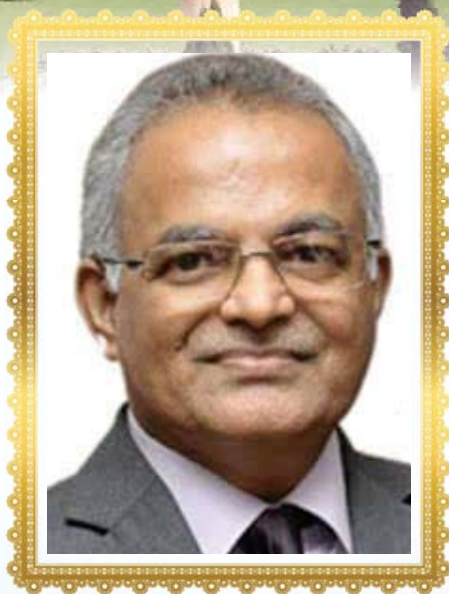




4th December, 1955 – 29th January, 2023

Full Court Reference in the memory of

Late Shri Anoop V. Mohta

Senior Advocate

held on Thursday, the 24th August 2023

at 10.30 a.m. in the Court of The Hon'ble The Chief Justice of India

INDEX

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Page Nos.</i>
1.	<i>Letter from the Registrar, Supreme Court of India</i>	1
2.	<i>List of Business at 10:30 A.M. for 24th August 2023 held in the Chief Justice's Court</i>	2
3.	<i>Coram of Hon'ble Judges at the Full Court Reference</i>	3 - 4
4.	<i>Reference made by Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India</i>	5 - 11
5.	<i>Reference made by Ld. Attorney General for India</i>	12 - 13
6.	<i>Reference made by the President, Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA)</i>	14 - 17
7.	<i>List of Attendees at the Full Court Reference</i>	18
8.	<i>Family members of Late Shri Anoop V. Mohta, Senior Advocate</i>	19

Letter from the Registrar, Supreme Court of India

Vivek Saxena
Registrar



Supreme Court of India
Tilak Marg,
New Delhi-110 001
Phone - +911123115611
email - reg.cb@sci.nic.in

F.No.99/Ref/2023/SCA(Genl)
New Delhi, dated the 25th August, 2023

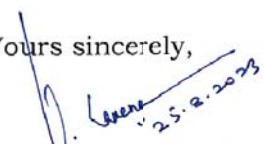
Madam,

A Full Court Reference was held in the memory of late Shri Anoop V. Mohta, Senior Advocate on 24th August, 2023 in the Hon'ble Chief Justice's Court. Rich tributes were paid to Shri Mohta by Hon'ble Dr D.Y. Chandrachud; Chief Justice of India, Shri R Venkataramani; Learned Attorney General for India and Dr Adish C. Aggarwala; President, Supreme Court Bar Association. After the references were read, two minutes' silence was observed in his memory.

I have the honour of forwarding a booklet containing memorial speeches delivered at the Full Court Reference, as aforesaid, along with heartfelt condolences of the Officers and members of the staff of the Supreme Court Registry to you and other members of the family.

Encl.: as above, the booklet.

Yours sincerely,


Registrar (Court & Building)

To,

Mrs. Surekha Mohta
10, First Floor,
Navjeevan Vihar,
New Delhi - 110 017.

*List of Business for 24th August, 2023 in respect of
Full Court Reference*



SUPREME COURT OF INDIA

LIST OF BUSINESS FOR THURSDAY THE 24TH AUGUST, 2023

CHIEF JUSTICE'S COURT

AT 10.30 A.M.

