

Guidelines for Designation of Senior Advocates by the Supreme Court of India, 2023

1. These Guidelines shall be called “Guidelines for Designation of Senior Advocates by the Supreme Court of India, 2023”.
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 the “Committee for Designation of Senior Advocates”¹.
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
(c) Attorney General for India	Member
(d) A member of the Bar, nominated by the Chairperson and Members, referred to in (a) to (c) above.	Member
4. The Committee shall meet at least twice in every calendar year.
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 Chief Justice of India or any Judge of the Supreme Court may recommend in writing the name of an advocate for being designated as a senior advocate on being of the opinion that such an advocate who mainly

¹ Committee

practices in the Supreme Court should be so designated by virtue of their ability, standing at the Bar or special knowledge or experience in law.

7. The Secretariat of the Committee shall initiate the process for designation of Senior Advocate at least once every year by inviting applications from Advocates-on-Record/Advocates for designation as Senior Advocates.
8. The notice inviting applications from Advocates-on-Record/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.
9. At least twenty-one days' time shall be given to applicants to submit their applications. An Advocate-on-Record or Advocate seeking designation as a Senior Advocate would have to apply in the format attached to these Guidelines as Annexure-A.
10. 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) Practice 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 Committee, or the name has been recommended by the Chief Justice of India or a Judge of the Supreme Court.

11. On receipt of applications from Advocates-on-Record / Advocates and/or recommendations from Judges of the Supreme Court, 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 the concerned Advocate(s) in the prescribed format (Annexure-A). Information may also be collected by the Secretariat from such source(s), as may be decided by the Committee.
12. 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.
13. At least fifteen days' time shall be given to other stakeholders to give their suggestions/views on the proposed designation.
14. 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 Committee for scrutiny.
15. The Committee will examine each application in the light of the data provided by the Secretariat and make its overall assessment on the basis of a point-based format indicated below:

Sl. No	Matters	Points
1	Number of years of practice of the applicant-Advocate from the date of enrolment. (10 points for 10 years of practice and 1 point each for every additional year of practice, subject to a maximum of 20 points).	20
2	Judgments reported and unreported (excluding orders that do not lay down any principle of law); pro bono work done by the Advocate; 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) of the applicant-Advocate.	50
3	Publication of academic articles, experience of teaching assignments in the field of law, guest lectures delivered in law schools and professional institutions connected with law.	5
4	The test of personality and suitability on the basis of interview for a holistic assessment of the applicant.	25

16. The Committee may short-list the number of candidates to be selected for interview.

17. All the names that are short-listed for the interview, including the names which are cleared by the Committee, will be placed before the Full Court.

18. There shall be no voting by secret ballot save in an exceptional situation, for reasons to be recorded.
19. 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.

Provided that this will not prevent the Advocate from making an application to a High Court for designation as a Senior Advocate.
20. 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. After the expiry of the period, the Advocate may apply afresh in terms of the procedure applicable on the date of the fresh application.
21. 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.
22. 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.
23. 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.
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 the 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.

By Order

Sd/

(Atul M. Kurhekar)
Secretary General

ANNEXURE-A

**APPLICATION-CUM-CONSENT LETTER
FOR DESIGNATION AS SENIOR ADVOCATE
[FOR ADVOCATES-ON-RECORD / ADVOCATES]**

		Recent Passport size colour photograph (original) to be pasted here
1.	Name of the Applicant-Advocate: (Dr./Mr./Mrs./Ms.)	
2.	Date of Birth	D D M M Y Y Y Y
3.	Age (as on 01-08-2023)	___ Years
4.	Address in full: (i) Office -	
	(ii) Residence -	
5.	Contact Details: (i) Landline -	
	(ii) Cellphone -	
	(iii) Email -	
6.	Educational / Professional Qualifications:	
7.	(i) Date, Month and Year of Enrolment as an Advocate	D D M M Y Y Y Y
	(ii) Enrolment Number (Copy of Enrolment Certificate to be attached)	
	(iii) Number of years of practice from the date of enrolment	___ Years

8.	(i) Bar Council, where registered; (ii) Whether registered as an Advocate-on-Record. If so, date, month and year of registration; and (iii) AOR Code Number	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>D</td><td>D</td><td>M</td><td>M</td><td>Y</td><td>Y</td><td>Y</td><td>Y</td> </tr> </table>								D	D	M	M	Y	Y	Y	Y	<table border="1"> <tr> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td> </tr> </table>							
D	D	M	M	Y	Y	Y	Y																		
9.	Number of reported judgments (excluding orders that do not lay down any principle of law) in the last five years in cases in which the applicant has appeared as- (i) lead arguing counsel; and (ii) assisting counsel	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Lead Arguing Counsel (Number of Judgments only)</td> <td>Assisting Counsel (Number of Judgments only)</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>		Lead Arguing Counsel (Number of Judgments only)	Assisting Counsel (Number of Judgments only)																				
Lead Arguing Counsel (Number of Judgments only)	Assisting Counsel (Number of Judgments only)																								
10.	Number of unreported judgments (excluding orders that do not lay down any principle of law) in the last five years in cases in which the applicant has appeared as- (i) lead arguing counsel; and (ii) assisting counsel;	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Lead Arguing Counsel (Number of Judgments only)</td> <td>Assisting Counsel (Number of Judgments only)</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>		Lead Arguing Counsel (Number of Judgments only)	Assisting Counsel (Number of Judgments only)																				
Lead Arguing Counsel (Number of Judgments only)	Assisting Counsel (Number of Judgments only)																								
11.	Pro bono / amicus curiae work during last five years.																								
12.	Five synopses for evaluation (Copies of synopses to be attached)																								
13.	Whether the applicant is a first generation lawyer.																								
14.	Articles/books published, experience of teaching assignments in the field of law, guest lectures delivered in law schools or professional institutions connected with law.	Academic Articles / Books	Teaching Assignment(s)	Guest lectures delivered in law schools or professional institutions connected with law.																					

