

FULL COURT REFERENCE

Hon'ble The Acting Chief Justice, Hon'ble Judges, Hon'ble Former Judges, Advocate General, Punjab, Chairman Bar Council, President of Bar Association, Members of the Bar and friends.

We meet here today to pay tribute to Hon'ble Mr. Justice Madan Mohan Punchhi, Former Chief Justice of India, who left for heavenly abode on 17th June, 2015.

It is always very difficult to sum up in just few words a tribute to a person like Hon'ble Mr. Justice Madan Mohan Punchhi who had such a versatile life. His Lordship was a distinguished and multi-faceted personality. This all is reflected from his life sketch.

His Lordship was born on 10th October, 1933 in Pakpattan, District Montgomery now in Pakistan. His father Sh. Nand Lal Punchhi was a lawyer of repute. In his formative years, His Lordship studied at Sacred Heart School, Amritsar and later at Arya High School, Pakpattan. After partition of the country, His Lordship's family migrated to India and settled at Ferozepur. His father established himself and set up a flourishing practice there as a leading lawyer. His Lordship joined D.C. Jain College for further studies and he graduated from D.A.V. College, Jullandhar. His Lordship obtained his law degree and certificate of proficiency from Faculty of Law, University of Delhi in the year 1955.

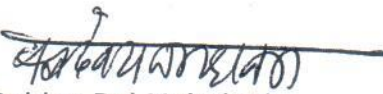
In the same year, His Lordship joined legal profession under the aegis of his father at Ferozepur. In the year 1958, he shifted to Chandigarh to set up practice in High Court where he practised for 21 years on civil, criminal, writ and revenue side. His hard-work, sound knowledge of law and legal acumen enabled His Lordship to develop a large practice and acquire a position of eminence at the Bar. His Lordship also taught as a part-time lecturer in the Law Department, Panjab University for some time. His Lordship was also appointed as standing counsel for Chandigarh Administration and he remained as Rotarian also in this while.

On 24th October, 1979, His Lordship was appointed as an Additional Judge of this Hon'ble Court and on 16th December, 1982 he was made a permanent Judge. His Lordship was a Judge in the Hon'ble Court for almost a decade. As a Judge of this Hon'ble Court, His Lordship delivered many landmark judgments in all fields of law showing his deep intellect and insight.

His Lordship was elevated as Judge of Supreme Court of India on 6th October, 1989. As a Judge of the Apex Court, His Lordship rendered large number of judgments reflecting his sharp intelligence, insight and understanding of all fields of law. His Lordship was appointed as Chief Justice of India on 18th January, 1998. His Lordship held this office for a brief period of nine months and he retired on 9th October, 1998. During his tenure as a Judge His Lordship was committed to early dispensation of justice and served with devotion, aptitude and sincerity.

Even after his retirement, His Lordship made valuable contribution to legal field. His term as Chairman of the Second Commission on Centre - State relations formed on 27th April, 2007 is worth mentioning. His Lordship was a legal luminary and an eminent jurist who rendered outstanding service to uphold the ethics and moral values of Indian Legal System.

His Lordship leaves behind his wife, two married daughters and two sons. One of his sons Shri Ashutosh Mohan Punchhi and one of his sons-in-law Sh.Pawan Kumar Mutneja, are the members of our Bar. After a long and illustrious career His Lordship has passed into history. His demise is a loss to the judiciary and legal fraternity which has left a void which cannot be fulfilled. I offer heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family. Hon'ble Mr.Justice Madan Mohan Punchhi shall be profoundly missed.


(Baldev Raj Mahajan)
Advocate General, Haryana
03.08.2015