**FULL COURT REFERENCE IN THE MEMORY OF
LATE SHRI ANOOP V. MOHTA,
LATE SHRI SHANTI BHUSHAN AND
LATE SHRI S.C. MAHESHWARI,
SENIOR ADVOCATES**

Coram of Hon'ble Judges at the Full Court Reference

- ❖ *Hon'ble Dr. Justice D.Y. Chandrachud, Chief Justice of India*
- ❖ *Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul*
- ❖ *Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanjiv Khanna*
- ❖ *Hon'ble Mr. Justice Bhushan Ramkrishna Gavai*
- ❖ *Hon'ble Mr. Justice Surya Kant*
- ❖ *Hon'ble Mr. Justice Aniruddha Bose*
- ❖ *Hon'ble Mr. Justice A.S. Bopanna*
- ❖ *Hon'ble Mr. Justice S. Ravindra Bhat*
- ❖ *Hon'ble Mr. Justice Hrishikesh Roy*
- ❖ *Hon'ble Mr. Justice Abhay S. Oka*
- ❖ *Hon'ble Mr. Justice Vikram Nath*
- ❖ *Hon'ble Mr. Justice J.K. Maheshwari*
- ❖ *Hon'ble Ms. Justice Hima Kohli*
- ❖ *Hon'ble Mrs. Justice B.V. Nagarathna*
- ❖ *Hon'ble Mr. Justice C.T. Ravikumar*
- ❖ *Hon'ble Mr. Justice M.M. Sundresh*
- ❖ *Hon'ble Ms. Justice Bela M. Trivedi*
- ❖ *Hon'ble Mr. Justice Pamidighantam Sri Narasimha*
- ❖ *Hon'ble Mr. Justice J.B. Pardiwala*
- ❖ *Hon'ble Mr. Justice Dipankar Datta*
- ❖ *Hon'ble Mr. Justice Pankaj Mithal*
- ❖ *Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanjay Karol*

- ❖ *Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanjay Kumar*
- ❖ *Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ahsanuddin Amanullah*
- ❖ *Hon'ble Mr. Justice Manoj Misra*
- ❖ *Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rajesh Bindal*
- ❖ *Hon'ble Mr. Justice Aravind Kumar*
- ❖ *Hon'ble Mr. Justice Prashant Kumar Mishra*
- ❖ *Hon'ble Mr. Justice K.V. Viswanathan*
- ❖ *Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ujjal Bhuyan*
- ❖ *Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sarasa Venkatanarayana Bhatti*

xxxxx

Reference made on 24th August, 2023

by

Hon'ble The Chief Justice of India

Dr. Justice D.Y. Chandrachud

in the memory of

Late Shri Anoop V. Mohta,

Late Shri Shanti Bhushan and

Late Shri S. C. Maheshwari,

Senior Advocates

1. Brother and Sister Judges, Attorney General Shri R Venkataramani, Solicitor General Shri Tushar Mehta, Dr. Adish C Aggarwala, President, Supreme Court Bar Association, Shri Manoj Mishra, President, Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record Association, Members of the Bar, Family members of late Shri Justice Anoop V Mohta, Shri Shanti Bhushan and Shri S C Maheshwari who are present here and who have joined virtually, ladies and gentlemen.

2. We pay homage this morning to the late Shri Justice Anoop V Mohta, former judge of the High Court of Judicature at Bombay, who was a member of the Supreme Court Bar, Shri Shanti Bhushan and Shri S C Maheshwari, who had distinguished careers as senior counsel and as members of the legal fraternity.

Late Shri Anoop V Mohta

3. Anoop V Mohta's professional journey, spanning over four decades, stands as a testament to his unwavering spirit of resilience, compassion, and dedication. He was Anoop to everyone like other contemporaries, I cannot but refer to him as we know him Anoop. Anoop embarked on his journey as a legal practitioner in the early 1980s, commencing his practice in Nagpur.

4. Mr Mohta's journey is a symphony of values and principles that resonated through every facet of his life. To him, nurturing growth was of utmost importance, not just his own but of his family as well. This yearning prompted him to leave Nagpur, despite having an established practice there, to confront the challenge of rebuilding his practice in Bombay as it was then known. These challenges brought out the inner strength in him. He not only survived but thrived. Confronting adversity with resilience

and striving for self-improvement were the principles he embraced and later, with his spouse Surekha instilled within his children Devansh and Aditi.

5. Anoop's remarkable journey took him through the corridors of the Bombay High Court. For 22 years, he diligently pursued the profession of law within the Bombay High Court. His devotion to law was steadfast and his interest lay in commercial and arbitration matters.

