

SUPREME COURT OF INDIA

Notification

11th February 2026

In terms of the decision of this Hon'ble Court dated 13th May 2025 in *Jitender @ Kalla vs. State (Govt. of NCT of Delhi) and Anr.* (2025 INSC 667), the 'Guidelines for Designation of Senior Advocates by the Supreme Court of India, 2023' have been amended/ modified/ replaced.

In a Full Court Meeting held on 10th February 2026, the Chief Justice of India and the Judges of the Supreme Court of India have approved the new Guidelines titled as "Guidelines for Designation of Senior Advocates by the Supreme Court of India, 2026". The new Guidelines are placed with this notification.

Sd/-
(Devender Pal Walia)
Registrar (CDSA)

GUIDELINES FOR DESIGNATION OF SENIOR ADVOCATES
BY THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA, 2026

1. These Guidelines shall be called “Guidelines for Designation of Senior Advocates by the Supreme Court of India, 2026”.
2. All matters relating to the designation of Senior Advocates in the Supreme Court of India shall be dealt with by a Permanent Committee to be known as “Committee for Designation of Senior Advocates”.
3. The Committee for Designation of Senior Advocates shall consist of:

(a)	Chief Justice of India	Chairperson
(b)	Two senior-most Judges of the Supreme Court of India	Members

4. The Committee shall meet whenever exigencies require.
5. The Committee shall have a Permanent Secretariat. The composition of the Secretariat will be decided by the Chief Justice of India in consultation with the members of the Committee.
6. The Secretariat of the Committee shall initiate the process for designation of Senior Advocate at least once every year by inviting applications from Advocates for designation as Senior Advocates.
7. The Notice inviting applications from Advocates shall be published on the official website of the Supreme Court of India. In addition, intimation will also be given to the Supreme Court Bar Association and the Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record Association.
8. At least twenty-one days' time shall be given to applicants to submit their applications online (as per **Annexure-‘A’**) or in the manner as directed by the competent authority at the relevant time.

9. The conditions on which Advocates shall be eligible for designation as Senior Advocates are:

- (i) At least
 - (a) ten years' standing as an Advocate; or
 - (b) ten years' combined standing as an Advocate and as a District and Sessions Judge or as a Judicial Member of any Tribunal in India whose qualification for eligibility for such appointment is not less than that prescribed for appointment as a District Judge.

(ii) Practise mainly in the Supreme Court.

Note: Applicant-advocates having domain expertise of practising before specialized Tribunals may be given concession with regard to the extent of appearances in the Supreme Court.

- (iii) Attainment of the age of 45 years, unless the age limit is relaxed by the Full Court.
- (iv) The application of the applicant-Advocate to designate him/her as a Senior Advocate has not been rejected by the Supreme Court of India or any High Court, within a period of two years, or the said application has not been deferred by any Court within a period of one year, immediately preceding the date of notice inviting applications from the Advocates.

10. On receipt of applications from Advocates, the Secretariat will compile relevant data and information with regard to the reputation, conduct and integrity of the advocate(s) concerned including the information/data furnished by concerned Advocate(s) in the prescribed format. Information may also be collected by the Secretariat from such source(s), as may be decided by the Committee.

11. The Secretariat will publish the proposals received for designation on the official website of the Supreme Court and invite suggestions/views of other stakeholders on the proposals for designation.

12. At least fifteen days' time shall be given to other stakeholders to give their suggestions/views on the proposed designation.

13. On compilation of the database and such additional information as is collected pursuant to the directions of the Committee, the Secretariat shall put up the proposals before the Full Court.

14. The Full Court will examine each application in the light of the data provided by the Secretariat and make its overall assessment on the basis of ability, standing at the Bar or special knowledge or experience in law of the candidates, considering the following:

Ability: It will include very sound knowledge of law and especially the branches of law in which the Advocate is practising. The ability will also include, apart from sound knowledge of law, skills of advocacy, which are required to effectively conduct a case. Writing articles and commentaries on law will be part of ability. Capacity to rationally critique judicial decisions will be a facet of ability.

