

SHRI IQBAL M. CHAGLA

Iqbal Chagla obtained an MA in History and Law from Cambridge University (King's was his college). He was then called to the Bar from Gray's Inn and returned to Bombay where began a long romance with the law.

Having refused all inducements to move to Delhi, he preferred to be a leading member of the Bombay bar. He was invited to be a Senior Advocate (the Indian equivalent of a QC) at the relatively young age of 39.

He completed, from 1990 to 1999, three terms as President of the Bombay Bar Association (an association of lawyers practising on the Original Side of the Bombay High Court). He also served as a Member of the Executive Committee of the Bar Association of India and a Member of the National Legal Services Authority, Delhi.

Chagla was offered a judgeship of the Supreme Court directly from the Bar – a rare honour – with the added allurements that he would, in a few years, be the Chief Justice of India. For reasons personal, he had to decline the honour.

In 1990 Chagla moved resolutions calling for the resignation of five judges of the Bombay High Court whose integrity was questioned by the Bar, and five years later for the resignation of the Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court. The Chief Justice resigned and the other judges either resigned or were transferred or denied judicial work.

He has attended and participated in various law conferences and has been invited to speak at various Seminars. He has appeared in international arbitrations and has advised on proceedings in foreign courts; he has given expert evidence on Indian law in the Southern District Court of New York and in the Isle of Man Court.

In 2012 Chagla was conferred an Honorary Degree of Doctor of Laws by Behrampur University in Odisha "for attaining eminence in public affairs".

He is a trustee of the Chief Justice Chagla Memorial Trust, the H M Seervai Memorial Trust and the Mehli Mehta Music Foundation.

He plays golf with a passion and has photography as an abiding hobby. Reading and music are his constant companions.