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LEGISLATIVE SUPPLEMENT

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PART-IV
HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA AT CHANDIGARH
CORRECTION SLIP
The 12th October, 2026

No.204Rules/II.D.4.- In pursuance to the directions issued through Judgment dated 13.05.2025 passed by Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in Criminal Appeal No. 865 of 2025 titled '*Jitender @ Kalla Vs. State (Govt. of NCT of Delhi) and another*' read with Sections 34 (1) and 16 (2) of the Advocates Act, 1961 and in supersession of previous Correction Slip No.173 Rules/II.D4 dated 15.03.2018 and Correction Slip No.193 Rules/II.D4 dated 06.03.2024, the High Court of Punjab and Haryana is pleased to notify the Rules for Designation of an advocate as Senior Advocate.

1. Short Title and Commencement

- (i) These Rules shall be called "**High Court of Punjab and Haryana (Designation of Senior Advocates) Rules, 2026**".
- (ii) These Rules shall come into force from the date of their publication in the Official Gazette.

2. Definitions

- (i) "Advocate" means an Advocate who has been admitted to and continues to be on the rolls of a State Bar Council constituted under the Advocates Act, 1961.
- (ii) "Advocates Act" means Advocates Act, 1961;
- (iii) "Chief Justice" means Chief Justice of the High Court of Punjab and Haryana and includes a Judge appointed under the Constitution to perform the duties of Chief Justice;
- (iv) "Full Court" means the Full Court of the High Court of Punjab and Haryana sitting on administrative side;
- (v) "High Court" means the High Court of Punjab and Haryana;
- (vi) "Judge" means Judge of the High Court of Punjab and Haryana;
- (vii) "Committee for Designation of Senior Advocates" means Committee constituted by the Chief Justice of the High Court of Punjab and Haryana in terms of Rule 6 of these Rules;

- (viii) "Permanent Secretariat" means the Secretariat established by the Chief Justice of the High Court of Punjab and Haryana under Rule 5 of these Rules;
- (ix) "Registrar General" means Registrar General of the High Court of Punjab and Haryana;
- (x) "Registry" means the Registry of the High Court of Punjab and Haryana;
- (xi) "Rules" means the High Court of Punjab and Haryana (Designation of Senior Advocates) Rules, 2026;
- (xii) "State Bar Council" means a Bar Council as defined under Section 3 of the Advocates Act, 1961 and shall include the authority exercising such powers.

3. **Eligibility for Designation of Senior Advocates**

An advocate shall be eligible to be designated as a Senior Advocate if;

- i) he/she is duly registered with a Bar Council constituted under the Advocates Act, 1961;
- ii) he/she is ordinarily practicing in the High Court of Punjab and Haryana or in District Courts or a Tribunal located within the High Court's territorial jurisdiction for a period of not less than 10 years as on the last date of submission of application under these Rules:

Explanation:- (i) In the case of former members of the Superior Judicial Services of the States of Punjab and Haryana, the period during which they served in the said cadre shall be taken into account for computing the period prescribed under Rule 3(ii) of the Rules provided they have been in actual practice for a minimum period of 3 years post their retirement and before the last date for submission of their application under these Rules.

Explanation:- (ii) In the case of an advocate practicing before the District Courts or before Specialized Tribunals as above, the High Court may call for the views/comments of Principal District Judge(s) or Head(s) of the Tribunal(s) who serve or may have served as such at the respective station(s) (where

ever the applicant may have ordinarily practiced), on such applications. Additionally, at the time of consideration of the application(s), views of the Administrative Judge of the respective district may also be sought.

- iii) he/she has attained the age of 40 years;
- iv) he/she possesses exceptional ability, legal acumen, special knowledge or experience in law during the course of his/her standing in the Bar;
- v) he/she is of impeccable integrity, reputation and follows the highest standards of professional etiquettes and ethics and;
- vi) he/she has not been convicted for contempt of court or should not have been punished for any offence involving moral turpitude or should not have been punished by a State Bar Council or by the Bar Council of India for any act of misconduct.