Standing at the Bar: Some of the qualities which give an advocate a standing at the Bar are as follows:

- (a) He/She is always fair while conducting cases before the Courts.
- (b) His/Her behaviour with the Judges and other members of the Bar is respectful.
- (c) He/She maintains decorum while conducting cases before the Court.
- (d) He/She always acts first as an officer of the Court and, thereafter, a mouthpiece of his/her client.
- (e) He/She follows the highest standards of professional etiquette and ethics.
- (f) He/She acts as a mentor to the junior advocates.
- (g) He/She does pro bono work.
- (h) He/She carries respect in the legal fraternity.
- (i) He/She does possess honesty and integrity.

The above list is only illustrative in nature, and not exhaustive.

Special Knowledge of Law: An Advocate may be said to be having special knowledge or experience in law if in a particular branch of law, he has acquired expertise; for example, Arbitration, Insolvency and Bankruptcy, Company Law, Intellectual Property Law, Tax Laws etc.

No criminal antecedents: An Advocate has not been convicted by a competent court of law and should not have been punished for an offence involving moral turpitude or contempt of court or should not have been punished by any State Bar Council/Bar Council of India for any act of misconduct.

15. The applications of all candidates found to be eligible by the Permanent Secretariat along with relevant documents submitted by them shall be placed before the Full Court.
16. Even if an Advocate deserving of a designation does not apply for designation, on the basis of the discussion, the Full Court may recommend his/her designation *de hors* an application in a deserving case, subject to his/her consent.
17. The decision-making on designation of Advocates will be by consensus. However, if that is not possible, the decision will be made on the basis of majority view. Voting by secret ballot will be resorted to in an exceptional situation, for reasons to be recorded.
18. Former Chief Justices and former Judges of the High Courts may at any time submit a letter of request to the Committee for designation as Senior Advocates (as per **Annexure-‘J’**).
19. All letters of request of former Chief Justices and former Judges of the High Courts for designation as Senior Advocates shall be placed before the Full Court.
20. Former Chief Justices and former Judges of the High Courts, who have accepted or consented to accept any full-time assignment will not be considered for designation as Senior Advocates as long as they hold that assignment.
21. All cases which are not favourably considered by the Full Court shall be reviewed/reconsidered after the expiry of two years from the date of the decision of the Full Court by following the procedure applicable at that time.

22. All cases deferred by the Full Court for being designated as Senior Advocate shall not be considered until the expiry of one year from the date of the decision of the Full Court.
23. In the cases which are not favourably considered or deferred by the Full Court as per Paras 21 and 22 above, the Advocate may apply afresh in terms of the procedure applicable on the date of the fresh application and the former Chief Justice and former Judge of a High Court may submit request letter afresh after the expiry of prescribed period.
24. The final decision of the Full Court will be communicated individually to all the applicants.
25. The Full Court may review its decision to designate a person as a Senior Advocate and recall the conferment of designation if the Advocate is found guilty of conduct which according to the Full Court disentitles him to designation. The Full Court would give an opportunity of a hearing before any such action is taken.
26. All questions relating to interpretation and/or application of these Guidelines shall be referred to the Chief Justice of India whose decision shall be final. The Chief Justice of India may issue directions for the removal of difficulties either in general terms or in a particular instance as the exigencies may require.

