

No.SAKHC/01/25

21st April 2025

THE HON'BLE CHIEF JUSTICE OF INDIA,

Supreme Court of India,

Tilak Marg,

New Delhi – 110 001.

**SUBJECT: APPEAL AGAINST THE TRANSFER OF THE HON'BLE
JUDGES FROM THE HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA
PURSUANT TO THE COLLEGIUM RESOLUTIONS DATED
15TH APRIL 2025 AND 19TH APRIL 2025.**

Respected Sir,

1. We, the Senior Advocates practicing at the Hon'ble High Court of Karnataka, with the utmost respect and regard towards the Judiciary and its independence, write this letter with deep sense of concern, anguish, disappointment and anxiety regarding the Collegium resolutions dated 15th April 2025 and 19th April 2025 to transfer 04 (four) Hon'ble Judges of the High Court of Karnataka to the other High Courts of the Country while simultaneously transferring 1 (one) Hon'ble Judge from High Court of Telangana and 1 (one) Hon'ble Judge from High Court of Andhra Pradesh to the High Court of Karnataka.
2. As Senior Advocates who regularly appear and practice before the Hon'ble Judges under consideration for Transfers to the other High Courts from Karnataka High Court, we can unanimously

vouch for the professionalism, integrity, efficiency, legal acumen and judicial consciousness of Hon'ble Justice Krishna Dixit, Hon'ble Justice Sanjay Gowda and Hon'ble Justice Hemant Chandangoudar. These Hon'ble Judges work tirelessly over time in order to ensure that timely justice is rendered. The same is vindicated with the impeccable track record and number of the disposals of cases across the 3 High Court Benches of Karnataka situated at Bangalore, Dharwad and Kalaburagi. We along with several junior advocates have had the privilege of appearing before these Judges, who have consistently conducted themselves with dignity, fairness, and patience and some of the Hon'ble Judges have been working overtime with a view to reduce the pendency of cases and to meet the huge number of listing of cases before their benches. They have not only upheld the highest standards of judicial discipline, but more importantly, they have created a courtroom environment that actively encourages young lawyers to rise, argue, and be heard on merit.

3. The inputs and wisdom imparted by the Hon'ble Judges of the High Court of Karnataka who have been recommended for transfer under the resolutions dated 15th April 2025 and 19th April 2025, have also been instrumental to growth of the Institution as a whole. Eventually if these Hon'ble judges were to be transferred, it would cause an immense loss to the members of the bar and more so, to the younger members of the Bar who had always been encouraged and guided by 3 (three) Hon'ble Judges. The 4 Hon'ble Judges presence on the Bench has significantly contributed to the development of the law and to fostering faith in

the Judiciary among litigants and lawyers alike, especially for young lawyers who look up to them as role models.

4. The recommendation to transfer these Hon'ble Judges without providing a justifiable reason and on the ground of '*quality of administration of justice*' would disrupt the ongoing Judicial Proceedings and Administrative functions which are assigned to them spanning over the entire State of Karnataka. This entire exercise of the abrupt proposal of transfer of the Hon'ble Judges undermines the confidence of the Advocates, Litigants and General Public in the independence and transparency of the Judiciary. It is with regret that we have to express our disappointment that the Bar has not even been taken into confidence while considering the sudden transfer of the Hon'ble Judges from the High Court of Karnataka. It is often repeated in every conference, forum discussions and in court proceedings that the Bar and Bench are two sides of the same coin and one cannot survive without the other. When decisions regarding the transfer of Judges from one particular High Court is under consideration, at least a few senior advocates / senior members of the Bar who have a longstanding and known for their integrity and intellectual capacity, could be informally consulted to secure their opinion in the matter. This would strengthen the institution of judiciary and also bring about a transparency in the policy and satisfaction amongst the members of the Bar.

5. The reason - '*quality of administration of justice*' cited for transfer would actually impute a meaning that the quality of justice being

rendered by the Hon'ble Judges under recommendation of transfer was not efficient. The Senior Advocates in unison would express that most of the Judges recommended for transfer from the High Court of Karnataka have an impeccable record of working overtime, encouraging young advocates, guiding the youngsters in the profession and being most polite and courteous to the members of the Bar.