6. Anoop's compassion and commitment to justice truly set him apart. He fought for a mother's right to maternity leave for her surrogate-born child and tirelessly pursued justice for a 79-year-old widow, a World War II survivor, ensuring she received her long-delayed benefits. These among other instances showcased his compassion in action, leaving an enduring mark on the lives he touched.

7. I recall his appointment as a judge in the Bombay High Court in 2003 three years after I joined the Bench in March 2000. He would meet on the third floor of the High Court at the Bombay Bar Association benefitting from the Gaon hospitality of Mrs Gracious who gave us a line of credit as young lawyers. Our families were neighbours in Samata building. As judges we shared the Bench whether it was the writ Bench or the appeal court. He served for 14 years until 2017, presiding over more than 30,000 cases, including 750 arbitration matters. Simultaneously, he contributed as a member of the High Court's Maharashtra Mediation Committee for well over a decade.

8. In his memoir "Time & Chance," Anoop's father, Shri Justice V A Mohta, a former Chief Justice of the Orissa High Court, and a Senior Advocate, described Anoop as a person defined by hard work, calm demeanour, perseverance, keen analysis, and balance. A sense of equilibrium pervaded every facet of Anoop's life, whether professional or personal. His journey intertwined with his father's. Their collaboration resulted in the authorship of legal commentaries—"Arbitration, Conciliation & Mediation" and "Trademark, Passing Off and Franchising." These works showcased their commitment towards advancing the legal landscape. I was part of the Editorial Committee with Anoop for the book titled "A Heritage of Judging: The Bombay High Court through One Hundred and Fifty Years 1862–2012," published by the Maharashtra Judicial Academy.

9. As a Senior Advocate designated by the Supreme Court of India in 2018, Anoop continued his private practice, branching into arbitration. He delivered more than 25 Arbitral Awards within a span of four years. Mr Mohta embraced technology. His

adaptation to the virtual world during the lockdown, his enthusiasm for new gadgets, and his passion for knowledge all embodied his forward-thinking nature. He was compassionate yet firm in his resolve. He was traditional in his values but they sat easily on his shoulders which accepted the modern.

10. Anoop's heart was with his family. He cherished moments with his grandsons, Yashveer, Sashwat, Viaan, and Kiansh, finding joy in their company. His diverse interests spanned cricket, music, and movies, revealing a personality that extended beyond the legal realm. He enjoyed cricket and his left arm spin won the Best Bowler title three times in the annual Cricket Match between Judges and Advocates of the High Court of Bombay. We had formidable opponents from the Bar in those matches – the young and not so young. The youngest among them was none other than the 90 year old Mr Avinash Rane- None could combat the fright and funny of Anoop's line and length. Music and movies were sources of delight for him.

11. On January 29, 2023, he left us just as he had lived: dynamic, fully engaged in his work. The evening before, he spent hours in the company of Aditi and her children and come home and arrange his table for the next day. But he left without whisper as in life so in death he made sure not to impose on anyone. He is survived by his wife Surekha Mohta, his son Devansh, a promising Advocate at the Supreme Court of India, his daughter-in-law Shweta, an Advocate in Delhi, and his daughter Aditee Mohta, a Senior Legal Counsel at FedEx India.

12. We remember Anoop as a compassionate soul who carried the torch of justice with simplicity of a person rooted in the soul of society. His story, coloured by resilience, compassion, and a commitment to fairness, should serve as an example. He shall be remembered as a calm, kind, and benevolent individual who contributed significantly to the evolution of arbitration law.

Late Shri Shanti Bhushan

*13. Veteran advocate, politician, and former Union Law Minister, Mr Shanti Bhushan passed away in January this year. Mr Shanti Bhushan, was born on 11 November 1925 in a quiet western UP district of Bijnor, but he considered Allahabad as his home.¹ In aptly titled *Courting Destiny, A Memoir*, he takes the reader that he was named after the peace that marked the end of the first World War. He was born in a*

¹ *Courting Destiny, A Memoir* - pg. 45.

household deeply committed to the freedom movement. His mother was a freedom fighter, who was incarcerated on multiple occasions. His father, Mr Vishwamitra was a Government Advocate who enjoyed a prominent standing at the bar.