4. Motion for designation as Senior Advocate

- (i) The process for designation of Senior Advocates shall be initiated at least once every year by inviting applications from eligible advocates.
- (ii) The designation of an Advocate as Senior Advocate by the High Court may be considered on a written application made by an advocate in the prescribed Form, at Appendix- 'A', as per instructions, along with relevant documents. The application submitted by the applicant-advocate shall be deemed to be his/her consent.
- (iii) Every application for designation as Senior Advocate should be endorsed by two designated Senior Advocates having standing of not less than 5 years as a Senior Advocate practicing in the High Court but such endorsing Senior Advocate is entitled to recommend only 2 advocates in one year.
- (iv) Along with the application, the applicant-advocate shall append a certificate that he/she has not applied to the Supreme Court of India or any other High Court in India for being designated as Senior Advocate and that his/her

application has also not been rejected by the Supreme Court of India or any other High Court in India including the High Court of Punjab and Haryana within a period of two years from the date of such rejection.

5. Permanent Secretariat

- (i) All the applications for being designated as Senior Advocate shall be dealt with by the Permanent Secretariat established under these Rules.
- (ii) Registrar (Rules) shall be the Member Secretary of the Permanent Secretariat under these Rules and his/her office shall be its Permanent Secretariat.
- (iii) Permanent Secretariat shall perform the following duties:-
 - a) shall under the orders of the Chief Justice invite applications for designation of Senior Advocates by publishing notice on the official website of the High Court;
 - b) shall scrutinize the applications submitted by the applicants-advocates;
 - c) shall compile the relevant data including any information received with regard to applicant(s);
 - d) shall publish the names of all the applicants who have applied for designation as Senior Advocate on the official website of the High Court inviting views and suggestions of other stakeholders to the sought designation which views/ suggestions shall be in writing, bear the name and full address of the sender and shall be addressed to the Registrar (Rules) of the High Court. Any anonymous petition/representation shall be liable to be rejected;
 - e) shall place the compiled data of the applicants along with the received objection(s), if any, before the Committee for Designation of Senior Advocates and;
 - f) perform any other function(s) relating to the exercise of Designation of Senior Advocate(s) as assigned to it by the Chief Justice or the Full Court.

6. Committee for Designation of Senior Advocate

- (i) After scrutiny, the applications shall be placed by the Permanent Secretariat before the Committee for Designation of Senior Advocates, the composition of which will be decided by the Chief Justice, such Committee shall:-
 - a) examine each case in the light of the data provided by the Permanent Secretariat;
 - (b) get the discrepancy(ies) in the application(s) removed and;
 - (c) seek any additional information/document(s) regarding reputation, conduct, integrity etc. of the applicant, as deemed necessary.
- (ii) All the applications, found to be eligible, along with relevant documents and comments of the Committee, if any, shall be placed before the Full Court for consideration in accordance with these Rules.

7. Procedure for designation

- (i) The decision to confer designation shall be by the Full Court of the High Court.
- (ii) While considering the applications of the applicants-advocates for designation as Senior Advocates, the Full Court shall first make an endeavor to arrive at a consensus. If a consensus is not arrived at, the decision making shall be through a democratic method of voting by way of secret ballot and shall be governed by at least 2/3rd majority of judges, present and voting.
- (iii) In a deserving case, the Full Court may consider and confer designation *dehors* an application but the same shall be subject to fulfillment of eligibility criteria and after obtaining consent of the said Advocate.
- (iv) If an application of an Advocate for designation as Senior Advocate is not favorably considered or is deferred by the Full Court, the said Advocate shall not be allowed to make a fresh application for period of two years from the date of such decision of the Full Court.

8. Undertaking to be furnished by Advocate

The application, along with the prescribed form, submitted by an Advocate under these Rules shall also be accompanied by an undertaking to the effect that he/she, if and after being designated as a Senior Advocate:-

- (i) shall not file a Vakalatnama or memo of appearance in any Court or Tribunal;
- (ii) shall not draft or sign pleadings in any Court or Tribunal;
- (iii) shall in all cases be assisted by another Advocate;
- (iv) shall not directly give consultation to any litigant;
- (v) shall not make any mention or seek an adjournment in any Court or Tribunal and;
- (vi) shall not refuse to appear and argue on pro bono basis and Legal Aid cases;

provided that where the Advocate is designated as Senior Advocate by the Full Court on its own motion, the undertaking shall be required to be furnished along with submission of consent.

9. Canvassing

Canvassing in any manner by an advocate who is an applicant for designation as Senior Advocate shall disqualify him/her for being designated.

10. Registration as Senior Advocate

The Registry shall notify the result of the applicant's application made under these Rules to the Advocate concerned. An intimation in respect of the Advocates who have been resolved to be designated as Senior Advocates by the Full Court shall also be sent to Bar Council of India, State Bar Councils, Registrar, Supreme Court of India and Registrar of all the High Courts of India.