**APPLICATION-CUM-CONSENT LETTER
FOR DESIGNATION OF SENIOR ADVOCATE
[FOR ADVOCATES]**

Recent Passport Size Colour Photograph:	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 150px; height: 100px; margin: 0 auto;"></div> <p style="font-size: small;">(The upload photo size must be 20 to 200 KB in jpg/jpeg.)</p>
1.	Name of the Applicant-Advocate: (Dr./Mr./Ms./Mrs.) * <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; margin-top: 10px;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 80px; height: 30px;"></div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 200px; height: 30px;"></div> </div>
2.	Date of Birth: * <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100%; height: 25px; margin-top: 5px;"></div>
3.	Age (as on 01.01.2026): * <div style="display: flex; align-items: center; margin-top: 5px;"> Years: <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 60px; height: 25px; margin-right: 10px;"></div> Months: <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 60px; height: 25px;"></div> </div>
4.	<div style="display: flex;"> <div style="width: 20%; border-right: 1px solid black; padding-right: 5px;">Address in Full: *</div> <div style="padding-left: 5px;"> (i) Office: * <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100%; height: 25px; margin-top: 5px;"></div> (ii) Residence: * <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100%; height: 25px; margin-top: 5px;"></div> </div> </div>
5.	<div style="display: flex;"> <div style="width: 20%; border-right: 1px solid black; padding-right: 5px;">Contact Details: *</div> <div style="padding-left: 5px;"> (i) Landline: * (ii) Mobile: * (iii) Email: * </div> </div>
6.	Educational / Professional Qualifications: <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100%; height: 25px; margin-top: 5px;"></div>
7.	<div style="display: flex;"> <div style="width: 30%; border-right: 1px solid black; padding-right: 5px;"> (i) Date, Month and Year of Enrolment as an Advocate: * (ii) Enrolment Number: * (iii) Bar Council, where registered (Copy of Enrolment Certificate to be attached): * </div> <div style="padding-left: 5px;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100%; height: 25px; margin-bottom: 5px;"></div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100%; height: 25px; margin-bottom: 5px;"></div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100%; height: 25px;"></div> </div> </div> <p style="font-size: small; margin-top: 5px;">(The upload file size must be less than 5 MB in PDF)</p>

	(iv) Number of years of practice from the date of enrolment: *	<input type="text"/>	Years	<input type="text"/>	Months
	(v) Net Professional Income per annum: *	<input type="text"/>	Lakhs		
8.	Whether registered as an Advocate-on-Record:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No			
	(i) Date, Month and Year of Registration: *	<input type="text"/>			
	(ii) AOR Code Number:	<input type="text"/>			
9.	Whether the applicant is a member of the Supreme Court Bar Association / Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record Association: *	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="text"/>			
10.	Number of Reported Judgments (excluding orders that do not lay down any principle of law): Format L-1 Format L-2	(i) No. of Reported Judgments as Lead Arguing Counsel: * <input type="text"/> Supreme Court * <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> High Courts * <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> Tribunals * <input type="text"/> Upload Format L-1 (The upload file size must be less than 5 MB in PDF)		(ii) No. of Reported Judgments as Assisting Counsel: * <input type="text"/> Supreme Court * <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> High Courts * <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> Tribunals * <input type="text"/> Upload Format L-2 (The upload file size must be less than 5 MB in PDF)	
11.	Number of Unreported Judgments (excluding orders that do not lay down any principle of law): Format L-3 Format L-4	(i) No. of Unreported Judgments as Lead Arguing Counsel: * <input type="text"/> Supreme Court * <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> High Courts * <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> Tribunals * <input type="text"/> Upload Format L-3 (The upload file size must be less than 5 MB in PDF)		(ii) No. of Unreported Judgments as Assisting Counsel: * <input type="text"/> Supreme Court * <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> High Courts * <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> Tribunals * <input type="text"/> Upload Format L-4 (The upload file size must be less than 5 MB in PDF)	

