

Speech of Hon'ble the Chief Justice in the Full Court Reference held on April 01, 2022, on the sad demise of Justice G.L. Raina, former Judge of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.

- My esteemed Sister and Brother Judges;
- Learned Advocate General;
- Shri M. K. Bhardwaj, President, J&K High Court Bar Association;
- Learned Senior Advocates;
- Learned ASGI, Jammu;
- Learned Members of the Bar;
- Judicial Officers;
- Officers in the Registry of this Court;
- Family members of Late Justice G.L. Raina;
- Members of the Court Staff;
- Ladies and Gentlemen.

We have assembled today to express our heartfelt grief and to pay our tribute to the memory of Justice G.L. Raina, a former Judge of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, who passed away on 29th March, 2022.

Justice G.L. Raina is fondly remembered by the members of the Bar for his great qualities of head and heart. He was a person of great intellect, mild manners and was known for his pleasant behaviour and very good relations with members of the Bar across both wings of this High-Court.

Justice Raina was born on 19th June, 1938. After completing his Law from Agra University in 1960, he was enrolled as a Pleader on 19th June, 1961. He was appointed as Munsiff on 23-07-1965 and was posted as

Munsiff Basohli. He was promoted as Sub Judge on 27-08-1970. He was further promoted as District & Sessions Judge on 31-05-1980 and was placed in the Super-time Scale on 15-10-1997. He was elevated as Additional Judge of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir on 25th November, 1997, for two years and took oath of his office as Additional Judge of the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir on 26th November, 1997. Again, on 22nd November, 1999 he was appointed as Additional Judge of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and took oath of his office on 26th November, 1999.

He was widely respected for his wit, humour and graceful manners. He was able to make a mark on the bench because of his knowledge of law, sharp understanding and quick disposal, and was able to handle difficult cases with ease. He was known for his constant guidance and help to the budding lawyers to achieve excellence in the profession.

During his tenure as Judge of this High Court, Justice Raina worked assiduously and disposed of a large number of cases on civil, criminal and constitutional side and delivered many landmark judgments.

He had a short stint as a Judge in the High Court and after serving for almost two and a half years as Additional Judge of the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir, he laid his robes on 18th June, 2000. After retirement, Justice Raina was appointed as Member of the J&K Accountability Commission and thereafter served as Chairman, Commission for Backward Classes.

Justice Raina is survived by wife Smt. Krishna Raina and three daughters who are all well settled.

I understand that at present there are a large number of established lawyers in the Bar in the UT of J&K who owe their distinction in the Bar to the guidance they received from Justice Raina during their formative days in the profession. With his loss the Bar and the Judiciary both have lost a good well wisher.

I, on behalf of my esteemed colleagues on the Bench and on my own behalf mourn the sad demise of Justice G.L. Raina and pray to the Almighty to grant eternal peace to his soul and bestow immense strength to the bereaved members of the family to bear the loss.

Sd/-
(Pankaj Mithal)
Chief Justice

As mark of respect to the departed soul, we shall stand in silence for a minute.

The Court work shall remain suspended for the rest of the day.