14. Mr Shanti Bhushan recounts in his memoir that he never had a predisposition towards his father's legal profession. For the first time in 1938, he visited the Allahabad High Court along with his father. This visit, he later recounted, exposed him to the "majesty of the Allahabad High Court".² In 1943, his father's juniors who were engrossed in a complex matter, caught his attention, and he felt drawn to the law. Such was the impact of this intervention, that he recalls every single detail about the case in astonishing detail in his memoir which he wrote more than 5 decades after the incident- he records feeling amazed by the incomparable sight of a European judge, then considered the equivalent of Gods, riding a bicycle to the court.³ His father wanted Mr Shanti Bhushan to be a civil servant. Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru intervened, allaying his father's apprehensions - paving the way for the young Shanti Bhushan to join the legal profession.⁴

15. Mr Shanti Bhushan became the Chief Standing Counsel and the youngest Advocate General for the state of UP. It was at his suggestion, conveyed to the then Chief Justice MC Desai, that the largest constitutional court bench was constituted by the Allahabad HC in what evidentially became the landmark decision in *Keshav Singh v. Speaker, Legislative Assembly* (10 March 1965).⁵

16. Mr Shanti Bhushan thought of himself as 'more a lawyer than a politician'. We would like to believe he was indeed a lawyer first, committed to the constitutional essence of our democracy. Our constitutional legacy is dotted with events Mr Shanti Bhushan helped create or shape. In the landmark election case of the Prime Minister *Indira Gandhi vs Raj Narain*, Mr Raj Narain was represented by the indomitable Shanti Bhushan. The case, as he recounts in his book, aroused both pride and envy, in equal measure. Pride for the independence of the Indian judiciary and envy among American lawyers, who expressed amazement at the impossibility of a similar outcome in their own judicial system, which otherwise prides itself in its liberal traditions.⁶

² Ibid, at Pg 28.

³ Ibid, at Pg 35-36.

⁴ Ibid, at Pg 35.

⁵ Ibid, at Pgs 94-95

⁶ Ibid, at Pg 142.

17. In his challenge to the 39th constitutional amendment, Mr Shanti Bhushan put the nascent basic structure doctrine to its first application. The amendment had sought to retrospectively take away the High Court's power to hear election disputes. Mr Shanti Bhushan argued that the basic identity of the Constitution was not amenable to parliamentary alteration. Tying his two ardent passions- cricket and law, he argued that the rules of the game could not be altered retrospectively, after a team had won the match.⁷

18. During the emergency, he championed the cause of liberty and justice. He argued that the writ of habeas corpus cannot be suspended even during the emergency.⁸

19. Mr Shanti Bhushan was briefed to appear in the Bombay High Court in the 1975 Backbay Reclamation case in 1975. My own senior Tehmtan Andhyarujina recounted years later that true to the tradition of equality in the Original Side Bar, the Counsel with him were contemplating whether to address him by his first name: Eventually, they settled for “Shantiji”- the perfect middle-ground between the too formal “Mr. Bhushan” and the too casual reference by his first name. Borne out of practical necessity, the name stuck, out of respect.

20. For someone who did not exactly view himself as a politician, Mr Shanti Bhushan had notable political journey. He had argued the habeas corpus case under emergency-induced censorship. Upset by the crippling of the democratic institutions and detention of opposition leaders, he met Mr. Jayprakash Narayan in 1976, after which the foundations of the Janata Party were laid. He was appointed the treasurer of this newly formed party. As the Janata Party won in the 1977 elections, Mr Shanti Bhushan was appointed the Union law minister. He continued as a Rajya Sabha MP between 1977 and 1980, after which he resumed legal practice.

21. Mr Shanti Bhushan was the Union Minister of Law and Justice at the time of my father's appointment as the Chief Justice of India in 1978. As the law minister, he helmed the 43rd and the 44th amendments to the Constitution of India. The Amendments meant that Article 21 could no more be suspended during an emergency, and several other checks were placed on arbitrary exercise of power. He also tabled a 45th Amendment to the Constitution, which was never passed. It contained an express incorporation of the basic structure doctrine to the Constitution of India.

