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Hon'ble Chief Justice Shri S. Ravindra Bhat,

My esteemed brother & sister Judges at Principal Seat,  
Jodhpur and the Jaipur Bench,

Shri M.S. Singhvi, Advocate General, Rajasthan,

Shri Rajesh Panwar, Co-Chairman, Bar Council of  
Rajasthan,

Shri Ranjeet Joshi, President, Rajasthan High Court  
Advocates Association,

Shri Sunil Joshi, President, Rajasthan High Court  
Lawyers Association,

Learned Senior Advocates & Learned Members of the  
Bar,

Judicial Officers and Officers of the Registry,

All respected Bhabhijis, present in this august gathering,

My respected mother, my wife Madhu, family members  
present here,

Ladies & Gentlemen,

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I am beholden for the words of accolades by Hon'ble Chief Justice and esteemed representatives of the Bar. With all humility at my command, I sincerely feel that Hon'ble Chief Justice & other speakers have projected an embellished version about my abilities, qualities and legal acumen. Every human being is prone to error and I am not an exception. For all these kind words, I express my humble gratitude to Hon'ble Chief Justice & revered speakers.

Retirement reference has special significance and as per healthy traditions, performance of a person retiring is generally applauded. The courtesy also demands appreciation of someone who is demitting the Office. Eminent Jurist & First Attorney General of India Shri M.C. Setalvad in his autobiography, "My Life" aptly highlighted constrains of a person who makes a reference at the retirement of a Judge. I quote,

"Whatever the Bar's true opinion of the Judge, the person, who makes a reference to him at his

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retirement, is bound to use sweet and sonorous words finding in His Lordship virtues and qualities, which probably the Bar never had occasion to experience during his tenure of office.”

Unquote.

Pursuing career in Law never came to my mind when I was doing Graduation in Science stream. It was only after completing Bachelor's Degree in Science Biology, with the blessings and inspiration of my maternal grandfather Late Justice L.N. Chhangani, I joined Law Degree course. While studying law, initially, there were some hiccups but with the advent of time my interest in the subject blossomed. During Final Year of Law course, I felt complete transformation in my vision to look forward for career in the legal profession.

After joining the Bar, in the month of January 1980, my Advocate father Late Shri S.K. Lohra introduced me

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to his friend and colleague Shri G.R. Singhvi, Advocate – A Great Civil Lawyer. As advised and instructed by my father, I joined office of Shri G.R. Singhvi. My short stint of over a year's association with Shri Singhvi inculcated in me enthusiasm to learn intricacies of Civil Law. It is very difficult to express gratitude in words for my first Guru in legal profession Shri G.R. Singhvi. In the year 1981, I joined the Chamber of Senior Advocate Shri M.R. Singhvi, heading Jodhpur Office of leading Lawyer Shri M.R. Calla, who later on adorned the Chair of Judge of this Court. Shri M.R. Singhvi always guided me to prepare briefs thoroughly on facts and the law. Under his able guidance, I learned the Art of Advocacy.

During infancy of my legal career, I was greatly influenced by the then legends of the Bar. Some legal eagles of the Bar; namely, Shri Thanchand Mehta, Shri Murli Manohar Vyas, Shri L.R. Mehta, Shri Bheemraj Purohit, Shri H.M. Parekh, Shri M.D. Purohit, Shri M.M. Singhvi, Shri M.C. Bhandari, Shri B.L. Purohit, Shri D.S. Sishodia, Shri Marudhar Mridul and Shri J.P. Joshi,

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carved a niche for me in the profession. I made efforts to emulate them or at least imitate them. The legal journey continued with many ups and downs but a strong zeal to survive always encouraged me to remain optimistic about future.