12.	Pro Bono / Amicus Curiae work: <u>Format L-5(i)</u> <u>Format L-5(ii)</u>	Total Pro Bono cases: <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 20px; width: 100px; margin-bottom: 5px;"></div> Upload Format L-5(i) (The upload file size must be less than 5 MB in PDF)	Total Amicus Curiae cases: <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 20px; width: 100px; margin-bottom: 5px;"></div> Upload Format L-5(ii) (The upload file size must be less than 5 MB in PDF)	
13.	Whether the applicant is a first-generation lawyer: *	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
14.	Academic Articles/Books published, experience of Teaching Assignments in the field of law, Guest Lectures delivered in law schools or professional institutions connected with law: <u>Format L-6</u>	No. of Academic Articles: ____ No. of Teaching Assignments: ____ Upload Format L-6 (The upload file size must be less than 5 MB in PDF)	No. of Academic Books: ____ No. of Guest Lectures: ____	
15.	Courts, where the applicant is practicing/has practiced: (Court-wise period may be indicated) *	Court	From	To
		Supreme Court of India		
		High Court(s)/ District/ Trial Court(s)		
16.	Tribunals, where the applicant has specialized practice: (Applicable to those practising before Tribunals)	Tribunal(s)	From	To
17.	Nature of practice – (e.g. Civil, Criminal, Constitutional, Taxation, Labour, Company, Service, etc.): *	<div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 30px; width: 100%;"></div>		

18.	Field of Law – domain expertise (such as, Constitutional law, Inter-State Water Disputes, Criminal law, Arbitration law, Corporate law, Family law, Human Rights, Public Interest Litigation, International law, law relating to women) in which the applicant has specialization / expertise:	<div data-bbox="654 380 1505 535" style="border: 1px solid black; height: 74px; width: 524px;"></div>
19.	Whether the applicant has applied earlier to the Supreme Court for designation; if so, date of the application & current status thereof: *	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <div data-bbox="644 980 1515 1052" style="border: 1px solid black; height: 34px; width: 536px;"></div>
20.	Whether the applicant has applied earlier to any other High Court; if so, date of the application and details thereof: *	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <div data-bbox="644 1278 1515 1350" style="border: 1px solid black; height: 34px; width: 536px;"></div>
21.	Whether any FIR has ever been lodged against the applicant; if so, details thereof: *	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <div data-bbox="644 1539 1515 1610" style="border: 1px solid black; height: 34px; width: 536px;"></div>
22.	Whether the applicant is a party to any criminal case; if so, details thereof: *	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <div data-bbox="644 1787 1515 1858" style="border: 1px solid black; height: 34px; width: 536px;"></div>

23.	Whether any proceedings were initiated or are pending against the applicant before Bar Council of India or State Bar Council; if so, details thereof: *	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 30px; width: 100%; margin-top: 5px;"></div>
24.	General State of Health:	
25.	Any other relevant information:	
	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>DECLARATION</u></p> <p>I _____ hereby give consent for being designated as Senior Advocate.</p> <p>I hereby declare that the information furnished above is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief. No material information is concealed or suppressed therefrom. I understand that furnishing of false information or suppression of any factual information would render me unfit from being designated as Senior Advocate.</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; margin-top: 20px;"> <div data-bbox="253 1024 345 1052">Date: -</div> <div data-bbox="984 1024 1459 1052" style="text-align: right;">Signature of the Applicant-Advocate</div> </div> <p style="text-align: right; font-size: small; margin-top: 10px;">(The uploaded signature size must be 10 to 20 KB in jpg/jpeg.)</p>	

PRESCRIBED FORMATS**Format L-1***(See Sl. No. 10 of the Application)***AS LEAD ARGUING COUNSEL****LIST OF REPORTED JUDGMENTS (EXCLUDING ORDERS NOT LAYING
DOWN ANY PRINCIPLE OF LAW)****In matters before Supreme Court of India**

S. No.	Citation / Case Number	Cause Title and Subject Matter	Decided on	Legal formulation advanced by the applicant.

In matters before High Courts

S. No.	Court(s)	Citation / Case Number	Cause Title and Subject Matter	Decided on	Legal formulation advanced by the applicant.

In matters before Tribunals

S. No.	Tribunal(s)	Citation / Case Number	Cause Title and Subject Matter	Decided on	Legal formulation advanced by the applicant.