11. Rights and Privileges of Senior Advocate

A Senior Advocate designated under these Rules:-

- (i) shall have preferential right of audience in all Courts

according to his/her seniority as such Advocate;

- (ii) shall be entitled to wear a gown/dress meant for Senior Advocates and;
- (iii) shall be entitled to such other rights and privileges conferred by the Act.

12. Review and recall

- (i) In case it is found that a Senior Advocate has:-
 - (a) misconducted professionally;
 - (b) shown inappropriate and/or intemperate behavior in any Court or Tribunal;
 - (c) been found invariably negligent in discharge of professional duties;
 - (d) been found by the Bar Council of India or any State Bar Council to have committed professional misconduct;
 - (e) been convicted of an offence involving moral turpitude or for contempt of Court and;
 - (f) for any other valid ground,the Full Court, through voting by secret ballot, by simple majority of Judges present and voting, may withdraw the designation as Senior Advocate. In case of a tie, the Chief Justice shall have a deciding vote.
- (ii) The Registry shall notify such decision of the Full Court with regard to withdrawal of designation of Senior Advocate to the concerned advocate and to the Bar Council of India, State Bar Councils, Registrar, Supreme Court of India and Registrar of all the High Courts of India, who shall delete the name of the concerned advocate from the list of Senior Advocates maintained by them in their respective records.

13. Interpretation

All questions relating to the interpretation of these rules shall be referred to the Chief Justice whose decision in this regard shall be final.

14. Repeal and Savings

All previous Rules/Guidelines/Criteria governing designation of an Advocate as Senior Advocate framed by the High Court with all amendments/modifications are hereby repealed. However, this shall not, by itself, invalidate the actions taken under the superseded/repealed Rules/Guidelines/Criteria and all those actions are saved.

Appendix-A

‘PROFORMA’ APPLICATION-CUM-CONSENT FOR BEING DESIGNATED AS SENIOR ADVOCATE			
			Recent Passport size colour photograph
1.	Name of the Applicant-Advocate (Mr./Mrs./Ms.)		
2.	Father's Name		
3.	Date of Birth		
4.	Age (as on last date of notice inviting applications)		
5.	Address in Full	(i) Office Address:	
		(ii) Residential Address:	
6.	Contact Details	(i) Landline No:	
		(ii) Mobile No:	
		(iii) Email:	
7.	Date of Enrollment as an Advocate (as on last date for inviting of applications) & Enrollment No.		
8.	Number of years completed in Judicial Service (in the cadre of Superior Judicial Service).		
9.	Details of combined standing as an Advocate and Judicial Service rendered in the cadre of Superior Judicial Service (out of which 3 years standing as an Advocate shall be post retirement).		
10.	Education/Professional Qualification.*		
11.	State Bar Council, where registered.		
12.	Whether the applicant is member of Punjab and Haryana High Court Bar Association/District Court Bar Association/Tribunal Bar Association? Please Specify with date of acquiring membership:		
13.	Court(s) where practiced /practicing : (Court- wise period may be indicated)*	Court (s)	Duration From To

*Attach accompanying documents in support of details filled.

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14.	Tribunal(s) where the applicant has specialized practice (applicable to those practicing before Tribunals).	Tribunal(s)	Duration	
			From	To
15.	Field of Law-domain in which the applicant has specialization/expertise.			
16.	10 Reported judgments and a list of equal number of Unreported judgments for each (excluding orders) of the last five years in which the applicant has appeared as lead counsel along with reference to the point of law involved, if any: (List of citations in the cases of reported judgments and list of cases with relevant particulars in case of unreported judgments to be provided)			
17.	Details of Pro bono/Amicus work during the last 10 years:*			
18.	Professional Income during the last 5 years duly certified by a Chartered Accountant. *			
19.	Whether any FIR has ever been registered against you? if so, detailed current status thereof be indicated. *			
20.	Whether the applicant is a party to any civil, criminal or other litigation? If so, the nature of the involvement and current status thereof be supplied. *			
21.	Have you ever been arrested, prosecuted, kept under detention, bound down, fined by a Court of Law? If yes, provide details.*			
22.	Whether any contempt proceedings have ever been initiated against you? If yes, provide the particulars/the result/the stage of the proceedings.*			
23.	Whether any adverse remark(s) have ever been passed against you in any order/judgment by any Court of Law? If yes, give the particulars/the result/ the stage of the proceedings.*			
24.	Particulars of books/academic articles published in any law journal(s), newspaper(s) etc. reflecting legal acumen. *			
25.	Whether considered for being designated as Senior Advocate during last preceding two years by Supreme Court of India or any High Court? If yes, then the result thereof be provided.*			

*Attach accompanying documents in support of details filled.

