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**SUPREME COURT GUIDELINES TO REGULATE CONFERMENT OF  
DESIGNATION OF SENIOR ADVOCATES, 2018**

1. These Guidelines shall be called "the Supreme Court Guidelines to Regulate Conferment of Designation of Senior Advocates, 2018".
2. All the matters relating to designation of Senior Advocates in the Supreme Court of India shall be dealt with by a Permanent Committee to be known as "Committee for Designation of Senior Advocates".
3. Committee for Designation of Senior Advocates (Committee) shall consist of:
  - (a) Chief Justice of India - Chairperson
  - (b) Two Senior-most Judges of the Supreme Court of India - Members
  - (c) Attorney General for India - Member
  - (d) A Member of the Bar, as nominated by the Chairperson and Members, as referred to in (a) to (c) above. - Member
4. The Committee shall meet at least twice in a calendar year.
5. The Committee shall have a Permanent Secretariat (Secretariat), the composition of which will be decided by the Chief Justice of India in consultation with the other members of the Committee.
6. If the Chief Justice or any other Judge is of the opinion that an Advocate by virtue of his ability, standing at the Bar or special knowledge or experience in law is deserving of such distinction so as to be designated as Senior Advocate, the Chief Justice/the Judge may, in writing, recommend the name of such Advocate for being considered for designation as Senior Advocate. Such recommendation will be submitted to the Secretariat.
7. An Advocate-on-Record/Advocate seeking conferment of distinction as Senior Advocate may submit an application in the prescribed format, to the Secretariat.
8. Each year in the month of January and July, the Secretariat of the Committee shall invite applications from retired Chief Justices/Judges of the High Courts and Advocates-on-Record/Advocates seeking conferment of distinction as Senior Advocate.



9. The Notice inviting applications shall be published in the official website of the Supreme Court of India and its information will also be given to the Supreme Court Bar Association and the Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record Association.
10. At least 15 days' time shall be given to the Advocates to file their applications for conferment of distinction as Senior Advocate.
11. An Advocate shall not be eligible for designation as Senior Advocate unless:
  - (i) he has 10 years' combined standing as an Advocate or a District & Sessions Judge, or as a Judicial Member of any Tribunal in India whose qualification for eligibility for such appointment, is not less than that prescribed for appointment as a District Judge.
  - (ii) he has been a Chief Justice or a Judge of a High Court.
12. On receipt of applications received from Advocates-on-Record / Advocates or proposals received from Hon'ble Judges of Supreme Court, the Secretariat will compile the relevant data and information with regard to the reputation, conduct, integrity of the advocate(s) concerned including his/her participation in pro bono work, judgments (reported and unreported) in which the advocate(s) concerned had appeared, the number of such judgments for the last five years.
13. The data as referred to in para 12 above will be sought and collected by the Secretariat from the source(s), as may be decided by the Committee.
14. The Secretariat will publish the proposal of designation of a particular Advocate in the official website of the Court inviting the suggestions/views of other stakeholders in the proposed designation.
15. At least 15 days' time shall be given to other stakeholders to give their suggestions/views in the proposed designation.
16. After the database in terms of Para 12 and 14 is compiled by the Secretariat, and all such information as may be specifically directed by the Committee to be obtained in respect of any particular candidate is collected, the Secretariat shall put up the case before the Committee for scrutiny.
17. The Committee will examine each case in the light of the data



provided by the Secretariat, interview / interact the Advocate concerned and make its overall assessment on the basis of a point based format indicated below:

Sl. No.	Matter	Points
1.	Number of years of practice of the applicant advocate from the date of enrolment. [10 points for 10-20 years of practice; 20 points for practice beyond 20 years]	20 points
2.	Judgments (reported and unreported) which indicate the legal formulations advanced by the advocate concerned in the course of the proceedings of the case; pro bono work done by the advocate concerned; domain expertise of the applicant advocate in various branches of law, such as Constitutional law, Inter-State Water Disputes, Criminal law, Arbitration law, Corporate law, Family law, Human Rights, Public Interest Litigation, International law, law relating to women, etc.	40 points
3.	Publications by the applicant advocate	15 points
4.	Test of personality and suitability on the basis of interview/interaction	25 points

18. All the names that are listed before the Committee / cleared by the Committee will go to the Full Court.
19. The cases of retired Chief Justices and Judges of the High Courts will straightaway go to the Full Court.
20. Voting by Secret Ballot will not normally be resorted to by the Full Court except when unavoidable. In the event of resort to Secret Ballot, decisions will be carried by a majority of the Judges who would choose to exercise their preference / choice.
21. All cases which may not be favourably considered by the Full Court shall be reviewed/reconsidered after expiry of a period of two years following the manner indicated above as if the proposal is being considered afresh.
22. All cases which may be deferred by the Committee for being designated as Senior Advocate shall not be considered until expiry of one year from the date of deferment.
23. Retired Chief Justices/Judges of the High Courts, who have accepted any full time assignment, will not be considered for




designation as Senior Advocates as long as they hold such assignment.

24. The final decision of the Full Court will be communicated to the applicants, individually.
25. In the event a Senior Advocate is found guilty of conduct which according to the Full Court disentitles the Senior Advocate concerned to continue to be worthy of the designation, the Full Court may review its decision to designate the person concerned and recall the same.

Provided that the Full Court would give an opportunity of hearing to the person concerned before any action is taken against him/her.

26. All the questions relating to interpretation/application of these Guidelines, shall be referred to the Chief Justice, whose decision thereon shall be final.

By Order,

  
(Ravindra Maithani)  
Secretary General

Copy to:-

1. DRs/ARs-cum-PPS/PS to Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India and Hon'ble Judges of Supreme Court
2. PS to Shri K.K. Venugopal, Attorney General for India & Member, Committee for Designation of Senior Advocates.
3. PS to Shri Soli J. Sorabjee, Senior Advocate & Member, Committee for Designation of Senior Advocates.
4. The Secretary, Supreme Court Bar Association
5. The Secretary, Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record Association
6. The Secretary, Bar Council of India
7. The Secretaries of all State Bar Councils
8. The Registrar Generals of all High Courts.
9. Notice Board
10. All concerned.