⁷ Ibid, at Pgs 140-142.

⁸ Ibid, at pg 145.

22. *Mr Shanti Bhushan in the course of his life, wore many hats. He was a lawyer, a politician, an organiser. But above all, he was a leader who stood his ground no matter the consequence. He led by example – In 1973 when lawyers of his stature travelled in chauffeured vehicles, he rode a bicycle to the court to make his juniors shed their shame of riding one;*⁹ *in 2002, in the later years of his career, he fought for a death row prisoner's liberty pro bono.*

23. *Mr Shanti Bhushan was a proud father to Prashant and Jayant, who have several years of standing at the bar. He was intrigued by the professional choices of his daughters, especially Shefali, who is a prominent filmmaker, known for a musical by the name Jugni, and the web series Guilty Minds. Such was his fascination, that at over 90 years of age, Mr Shanti Bhushan was moved to wonder about his own prospects as a career actor. He felt that lawyers are similar to actors in their delivery of arguments to judges.*

24. *Like his father, Mr Shanti Bhushan detested being called “old”. Age or its accompanying ailments could never keep him from his public life. He continued to champion the cause of the Constitution, till his last years. He made his final appearance before the Supreme Court at the age of 96.*

25. *On Mr Shanti Bhushan's 90th birthday, Mr Ram Jethmalani confessed to him how he would have remained a criminal lawyer in Mumbai, if it wasn't for the 1975 Raj Narain case, which prompted Jethmalani himself to contest an election and move to Delhi.*

26. *Mr Shanti Bhushan found solace and contentment in the happiness of his grandchildren, and his family. His life was intertwined in a slice of history of our nation and he stood firm in his resolve to serve the cause of justice and liberty.*

Late Shri S C Maheshwari

27. *Shri S C Maheshwari was born into a family of freedom fighters in Miranpur, in western Uttar Pradesh. Commencing his legal practice as an advocate in Muzaffarnagar, he quickly ascended the ranks, earning recognition as one of the leading lawyers in the city within a decade.*

⁹ *Ibid*, at pg 37

28. In 1974, Shri Maheshwari took a significant step in his journey, relocating his practice into the hallowed Marble hall of the Allahabad High Court. Undeterred by challenges, he carved a distinguished path, eventually becoming the first Additional Advocate General of Uttar Pradesh. His presence resonated in Allahabad and in Lucknow, where he stood as a formidable advocate. A milestone year arrived in 1985 when Shri Maheshwari was bestowed the title of one of the youngest Senior Advocates by the Allahabad High Court. His expertise in Constitutional & Election Law, coupled with a deep understanding of Criminal & Civil Law, set him apart.

29. Shri Maheshwari's commitment extended beyond his courtroom victories. He tirelessly laboured for the betterment of the legal fraternity in Uttar Pradesh. He championed improvements in court infrastructure, and generously contributed to law libraries and computerization initiatives in various districts. His selfless dedication earned him widespread respect, labelling him a true gentleman among his legal peers.

30. In the midst of fluctuating health, Shri Maheshwari's steadfast determination remained resolute. His unwavering commitment served as a wellspring of motivation for all those fortunate enough to witness his dedication to the vocation he held dear. He epitomised the very essence of diligence and fervour that defines a legal professional. He saw it as his professional obligation to attend clients, even on Sundays.

31. Regarded as a family-oriented individual, he relished every moment of life and embraced its richness across various realms, spanning from legal advocacy to the realm of politics, all while serving as a guiding beacon for his family, as well as his extended family. He was a versatile individual, as individuals from diverse walks of life eagerly anticipated the opportunity to engage with him, seeking his insights on matters pertaining to law, politics, and life itself.