The Darwinian Theory "Survival is the fittest", motivated me during the initial days of struggle in the profession to strive hard for achieving success in the legal career. Family members, friends and near & dear supported me from every nook and cranny. Today is the right occasion when I can express these feelings to my parents and better half as token of acknowledgment for their invaluable sacrifices and support. 'Friend in need is a friend indeed' – a famous English Proverb, has proved its efficacy with full bloom in my professional career. My advocate friend brother Justice Shri Govind Mathur, now Chief Justice of Allahabad High Court, Brother Justice Shri Sangeet Lodha, a Senior Judge of this Court, Senior Counsel Shri Mahesh Bora, Advocates Shri Niranjana Gaur, Shri Kamal Joshi, Shri

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C.S. Bissa, Shri V.L. Thanvi and Shri R.S. Saluja always stood by me at every juncture to boost my moral. I cannot forget to mention my friend Shri P.P. Chaudhary – designated Senior Counsel and presently a Member of Lok Sabha for his affection and sensible guidance. With all humility at my command, I express sincere gratitude to all for their timely affirmative gestures. Bar of Jodhpur always remained supportive and helpful. Learned Senior Members of the Bar never shown disinterest when they were approached for guidance and advice by juniors and young lawyers. I too remained beneficiary of such benevolence of Seniors on many occasions. In my estimation, Jodhpur Bar is one of the finest Bar of the State. Affection of members of the Bar also facilitated my election as its Secretary and President respectively. Bar is Judge of the Judges and the Jodhpur Bar has given me a lot, for which I sincerely feel indebted. At this juncture, when I am demitting office of the Judge, it is the appropriate time to convey my sentiments to both the Bar Associations.

Pursuing legal career for more than three decades offered me opportunity to understand life, intricacies of law, impact of legal profession on the society and values of ethics. As a lawyer, whatever I could achieve would not have been possible without assistance of my associates and their untiring efforts to fulfill desired commitments. My associates Mr. Sanjeet Purohit, Mr. Nitin Ojha, Ms. Neetubala, Mr. Prem Singh and Mr. Vijay Raj Kalla always helped me with full dedication in preparing briefs. As members of the Bar, I wish them all success for future endeavours.

While practicing law, I always got encouragement from the Bench. All the Hon'ble Judges were receptive and cordial with the members of the Bar. The Courtroom atmosphere was maintained so informal and friendly by the Judges to encourage young budding lawyers. This affectionable gesture of the Bench paved the way for development of the Bar. I owe a lot to all

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the distinguished Judges before whom had the privilege/chance to appear for their timely impetus and providing friendly court-room atmosphere. This sort of situation proved productive in my transformation from raw-hand to a Lawyer.

After elevation, my brother & sister Judges shown all warmth & affection. Senior Judges Justice Dinesh Maheshwari, Justice G.K. Vyas and Dr. Justice Vinit Kothari guided me on many occasions and my younger brother Judges also extended helping hand to sort out problems at every juncture. During my short tenure, as Judge of this Court, all the Chief Justices with whom I remained associated, namely, Hon'ble Justice Amitava Roy, Hon'ble Justice Sunil Ambwani, Hon'ble Justice S.C. Mittal, Hon'ble Justice Navin Sinha and Hon'ble Justice Pradeep Nandrajog in one way or other bestowed guidance to discharge solemn duty of adjudication. Their varied qualities and virtues created indelible impression on my way of working and also gave impetus to perform better.

Working with Hon'ble Chief Justice S. Ravindra Bhat, may be for a short duration, is an unforgettable experience. His Lordship's warmth, affection, legal acumen and style of working created great impact on me. Brother Judges Govind Mathur and Sangeet Lodha, as dearest friends, by their sharp intellect and other qualities energized me to carry out all judicial and administrative duties with ease. It is indeed my pleasure that today while demitting the office, I have shared Division Bench with brother Justice Lodha.

Sister Justice Nirmaljeet Kaur, now transferred to Punjab & Haryana High Court was always affectionate to all brother Judges and I too remained beneficiary of her generous behaviour. Brother Justice Sandeep Mehta with his ability of fast track justice delivery and wit power inspired me a lot. Brother Justice Vijay Bishnoi with his unique sense of humour and art of mimicry has no parallel. I hope from tomorrow onwards without any

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constrains my mimicry by brother Justice Bishnoi would create laughter in the common room. Brother Justice Arun Bhansali with his meticulous approach and in-depth knowledge always impressed me to do away with superficial approach in any matter. It would be unfair for me not to mention brother Judges Goverdhan Bardhar, Dr. P.S. Bhati, Dinesh Mehta, Vinit Mathur, Ashok Gaur, Manoj Garg and Abhay Chaturvedi for their humane approach, innumerable qualities, style of working and unflinching courtesies. Brother and sister judges at Jaipur Bench also maintained cordial relations and their timely guidance helped me to improve my way of working.