6. We may also mention that such drastic and sudden transfer of Hon'ble Judges would also lead to a situation wherein able and leading advocates may deter and refuse to accept judgeship when invited by the Bench because of the uncertainty that would be prevailing as regards the transfer policy. Furthermore, such sudden transfers may also act as a deterrent for the efficient functioning of the Hon'ble Judges and demotivate them and may also lead to a situation whereby the Hon'ble Judges may even slow down their functioning to a bare minimum. It is well known that the Judiciary is the last wing in our Constitutional System that people and public still have immense faith and such sudden transfers may even erode the faith of the general public about the integrity and efficiency of the Judiciary.
7. The Karnataka Bar has long been known for its professionalism and high standards of practice. Judges of such character and quality only strengthen that reputation. Another recent development which is to be taken in to consideration is that, Karnataka tops the Justice delivery in India according to the Indian Justice Report (IJR) released on April 2025. Ranks are attributed

based on a ten-point score system and Karnataka topped the list as the best performing State with a composite score of 6.78 out of 10. The Justice delivery and judicial consciousness of these Hon'ble Judges were one of the driving factors behind the Judicial efficiency in the State. Hence, the abrupt transfers of these Hon'ble judges would have a cascading and crippling effect on the judicial efficiency across the State.

8. We may mention that the Senior Advocates practicing in the High Court of Karnataka had called for an emergent meeting at 4.00 P.M. on 21/04/2025 to discuss on the Collegium decisions dated 15th April 2025 and 19th April 2025 regarding the transfer of 4 (four) Hon'ble Judges of the High Court of Karnataka. The said meeting was also attended by the office bearers, i.e., the President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and the Councilors of all the four units of the Advocates Association, Bengaluru. We may mention that more than 37 (thirty seven) Senior Advocates were present in the meeting and about 5-6 (five to six) of other Senior Advocates who were unable to attend the meeting due to their professional engagements, expressed their opinion telephonically. We may mention that several Senior Advocates who have put in more than 45 years at the Bar were present in the meeting. All the Senior Advocates were in unison that the manner in which Karnataka High Court has been singled out for such a significant transfer is unacceptable. It was also the unanimous view of the Senior Advocates that the timing of the transfer especially given the scandalous discoveries regarding a Judge of the Delhi High Court, makes it even more worrisome and casts an unwanted stigma on the Judges of our High Court.

9. The Senior Advocates along with the office bearers of the Advocates Association, Bengaluru unanimously decided in the meeting at 4.00 P.M. on 21/04/2025 that a request be made to the Hon'ble Chief Justice of India and the Collegium Judges to reconsider and recall / withdraw the Collegium Resolutions dated 15th April 2025 and 19th April 2025 with regard to the recommendation of transfer 4 (four) Hon'ble Judges from High Court of Karnataka to other High Courts. It was also unanimously decided and agreed that a protest would be held on 22/04/2025 between 10.30 A.M. to 11.30 A.M. at the Golden Jubilee Gate of the High Court of Karnataka at Bangalore. The office bearers of the Advocates Association, Bengaluru have also decided to call for a General Body Meeting on 22/04/2025 to discuss the further course of action. The Senior Advocates along with the younger members of the Bar have decided to address appropriate letters to the Hon'ble President of India, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Hon'ble Law Minister, Ministry of Law & Justice, Government of India, protesting against the Collegium recommendation for transfer of Judges of the High Court of Karnataka and requesting the Executive not to give approval for the said recommendations and to seek recall of the said recommendations.
10. The present letter is an earnest request to your good office on behalf of the Senior Advocates of the Hon'ble High Court of Karnataka to reconsider the Collegium Resolutions dated 15th April 2025 and 19th April 2025 and thereby withdraw / recall the aforesaid resolutions regarding the transfer of 4 (four) Hon'ble Judges and take appropriate measures in the alternative, in light

of judicial, litigatory and public interest. We hope that this earnest representation of Senior Advocates of the Bar will be considered with the seriousness it deserves. We trust and hope that our request will be considered with utmost seriousness without giving scope to a bitter and distasteful consequence.

With the highest respect,

Yours faithfully

(On behalf of the Senior
Advocates, The High Court of Karnataka)

(Signatures enclosed in separate Sheet)