32. His legacy in the legal profession is being pursued by his wife, Indu Maheshwari, his son Vipul Maheshwari, his daughters Deepti Mehrotra and Aparna Mehrotra, and his son-in-law Ravi Prakash Mehrotra. Today, we honour not only a legal luminary but a man who exemplified dedication to the legal profession and compassion. Shri S C Maheshwari's contributions will forever serve as a guiding light for those who follow in his footsteps. As we pay our respects, let us remember that his spirit lives on in the pursuit of justice and commitment to the values he held dear.

xxxxx

Reference made on 24th August, 2023

by

Attorney General For India

Shri R. Venkataramani

in the memory of

Late Shri Anoop V. Mohta,

Senior Advocate

Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India, Hon'ble Judges of the Supreme Court, the Solicitor General of India, the Additional Solicitors General, President and Office Bearers of the Supreme Court Bar Association, President and Office Bearers of the Supreme Court Advocates on Record Association, members of the Bar, and ladies and gentlemen.

1. Today, we gather to honour the illustrious career and remarkable contributions of Shri Anoop V. Mohta who served the institution of justice as a hugely regarded and respectable judge of the Bombay High Court for over 14 years.

2. Marking the commencement of his remarkable legal career from 1981, his practice primarily flourished both on the Original and Appellate Sides, where he handled an impressive array of legal matters ranging from Constitutional and Civil cases to Service, Criminal, Taxation, and Educational issues.

3. His expertise extended across various domains, enabling him to represent and contend with diverse entities including Public Bodies, Industrial Houses, and Companies. His proficiency in the intricacies of law earned him recognition, and he proudly served as a Government Pleader and Public Prosecutor for the regions of Daman, Diu, and Dadra and Nagar Haveli for a span of four years.

4. He became part of the esteemed panel of Senior Counsel for the Central Government, and on 14th of November in 2003 that his illustrious career took him to the esteemed position of a Judge at the High Court of Bombay.

5. *Shri Anoop Mohta thus followed the path of his father former justice Vallabhdas Aidan Mohta, who was a judge of the Bombay High Court, and who later became chief Justice of High Court of Odisha.*

6. *Throughout his tenure, Justice Anoop V. Mohta exhibited exceptional acumen and wisdom in handling a wide range of subjects. His judicial legacy encompasses significant judgments enhancing the relevance of social justice principles and laws. One such example is his role in dealing with challenges to the Right to Education Act, affirming the mandate of the law for educational institutions to allocate a quarter of their seats to economically disadvantaged students at key entry levels.*

7. *He propounded persuasively, the rights of women, upholding maternity benefits for those who had children through surrogacy. He also made significant contributions to the law of reservations in promotions. He displayed a keen sense of justice and compassion, as evident in his ruling that secured pension for a World War II widow who had been engaged in a prolonged legal battle.*

8. *Justice Anoop V. Mohta's contribution also encompass legal literature, collaborating with his illustrious father Shri V A Mohta, on seminal legal works such as "Arbitration and Conciliation and Mediation" and "Trademarks, Passing Off and Franchising." His expertise extended beyond the courtroom, as he actively participated in conferences and seminars, sharing his wisdom with the bar.*

9. *He was an accomplished cricketer, winning the Best Bowler awards three times in matches between High Court Judges and Senior Counsel. His dedication extended to service organizations, earning him the prestigious Best Leo Award.*

10. *Mr. Mohta's journey as a judge reached its conclusion on the 4th of December in 2017, after a remarkable 14-year tenure on the bench of the High Court of Bombay. His legacy lives on through the numerous cases he adjudicated, with over several thousand cases disposed of, including approximately 4,100 reported and unreported High Court Judgments and 750 Arbitration matters.*

11. *Justice Anoop V. Mohta's life and career stand as a testament to the pursuit of justice, excellence, and compassion. As we reflect on his accomplishments, let us draw inspiration from his dedication to the fundamental objects of the legal profession and his constant engagement in the pursuit of justice.*

Thank You.

xxxxx

Reference made on 24th August, 2023

by

Dr. Adish C Aggarwala (Sr.)