15.	Whether the applicant is a member of the Supreme Court Bar Association / Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record Association			
16.	Courts where the applicant is practising: (Court-wise period may be indicated)	Supreme Court of India/High Court(s)/District/ Lower Court(s)/ Tribunal(s) etc.		
			From	To
17.	Tribunal(s) where the applicant has specialized practice (Applicable to those practising before Tribunals)	Tribunal(s)	Duration	
		From	To	
18.	Nature of practice - e.g. Civil, Criminal, Constitutional, Taxation, Labour, Company, Service, etc.			
19.	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.			

20.	Whether the applicant had applied earlier to the Supreme Court for designation; if so, current status of application.	
21.	Whether the applicant has applied to any other High Court; if so, current status of application.	
22.	Whether any FIR has ever been filed against the applicant; if so, current status must be indicated.	
23.	Whether the applicant is a party to any civil, criminal or other litigation. If so, the nature of involvement.	
(i)	Has the applicant at any point of time been:	
(a)	arrested?	
(b)	prosecuted?	
(c)	kept under detention?	
(d)	bound down?	
(e)	fined by a court of law?	
(f)	convicted by a court of law for any Offence?	
(g)	debarred from any examination or rusticated by any authority/ institution/council ?	
(h)	debarred / disqualified by any public commission/ authority?	

	(ii) Is any case pending against the applicant in any court of law at the time of submitting this application?	
	(iii) If the answer to any of the above-mentioned questions is 'Yes', give full particulars of the case / arrest / detention / fine / conviction / sentence / punishment etc. and / or the nature of the case pending in the Court / Authority or Institution etc., at the time of submitting this application.	
24.	Whether any proceedings were initiated or are pending against the applicant before Bar Council of India or State Bar Council? If so, particulars thereof.	
25.	General state of health	
26.	Any other relevant information	
<p><u>DECLARATION</u></p> <p>I _____ Advocate-on-Record / Advocate hereby give consent for being designated as Senior Advocate.</p> <p>I hereby verify that 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 for being designated as Senior Advocate.</p> <p>Date:- _____ [Signature of the Applicant]</p>		
<p><u>Note:</u> Applicants should read instructions attached herewith while filling up Annexure-A.</p>		

PRESCRIBED FORMATS

LEAD ARGUING COUNSEL

(List of Reported Judgments (excluding orders not laying down any principle of law in the last five years)

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

ASSISTING COUNSEL

(List of Reported Judgments (excluding orders not laying down any principle of law) in the last five years)

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

LEAD ARGUING COUNSEL

(List of Unreported Judgments (excluding orders not laying down any principle of law in the last five years)

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

ASSISTING COUNSEL

(List of Unreported Judgments (excluding orders not laying down any principle of law) in the last five years)

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

List of matters in which you have appeared as Pro-Bono/ Amicus Curiae in the last five years

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

Details of five Synopses

S.No.	Court(s)	Case Number	Cause Title	Details

Details of 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.

S. No.	Topic of published academic articles/ Books/ Lecture/ Courses	Experience details of teaching assignment and guest lectures delivered in law schools or professional institutions connected with law	Names of law schools or professional institutions connected with law.	Any other relevant details

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS TO BE FOLLOWED FOR FILLING UP ANNEXURE-A / ANNEXURE-A1 TO THE GUIDELINES FOR DESIGNATION OF SENIOR ADVOCATES BY THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA, 2023

1.	Every Application-cum-Consent Letter or the Application for providing additional information in the prescribed formats marked as Annexure-A and Annexure-A1 shall be made in English, typed/printed with font size (Arial-14) in double spacing on both sides of the white paper (A4 Size) with an inner margin of about four centimeters width on top and on the left side.
2.	Documents accompanying the Application should be numbered consecutively in the Index, in all sets of Application.
3.	All documents annexed to the Application 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 Application).
4.	Name of the applicant should tally with his/her name as mentioned in his/her enrolment certificate. Abbreviated name shall NOT be accepted.
5.	The Application should be presented in the shape of a Paper Book, duly tagged & indexed and not in spiral binding and the like.
6.	(i) All photocopies of the accolades/testimonials should be legible and true copies of their respective originals. (ii) English translation of vernacular documents (if any) should be annexed thereto.

7.	10 sets of the Application/s in the form of Paper Book, identical in all respects, should be filed.
8	Passport size colour photograph (original) should be pasted on each copy of the Application/s. One additional recent passport size colour photograph (mentioning the name of the applicant on its back side) should be provided in a separate envelope.
9.	The soft copy of the Application/s along with Annexure-A/ Annexure-A1, in searchable mode, along with the scanned photograph (in case of Application-cum-Consent Letter (Annexure-A) should be submitted through e-mail (cdsa.2018@sci.nic.in), in addition to the hard copy thereof.
10.	Information relating to reported judgments, unreported judgments, pro bono/amicus curiae, five synopses, articles/books/teaching assignments/guest lectures, may be provided in the prescribed formats, which are parts of Annexure-A /Annexure-A1.