Format L-2*(See Sl. No. 10 of the Application)***AS ASSISTING COUNSEL****LIST OF REPORTED JUDGMENTS (EXCLUDING ORDERS NOT LAYING
DOWN ANY PRINCIPLE OF LAW)****In matters before Supreme Court of India**

S. No.	Citation / Case Number	Cause Title and Subject Matter	Decided on	Legal formulation advanced by the applicant.

In matters before High Courts

S. No.	Court(s)	Citation / Case Number	Cause Title and Subject Matter	Decided on	Legal formulation advanced by the applicant.

In matters before Tribunals

S. No.	Tribunal(s)	Citation / Case Number	Cause Title and Subject Matter	Decided on	Legal formulation advanced by the applicant.

Format L-3*(See Sl. No. 11 of the Application)***AS LEAD ARGUING COUNSEL****LIST OF UNREPORTED JUDGMENTS (EXCLUDING ORDERS NOT
LAYING DOWN ANY PRINCIPLE OF LAW)****In matters before Supreme Court of India**

S. No.	Citation / Case Number	Cause Title and Subject Matter	Decided on	Legal formulation advanced by the applicant.

In matters before High Courts

S. No.	Court(s)	Citation / Case Number	Cause Title and Subject Matter	Decided on	Legal formulation advanced by the applicant.

In matters before Tribunals

S. No.	Tribunal(s)	Citation / Case Number	Cause Title and Subject Matter	Decided on	Legal formulation advanced by the applicant.

Format L-4
(See Sl. No. 11 of the Application)

AS ASSISTING COUNSEL

LIST OF UNREPORTED JUDGMENTS (EXCLUDING ORDERS NOT LAYING DOWN ANY PRINCIPLE OF LAW)

In matters before Supreme Court of India

S. No.	Citation / Case Number	Cause Title and Subject Matter	Decided on	Legal formulation advanced by the applicant.

In matters before High Courts

S. No.	Court(s)	Citation / Case Number	Cause Title and Subject Matter	Decided on	Legal formulation advanced by the applicant.

In matters before Tribunals

S. No.	Tribunal(s)	Citation / Case Number	Cause Title and Subject Matter	Decided on	Legal formulation advanced by the applicant.

Format L-5(i)*(See Sl. No. 12 of the Application)***List of matters in which appeared as Pro-Bono**

S.No.	Court(s)/ Tribunal(s)	Citation/ Case Number	Cause Title	Decided on	Reportable / Unreportable

Format L-5(ii)*(See Sl. No. 12 of the Application)***List of matters in which appeared as Amicus Curiae**

S.No.	Court(s)/ Tribunal(s)	Citation/ Case Number	Cause Title	Decided on	Reportable / Unreportable

Format L-6*(See Sl. No. 14 of the Application)*

Details of academic articles/books published, experience of teaching assignments in the field of law, quest lectures delivered in law schools or professional institutions connected with law.

S. No.	Topic of published academic		Experience details in law schools or professional institutions (with names) connected with law		Any other relevant details
	Articles	Books	Teaching Assignment(s)	Guest Lectures	

**INSTRUCTIONS TO BE FOLLOWED BY THE ADVOCATES
WHILE APPLYING FOR DESIGNATION OF SENIOR ADVOCATE**

1.	Advocates are requested to scrupulously follow these instructions while submitting the Application and the prescribed Formats (L-1 to L-6).
2.	At the time of submission of the Application online, the following should be kept ready: (i) Data/Information that is to be furnished in formats L-1 to L-6; (ii) Scanned signature of the applicant; (iii) Recent scanned passport size colour photograph; and (iv) Scanned Enrolment Certificate.
3.	In addition to the Application submitted online, the following should be submitted in the CDSA Secretariat: (i) One print-out of the Application along with its attachments in the shape of a Paper Book, duly tagged & indexed. (ii) One recent passport size colour photograph (name of the applicant should be written on its back side).
4.	Data/Information relating to reported and unreported judgments in matters argued as lead arguing/assisting counsel, pro bono/amicus curiae, publication work (articles/books/teaching assignments/guest lectures) should be provided in the prescribed formats L-1 to L-6 which form part of Application.
5.	List of citations of reported and unreported judgments in matters argued as lead counsel/ assisting counsel should be furnished in chronological order. The citations should be of judgments made reportable by the Supreme Court/High Courts/ Tribunals and are available in their official reports . For example, in the case of Supreme Court Judgments, neutral citations may be given.
6.	Name of the applicant should tally with his/her name as mentioned in his/her enrolment certificate. Abbreviated name shall NOT be accepted.
7.	Request to accept application beyond the last date indicated in the notice, shall NOT be entertained in any case.

