



THE BAR ASSOCIATION OF INDIA

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17th September, 2022

Seminar on
**"Free Speech and Judiciary : Ensuring Independent and Fair
Administration of Justice"**

Saturday, 24th September, 2022
Gulmohar Hall, India Habitat Centre,
New Delhi

CIRCULAR

Dear Colleague,

In a constitutional democracy, the Judiciary plays a fundamental role in balancing the inherent majoritarian bias of a democratic system of governance by enforcing constitutional norms. By its very nature, this function means that at times judicial outcomes may not be in accordance with the wishes of the majority.

To ensure that the Judiciary is enabled to perform this vital function, it is essential to both maintain judicial independence from the executive and empower the judiciary and individual judges to render judgments that serve to enforce constitutional norms but may go against popular sentiment. Both the members of the bar and the media in Independent India have been able to support this function by helping create informed public opinion about the function of court and the impact of its decisions.

However, the emergence of a new form of media, including social media, has challenged how the functioning of courts are perceived in the public domain. This has opened the court to criticism that is not necessarily from a constitutional perspective, but could be from the prism of political or sectarian agendas.

This has created a new challenge for the court and judicial institutions, and for the country's democratic and constitutional fabric, and requires a collective and collaborative response from the Judiciary, the legal profession, and the media.

This seminar is an effort to facilitate public's right to understand court proceedings and the need to ensure the sanctity of the judiciary. How can we achieve a balance between robust and well-informed criticism of

judgments and functioning of courts with the equally important endeavour to support the judiciary and individual judges, who display tremendous courage and fidelity to their oath of office when rendering judicial verdicts that enforce constitutional norms.

In this background the Bar Association of India is organising a **Seminar on "Free Speech and Judiciary : Ensuring Independent and Fair Administration of Justice"** on Saturday, 24th September, 2022 at Gulmohar Hall, India Habitat Centre, New Delhi from 9:30 am to 5:30 pm.

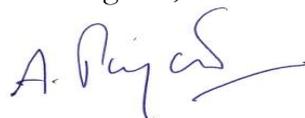
The topics for the seminar given below are very timely and thought provoking :-

- **Balancing Judicial independence and accountability: should there be limits on the freedom of speech while dealing with the judiciary?**
- **Power of Contempt: a shield or a double-edged sword?**
- **Code of conduct for lawyers when commenting to media in cases they are appearing or are associated with**
- **Training the Media to Cover Court proceedings: Developing a Collaborative Effort**

A galaxy of confirmed speakers and experts include **Shri Shyam Divan, Shri Prashant Kumar, Shri Amarjit Singh Chandhiok, Shri B.V. Acharya, Shri S.S. Naganand, Shri Jaideep Gupta, Shri Vikas Singh, Shri Mohan V. Katarki, Shri Aman Lekhi, Shri Rajiv Dutta, Shri Vikramjit Banerjee, Ms. Maninder Acharya, Shri (Col.) R. Balasubramanian, Ms. Menaka Guruswamy, Shri Uday Prakash Warunjikar, Shri Amarjit Singh Bedi, Shri Arunachalam Vaidyanathan, Prof. (Dr.) Pramod Kumar and Shri P.V. Dinesh.**

In case you wish to participate kindly fill up the form and send it to the **Office of the Bar Association of India, 93, Lawyers Chambers, Supreme Court of India, New Delhi – 110001** alongwith the participation contribution.

Thanking you.
With regards,



DR. ANINDITA PUJARI
Hony. General Secretary