

# RAFIQUE AHMED DADA

Senior Advocate, Bombay High Court & Supreme Court of India

*A lawyer with a pledge to work hard dedicatedly, Mr. Rafique Dada believes in doing his best without expecting results. A personality who believes in oneself, the sky is the limit for the one who never underestimates oneself, is what he believes. Having a wealth of knowledge and expertise in his field, Mr. Rafique Dada was one of the earliest to initiate the practice of mediation to settle legal disputes.*

Rafique Ahmed Dada did his schooling from the St. Xavier's High School, Bombay then joined the Sydenham College of Commerce & Economics. He graduated in Commerce with advanced accountancy and auditing. In view of his merit, he was awarded a scholarship to go to the London School of Economics. However, he decided to stay back and study law. Mr. Dada's decision to study law was received with great anxiety and skepticism as law was not regarded as a popular profession instead the rush was for engineering and medicine. However, the initial decision to take up commerce had already excluded that option. The choice before Mr. Dada included Chartered Accountancy as also a career in Economics after graduation from the London School. He was awarded a gold medal for standing first in the LLB exam.

Son of late Mr. Abdul Latif Dada, Mr. Rafique Dada had no godfather or influence in the legal profession. Mr. Dada was designated as a Senior Advocate by the Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court in 1987. Later, in 1992, Mr. Dada was appointed as the Additional Solicitor General of India, Western Region. He was the first incumbent in the post.

Being the Additional Solicitor General of India, Mr. Dada advised in many cases which arose in States of Maharashtra, Gujarat, Karnataka and Rajasthan as also cases which emanated from these States and were filed in the Supreme Court of India. The cases included cases relating to taxes, cases in the Special Court against Mr. Harshad Mehta and various cases relating to the constitutional validity of a statute. An expert lawyer, Mr. Dada worked under four Prime Ministers namely Mr. I.K. Gujral, Mr. Deva Gowda, Mr. Atal Bihari Vajpayee for a short period of time and Mr. Narasimha Rao.

The practice was to tender a resignation when a new Prime Minister came. However, Mr. Dada's resignation was not accepted and he continued in the job.

After serving the term as an Additional Solicitor General of India, Mr. Dada returned to private practice. He has appeared in several cases relating to environment and security laws. Mr. Dada has been associated with several other lawyers who worked for the cause of environment. The most notable cases were cases relating to Melghat Sanctuary in Vidharba and the Borivali National Park in Mumbai.

In 2008, Mr. Dada received an award at the hands of the then Prime Minister of India, Mr. Manmohan Singh and the then Chief Justice of India, Mr. Balakrishnan for his contribution to the study of civil law.

Mr. Dada was awarded a lifetime achievement by the publication, LEGAL ERA in 2018. On 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2019, Mr. Dada received an award on the National Law Day by the hands of His Lordship Mr. Justice Madan Lokur (then a Senior Judge of the Supreme Court of India). This award was given by the Bar Association of India.

Mr. Dada served as a Vice President of the Bombay Bar Association for 9 years and as President from 2002 to 2008. During his tenure, Mr. Dada established relationship with various Bars across the globe including Canada, Australia, the U.K. and China. Delegations from these Bars visited the Bombay High Court.

The Bombay Bar Association was invited to send a delegation to the U.K. on the invitation of the Bar Council of England and Wales. Mr. Dada led the delegation and addressed various members of the Bar at San Diego, San Francisco and Los Angeles. Mr. Dada also led a delegation to the United States at

the invitation of Californian Bar to study the practice of mediation and alternative dispute resolution in the American Courts.