☐ Yes, I have read the instructions carefully.

Submit

Annexure - 'J'

**REQUEST-CUM-CONSENT LETTER FOR
DESIGNATION OF SENIOR ADVOCATE
[FOR FORMER CHIEF JUSTICES/JUDGES OF HIGH COURTS]**

Recent Passport
size colour
photograph
(original) to be
pasted here

1.	Name of the Applicant: (Dr./Mr./Mrs./Ms. Justice) Chief Justice/Judge of High Court from where retired		
2.	Age as on date		____ Years ____ Months
3.	Address in full:	(i) Office -	
		(ii) Residence -	
4.	Contact Details:	(i) Landline -	
		(ii) Mobile -	
		(iii) Email -	
5.	(a) Date of enrolment as advocate (b) Enrolment Number (c) Date of Resumption of Practice (copies of certificates to be provided)		
6.	Bar Council, where registered		
7.	Field of law in which applicant has specialization / expertise (special knowledge or experience in law)		
8.	Number of reported judgments delivered as Judge/Chief Justice of High Court (List of citations to be provided)		
9.	High Courts where served as Judge / Chief Justice (please specify duration)	Name of High Court(s)	From
		To	

10.	Total period served as Judge / Chief Justice of High Court	
11.	Date of elevation/retirement as Chief Justice/Judge of High Court	
12.	Whether held / accepted any post-retirement assignment. If so, give details thereof.	
13.	Whether applied for being designated as Senior Advocate earlier before the Supreme Court/High Court, If so, the status thereof.	
14.	Whether party to any criminal or other litigation, at present or in the past. If so, the nature of involvement.	
15.	Any other information:	
	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>DECLARATION:</u></p> <p>I _____ hereby give consent for being designated as Senior Advocate.</p> <p>The information furnished above is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief. Nothing material is concealed or suppressed therefrom. I understand that furnishing of false information or suppression of any factual information would render me unfit from being designated as Senior Advocate.</p> <p>Date: _____ [Signature of the Applicant]</p>	

Note: Kindly read instructions attached herewith while filling up the information in the above format.

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS TO BE FOLLOWED
WHILE SUBMITTING REQUEST-CUM-CONSENT LETTER (ANNEXURE-J)
FOR DESIGNATION OF SENIOR ADVOCATE

1.	Letter of request-cum-consent, in the prescribed format shall be made in English, typed/printed with font size (Arial-14) in double spacing on one side of the white paper (A4 Size) with an inner margin of about four centimeters width on top and on the left side.
2.	Documents (copy of Enrolment Certificate, copy of Resumption of Practice Certificate and list of citations of reported judgments) accompanying the letter of request-cum-consent should be numbered consecutively in the Index, in all sets.
3.	All documents annexed to the letter of request-cum-consent should be accompanied by an Index containing the details thereof. (The Registry, at any stage, may ask for the supportive documents for verification in the light of the facts mentioned in the prescribed format).
4.	Name of the applicant should tally with his/her name as mentioned in his/her enrolment certificate.
5.	The letter of request-cum-consent should be submitted in the shape of a paperbook, duly tagged & indexed and not in spiral binding and the like.
6.	Three sets of Annexure-J in form of paperbook, identical in all respects, should be filed.
7.	The soft copy of request-cum-consent letter, in searchable mode, along with scanned photograph should be submitted through e-mail (cdsa.2018@sci.nic.in), in addition to the hard copy thereof.