President, SCBA

in the memory of

Late Shri Anoop V. Mohta,

Late Shri Shanti Bhushan and

Late Shri S. C. Maheshwari,

Senior Advocates

Hon'ble Dr. Chief Justice D.Y. Chandrachud, Chief Justice of India, Other Hon'ble Judges of Supreme Court, Learned Attorney General for India Mr. R. Venkataramani, Learned Solicitor General of India Mr. Tushar Mehta, Learned Chairman of Bar Council of India Mr. Manan Kumar Mishra and his colleagues in Bar Council of India, Mr. P.H. Parikh, former President of Supreme Court Bar Association, Learned Additional Solicitors General of India, Senior Advocates, Hon'ble sitting and retired Judges from different parts of India, Learned Advocates General of different States, Office bearers and members of Supreme Court Bar Association, President of Supreme Court Advocates on Record Association Mr. Manoj Kumar Mishra and other office bearers, Family members of Mr. Anoop V. Mohta, Mr. Shanti Bhushan and Mr. S.C. Maheshwari, Officers of Registry of Supreme Court and My brothers and sisters in legal profession

We have gathered to pay homage to our most distinguished legal luminaries and pure souls late Mr. Anoop V. Mohta, late Mr. Shanti Bhushan and late Mr. S.C. Maheshwari, all distinguished Senior Advocates who practiced before this Hon'ble Court.

Mr. Anoop V. Mohta, Senior Advocate was born on 4.12.1955 at Akola in Maharashtra. He completed his initial education at the New English High School, Akola and post-graduation from Nagpur University. He enrolled as an advocate on 12.2.1981 following footsteps of his illustrious father late Mr. V.A. Mohta, who served as Chief Justice of Orissa High Court.

Mr. Mohta started his practice at the Nagpur Bench of Bombay High Court and shifted base to Bombay in 1994 where he had joined the chambers of Senior Advocate Mr. Rafique Dada, who was recipient of National Law Day Award – 2008 from the Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh. On 14.11.2003 he was elevated as an Additional Judge of Bombay High Court. He was confirmed as a permanent Judge on 12.11.2005. He served as Judge of the Bombay High Court until 4.12.2017. During this period of 14 years as a Judge, he disposed of more than 30,000 cases. He co-authored books titled (i) Arbitration, Conciliation & Mediation (First Edition, 2001) and (Second Edition, 2008) and (ii) Trademark, Passing Off and Franchising (First Edition, 2004 and Second Edition, 2015) along with his father. Supreme Court of India designated him as a Senior Advocate on 6.9.2018.

He was recipient of the Best Leo Award in the year 1979 for Maharashtra. He was very fond of cricket and in his own right three times winner of the Best Bowler in Cricket Match between Judges and Advocates Match of Bombay High Court.

He expired on 29.1.2023 at the age of 68 leaving behind wife Surekha Mohta, daughter Aditee Mohta Sareen, son-in-law Vikhyaat Sareen, son Advocate Devansh A. Mohta, and daughter-in-law Mrs. Shweta Mohta.

Mr. Shanti Bhushan, Senior Advocate, was born on 11.11.1925 at Bijnor in Uttar Pradesh. His father Mr. Vishwamitra besides being one of the senior and successful advocates of Allahabad, was also a Congress leader of repute, having his close contact with Father of Nation Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru and Loknayak Jai Prakash Narain. His mother Smt. Gianwati Devi courted imprisonment as far back as in 1931 and was kept in the same cell with Vijay Lakshmi Pandit and Krishna Hathi Singh. Mr. Shanti Bhushan graduated in Science with brilliant academic record throughout. He obtained a degree of law from Allahabad University and started practice under the guidance of his father in 1948. He specialized in civil and constitutional law. He was the youngest Advocate General of Uttar Pradesh at the age of 43. He was also the Chairman of Bar Council of Uttar Pradesh. Earlier he had also worked as Senior Standing Counsel and Additional Advocate General of Uttar Pradesh. Mr. Raj Narain's dramatic election petition case against Prime Minister Mrs. Indra Gandhi, conducted by Mr. Shanti Bhushan, hoisted him in the glorious position in the legal profession. Entire world was watching with keen interest the hearings conducted by Mr. Shanti Bhushan in Allahabad High Court. The Allahabad verdict of 12.6.1975 resulted in political

earthquake which rocked the entire country as it set aside Mrs. Indira Gandhi's election to Lok Sabha on ground of corrupt practices. Mr. Shanti Bhushan was inducted as Union Minister for Law and Justice and Company Affairs on 26.03.1977 and he resigned as Minister on 28.07.1979. Mr. Bhushan was also a member of Rajya Sabha from 14.7.1977 to 2.4.1980. His wife Mrs. Kumud Bhushan was the daughter of illustrious Mr. Justice C.B. Aggarwal and was sister of Mr. Justice Satish Chandra of Allahabad High Court.