To sum up, I must candidly admit that my all brother Judges while on Bench remained source of inspiration and from today onwards the company enjoyed with them shall keep me cheerful and healthy during evening phase of my life. The treasure of these sweet memories will also smoothly pave path to my future endeavours.

My short stint of over six years as Judge of this Court is to be assessed by the members of the Bar. If Bar feels something positive, entire credit goes to the members of the Bar and of course my other colleagues on the Bench. Anything found wanting in my work, then I sincerely acknowledge the same as fault of mine. Discharging duties of a Judge is not an easy task. While in office, the indelible vows of the oath administered made my task easier in discharge of solemn duty of adjudication fairly, impartially and effectively. Whatever legal knowledge, I acquired as a Lawyer and inculcated while hearing a matter, helped me to deliver a judgment. Correctness or propriety of the legal proposition, propounded on the touchstone of facts and circumstances, in a judgment or an order, undoubtedly, remain within the domain of appellate Courts and is also subject to scrutiny of the entire legal fraternity. However, outcome of the appellate fora or fair criticism of judgment never baffled me in any manner. This strength, in such situations, bestowed

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unto me mainly due to self-introspection and on the belief of conscientious feelings with which judgment is delivered.

Although I made sincere endeavour to maintain cordial relations with my colleagues and members of the Bar but if anyone of them is hurt or felt offended, in any manner, due to behaviour of mine, I express remorse for the same.

This is not an occasion for giving sermons to anyone but being part of legal fraternity for almost four decades in different capacities, I feel it my duty to say a few words of significance concerning young budding lawyers. Equipped with my experience, I advice young lawyers to prepare their briefs thoroughly on facts and the law. The sacrosanct mantra for success in legal profession is diligence and skillful presentation. A famous quote of Ruskin Bond would be an apt message for young lawyers:

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Be like water

There's no stopping it.

No matter how tiny the trickle,

it is going to get somewhere !

unquote

Before closing, I cannot forget to applaud services of my personal staff, Private Secretary J.P. Arora, Court Masters Veer Singh Inda & Smt. Aruna Rani Jain, Senior Personal Assistants Mrs. Bharti Goyal and Anil Asopa, Junior Personal Assistants Anil Choudhary, Twinkle Singh, Library Restorer now Stamp Reporter Shailesh Mutha and Judicial Assistant Jaswant Thanvi. All the members of my personal staff worked sincerely despite many hiccups and personal problems at the cost of tolerating erratic behaviour and tantrums of mine on many occasions. Jamadar Ganga Ram and other class IV employees who worked at my residence also discharged their duties with utmost sincerity. My appreciations are also due to vehicle Driver Surendra Singh Solanki, PSO Shri Anda Ram and Ganpat Ram.

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Mr. Surendra Singh always discharged his duties with sincerity and dedication besides taking utmost care during my outings by safe and skillful driving of the vehicle.

I also acknowledge the fine performance of all the Judicial Officers deputed with Registry of the High Court during my entire tenure. Untiring efforts of the Registry helped me a lot in carrying out administrative functions effectively. The Senior Deputy Registrar (Protocol) Mr. J.K. Rankawat with his entire team, and Court Officer Cell headed by Mr. Kamlesh Tater too deserve appreciation for their excellent services.

Superannuation is an essential part of life and sombre feeling on this occasion has no room. However, an innate feeling of parting company with near and dear makes someone nostalgic, which I too experience at the moment.

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Once again I thank you all, and as parting remarks  
quote following couplet of Urdu Poet Faiz -

“फूल लाखों बरस नहीं रहते,  
दो घड़ी और है बहार-ए-शबाब  
आ कि कुछ दिल कि सुन-सुना लें हम  
आ मोहब्बत के गीत गा लें हम ।”

धन्यवाद, जय हिन्द ।