns.

In either case long trousers (white, black, striped or grey) Dhoti excluding jeans.

Provided further that in Courts other than the Supreme Court, High Courts, District Courts, Sessions Courts or City Civil Courts, a black tie may be worn instead of bands.

Copies sent to all 2/4/24

II.Lady Advocates:

(a) Black full sleeve jacket or blouse, white collar stiff or soft, with white bands and Advocates' Gowns.
White blouse, with or without collar, with white bands and with a black open breast coat.

Or

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(b) Sarees or long skirts (white or black or any mellow or subdued colour without any print or design) or flares (white, black or black-stripped or grey) or Punjabi dress Churidar Kurta or Salwar-Kurta with or without dupatta (white or black) or traditional dress with black coat and bands.

III. Wearing of Advocates' Gown shall be optional except when appearing in the Supreme Court or in High Courts.

IV. Except in Supreme Court and High Courts during summer wearing of black coat is not mandatory.

In the change brought about in the Dress Rules, there appears to be some confusion in so far as the Sub Courts are concerned. For removal of any doubt it is clarified that so far as the Courts other than Supreme Court and High Court are concerned during summer while wearing black coat is not mandatory, the advocates may appear in white shirt with black, white striped or gray pant with black tie or band and collar."

In view of the above, and earlier circular issued in reference cited, and considering the fact that Andhra Pradesh region is experiencing sweltering heat condition during the summer season, the High Court hereby informs all the Judicial Officers in Andhra Pradesh that it is optional for the Advocates to wear coat and gown during the summer while appearing before the respective Courts in the District Judiciary. Nonetheless, they may be informed to choose for professional attire while still maintaining a professional appearance.

The Unit Heads are requested to communicate the circular instructions to all the *officers working under their control.*

Receipt of the circular may be acknowledged.

Y. Lakshmana Rao
01/04/2024
REGISTRAR GENERAL

To

1. The Principal Secretary to the Hon'ble the Chief Justice (for information).
2. All the P.Ss to the Hon'ble Judges (with a request to place the circular before the Hon'ble Judges for their Lordships' kind perusal).

3. All the Registrars, High Court of Andhra Pradesh.
4. The Registrar (I.T. cum C.P.C.) with a request to direct the concerned to upload the said circular in the High Court's website.
5. The Director, A.P.Judicial Academy, Mangalagiri.
6. All the Unit Heads in the State of Andhra Pradesh.
7. The Member Secretary, A.P. State Legal Services Authority.
8. The Secretary High Court Legal Services Committee.
9. The Director, Mediation and Arbitration Centre.