He expired on 31.01.2023 at the age of 97 at his home in Noida after having lived a truly purposeful life leaving behind 4 children namely Prashant Bhushan (a successful advocate in this Hon'ble Court), Shalini Gupta (a social activist in the United States of America), Jayant Bhushan (also a successful Senior advocate and who is also now Senior Executive Committee Member of Supreme Court Bar Association) and Shefali Bhushan (a renowned Film Director having made legal web series called "Guilty Minds").

Mr. S.C. Maheshwari, Senior Advocate began his practice in 1960 from District Muzaffarnagar. Thereafter in the 1970s, he moved to Allahabad High Court. He was appointed as first Additional Advocate General for the State of Uttar Pradesh. In 1985, he was designated as one of the youngest Senior Advocate by Allahabad High Court. He was nominated as a Member of Legislative Council of Uttar Pradesh in 1985 itself. Later on, he shifted his practice to Supreme Court. He served thrice as a Senior Executive Member in the Supreme Court Bar Association. He also served as a Managing Committee Member of the Indian Law Institute. He had profound expertise standing in the Land, Revenue, and Election laws along with Criminal and Civil Laws.

During his career, he made continuous efforts to ensure a better court infrastructure while wholeheartedly donating to Library funds in different districts in Uttar Pradesh. He was always available for litigants and lawyer colleagues for discussion, suggestions and advice. He has the rare distinction of being the counsel for Mrs. Indira Gandhi and Mr. Rajiv Gandhi.

After serving the nation and profession for over sixty years, he departed for his eternal journey on 10.6.2023 leaving behind wife Indu Maheshwari, son Advocate Vipul Maheshwari, daughter-in-law Advocate Archana Maheshwari, daughter Advocate Deepti Mehrotra, son-in-law Senior Advocate Ravi Prakash Mehrotra. His mortal journey has concluded, yet his legacy stands as a beacon, guiding the path of aspiring

advocates, like his son Mr. Vipul Maheshwari, Advocate of this Hon'ble Court, to tread the corridors of justice

All three Senior advocates will be remembered as a calm, kind and generous persons who motivated many young lawyers.

The demise of the eminent senior lawyers has left a void in the legal profession because they were fearless torchbearers of justice who created a path of their own as champion of rights of the common man.

I will cherish my association with all three Senior Advocates forever and their demise is a great personal loss to me. Being the President of Supreme Court Bar Association, I offer condolences to their families and respectfully pay homage to them.

Jai Hind.

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List of Attendees at the Full Court Reference

- ❖ *Shri R Venkataramani,
Ld. Attorney General for India.*
- ❖ *Shri Tushar Mehta,
Solicitor General of India.*
- ❖ *Dr. Adish C. Aggarwala, (Sr.)
President,
Supreme Court Bar Association.*
- ❖ *Shri Sukumar Pattjoshi, (Sr.)
Vice President,
Supreme Court Bar Association.*
- ❖ *Shri Rohit Pandey,
Hony. Secretary,
Supreme Court Bar Association.*
- ❖ *Shri Manoj K. Mishra,
President,
Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record Association.*
- ❖ *Shri Snehasish Mukherjee,
Vice President,
Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record Association.*
- ❖ *Shri Devvrat,
Hony. Secretary,
Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record Association.*

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Family Members of
Late Shri Anoop V. Mohta
Senior Advocate
at the Full Court Reference

- ❖ *Mrs. Surekha Mohta, Wife*
- ❖ *Mrs. Aditee Mohta Sareen, Daughter*
- ❖ *Mr. Vikhyaat Sareen, Son-in-law*
- ❖ *Mrs. Shweta Mohta, Daughter-in-law*
- ❖ *Mr. Devansh A. Mohta, Son*
- ❖ *Mr. Sanjay Mohta, Brother*

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THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA

New Delhi - 110001

India