



SUPREME COURT ADVOCATES-ON-RECORD ASSOCIATION (Regd.)

GE-81A & GE8-2, Ground Floor, Main Building, East Wing, Supreme Court of India, New Delhi-110001

Phone: 011-23072352 • E-mail: scaora1@gmail.com • Web: www.scaoraindia.com

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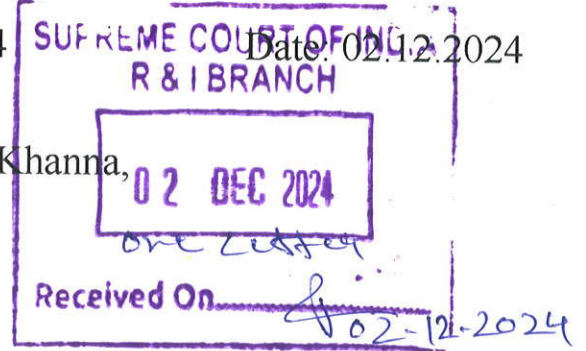
9818674037

Mr. A. Selvin Raja

8800474858

Ref.No.125/SCAORA/2024

To,
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanjiv Khanna,
Chief Justice of India,
Supreme Court of India,
New Delhi – 110 001.



Sub: REQUESTING FOR REMOVAL OF THE GLASS PARTITION AND RELOCATION OF THE NATIONAL JUDICIAL MUSEUM & ARCHIVE

Respected Lordship,

On behalf of the entire Executive Committee of SCAORA, I am respectfully writing to request that two recent changes made to the Supreme Court premises be reconsidered. We believe these changes may not fully align with the Court's historical ethos and history; as well as functional needs.

Firstly, we would like to express our concern about the glass partitions that have been recently installed in the front corridors of the Supreme Court. While we understand that these partitions might be a part of an effort to modernize the building's layout, and to make the Corridors centrally Air-Conditioned considering the climate change, however, none of the stakeholders or the representatives of the bar were consulted to bring about the said change. This change not



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only a significant departure from the historical architecture and aesthetics of the Court but also causes severe impediments in the day-to-day access to the courtrooms. The space in the corridors has reduced drastically, making it difficult for members of the bar, registered clerks, interns and litigants to move around, especially during the peak hours. This has led to delays in Court proceedings and increased frustration among all the stake holders in the justice delivery process. Needless to add that the availability of fresh air and sunshine has been severely restricted due to these additions.

It is crucial to note that the corridors, as they once were, embodied the grandeur and timelessness of the Court's legacy. Reinstating the older, open design would not only preserve the historic character of the building but would also offer a sense of openness and accessibility to the public, while fostering a more cohesive and harmonious atmosphere for those, who work within its walls.

Further we have observed that the glass panels installed in the corridors have sustained damage and developed cracks, posing a potential safety hazard to the lawyers and litigants. We are requesting you to ensure a safe environment for all.

Therefore, we respectfully request that the glass partitions be removed, and the original layout of the corridors be restored to maintain the Court's historical significance. This request was made in several discussions/meetings with the competent authorities earlier; however, it could not be addressed until now, resulting in the present letter.



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Secondly, we would like to renew our earlier request to relocate the National Judicial Museum and Archive (“NJMA”) to a lower security zone within the Supreme Court premises away from its present location. The NJMA inaugurated on 07th November 2024, while aiming to offer the visitors an immersive journey into the history of India’s Judicial Institution, has, without any consultation with the stakeholders, taken over the designated space that formerly occupied the Old Judge’s Library and which with its three-floor structure. This space could have been alternatively used for the welfare of the members of the bar, who are the immediate beneficiaries of the space within the Main premises of the Supreme Court as regular practitioners. It is important to note that while the museum and archive are important for preserving the history of the judiciary, they occupy valuable space that could be better utilized for the welfare of the members of the bar and the broader legal community. Relocating these facilities to an area with lower security requirements would free up crucial space for the establishment of amenities that would directly benefit the legal professionals who work tirelessly to uphold justice. This could include the creation of dedicated spaces for video conferencing, workstations, canteen, library, conference rooms, bar lounges & waiting area for litigants etc., which are vital to fostering a productive and supportive environment for the members of the bar and litigants alike.

However, the decision to create the NJMA in a High-Security Area within the main premises and allow access to visitors violates the practice of the Supreme Court in dividing security zones and entry of individuals in the High-Security



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Zone either through Proximity Cards or only upon Authorization by the concerned Advocates on Record, who take full responsibility of the individuals entering the high-security zone premises. On the one hand, the court only allows one client per matter and restricts entry of additional clients; on the other hand, visitors who have no role to play in the dispensation of justice are allowed to enter the high-security area. This not only violates the Court's own practice but also hinders the parking areas, security, accessibility to corridors and washrooms for the stakeholders, who use these facilities on a daily basis. The NJMA can very well be relocated to an area, with a designated separate entrance, so as to not hinder the daily operations of the Court.

It is therefore humbly requested that both these proposals be considered by the Hon'ble Judges comprising the Building and Precinct Supervisory Committee for the benefit of the Court's legacy and the ongoing well-being of its community.

Regards,


NIKHIL JAIN
Hony. Secretary
SCAORA

Copy to:

Building & Precinct Supervisory Committee

- ✓1. Hon'ble Mr. Justice B.R. Gavai
- ✓2. Hon'ble Mr. Justice Surya Kant
- ✓3. Hon'ble Mr. Justice Vikram Nath
- ✓4. Hon'ble Mrs. Justice B. V. Nagarathna
- ✓5. Hon'ble Mr. Justice P.S. Narasimha