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26.	Whether you are or have been State Counsel or Standing Counsel for Union of India or U.T. Chandigarh or on the panel of Advocate(s) for the State or Central Government or any Public Sector Authority or any Statutory Body; if so details thereof be supplied.*	
27.	Whether any associate advocate(s) is/are attached to your chamber? If so, their names and period(s) of their association with you.*	
28.	Whether any proceedings were initiated or are pending against you before Bar Council of India or any State Bar Council? If so, particulars thereof.*	
29.	General State of Health.	
30.	Any other information that you may feel necessary to provide.*	
<u>DECLARATION:</u> I _____, Advocate, hereby give consent for being designated as a Senior Advocate. I hereby verify that the information furnished above is true and correct to my knowledge. 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 a Senior Advocate and my candidature is liable to be cancelled. [Signature of the Applicant]		
<u>UNDERTAKING</u> I _____ Advocate, hereby undertake that on being designated as a Senior Advocate, I shall not file a Vakalatnama or memo of appearance in any Court or Tribunal, shall not draft or sign pleadings in any Court or Tribunal, shall in all cases be assisted by another Advocate, shall not directly give consultation to any litigant, and shall not make any mention or seek an adjournment in any Court or Tribunal. I further undertake that on being designated as a Senior Advocate I shall not refuse to appear and argue on pro bono basis and under Legal Aid cases. [Signature of the Applicant]		
<u>CERTIFICATION</u> I _____ Advocate, hereby certify that no previous application seeking designation as a Senior Advocate has been rejected by the Supreme Court of India or any other High Court including High Court of Punjab and Haryana within a period of two years from the date of such rejection. [Signature of the Applicant]		

*Attach accompanying documents in support of details filled.

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	<u>RECOMMENDATION</u> I _____ Senior Advocate designated by High Court of Punjab and Haryana hereby recommend the name of _____ Advocate for being designated as a Senior Advocate by High Court of Punjab and Haryana. [Signature]
	<u>RECOMMENDATION</u> I _____ Senior Advocate designated by High Court of Punjab and Haryana hereby recommend the name of _____ Advocate for being designated as a Senior Advocate by High Court of Punjab and Haryana. [Signature]
Note: Applicants should carefully read instructions attached herewith while filling up the Application-cum-Consent.	

*Attach accompanying documents in support of details filled.

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GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS TO BE FOLLOWED WHILE FILLING UP
“APPLICATION-CUM-CONSENT FOR BEING DESIGNATED AS SENIOR
ADVOCATE”

1.	Every Application-cum-Consent, in the prescribed proforma (which can be generated/typed) shall be made in English, typed/printed with font size (Arial-12) in double spacing on one side of the white paper (Legal Size) with an inner margin of about four centimeters width on top and on the left side.
2.	Attach accompanying documents in support of details filled in proforma.
3.	Documents accompanying the Application should be numbered consecutively in the index, in all sets of Application.
4.	All documents annexed to the Application should be accompanied by an index containing the details thereof. (The Permanent Secretariat, at any stage, may ask for the supportive documents for verification in the light of the facts mentioned in the Application.)
5.	Name of the Applicant should tally with his/her name as mentioned in his/her enrolment certificate. Abbreviated name shall NOT be accepted.
6.	The Application should be presented in the shape of a Paper Book, duly tagged & indexed and not in spiral binding and the like.
7.	All photocopies of the accolades/testimonials should be legible and true copy of their respective originals.
8.	04 sets of the Application in the form of Paper Book, identical in all respects, should be filed.
9.	Passport size coloured photograph (original) should be pasted on each copy of the Application-cum-Consent.
10.	Only one soft copy of the Application, in searchable mode, along with the scanned photograph should be submitted through e-mail. If more than one soft copy is submitted, the same is liable to be rejected.

BY ORDER OF HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE AND JUDGES

Sd/-
SMRITI DHIR,
Registrar (Rules)
for Registrar General.