

**INAUGURATION OF
REFRESHER PROGRAMME FOR
CIVIL JUDGES (BATCH III) (100 OFFICERS) &
JUDICIAL OFFICERS OF CHENNAI CITY (ALL CADRE)
- TAMIL STATE JUDICIAL ACADEMY –
21.9.2013 – 09.30 AM**

**SPECIAL ADDRESS DELIVERED BY
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE R.K. AGRAWAL,
ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE**

Respected Hon'ble Mr. Justice H.L. Dattu, Judge, Supreme Court of India, my sisters Mrs. Justice R. Banumathi, Judge, Madras High Court and Mrs. Justice Chitra Venkataraman, the President, Board of Governors of Tamil Nadu State Judicial Academy, my esteemed Sister and Brother Judges, other distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

Good Morning to all of you,

At the outset, I welcome Hon'ble Mr. Justice H.L. Dattu, Judge, Supreme Court of India, who, in spite of His Lordship's busy schedule, has kindly consented to be with us to share his views on Judicial Ethics.

Judiciary does not exist in isolation. We the Judges require the respect and faith of the society and public confidence is

critical to the administration of justice. A code of ethics that addresses concerns and perceptions of the public is of considerable assistance to the Judge. As you are all aware, ethics is a concept central to the role of Judges and for upholding judicial ethics, we need to identify (a) the standard to which the members of the judiciary must be held and (b) a mechanism to ensure that these standards are adhered to. Of course, justice cannot be attained only by providing standards in a code of judicial conduct. It largely depends not only on the discretion and abilities of each judge but upon what a judge does to assure that every proceeding is fairly heard and decided.

A Judge, by his conduct, by his fairness in hearing and by his just and equitable decisions, should earn for himself and the judiciary, the trust and respect of the public and the members of the Bar.

In *K. VEERASWAMI v. UNION OF INDIA* (1991) 3 SCC 655, the Honourable Supreme Court held that 'a legislator or an administrator may be found guilty of corruption without apparently endangering the foundation of the State. But a

Judge must keep himself absolutely above suspicion; to preserve the impartiality and independence of the judiciary and to have the public confidence, thereof’.

The Hon’ble Apex Court in S.C.ADVOCATES ON RECORD ASSOCIATION v. UNION OF INDIA (1993) 4 SCC 441) has observed that since the courts are entrusted the duty to uphold the Constitution and the laws, it very often comes in conflict with the State when it tries to enforce its orders by exacting obedience from recalcitrant or indifferent State agencies and therefore, there is need for an independent and impartial judiciary manned by persons of sterling quality and character, undaunting courage and determination and resolute impartiality and independence who would dispense justice without fear or favour, ill-will or affection. Justice, without fear or favour, ill-will or affection, is the cardinal creed of our Constitution and a solemn assurance of every Judge to the people of this great country.

Here we have trainees from different cadre. But to all of them I have only this to say. The people of this country are seeing judiciary as a panacea for all ills. Of course, it is

impossible for the judiciary alone to solve all the ills plaguing the society, the best we can do is to do our duty with devotion and conscience. Try to dispose of all the cases expeditiously at the same time not compromising on the quality.

To expatiate more on Judicial Ethics, we have in our midst, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Dattu. I request all the participants here to attentively hear the views to be shared by His Lordship as His Lordship has an experience of three and half decades in the legal field and practised in all fields of law. We are all indeed lucky to have an opportunity hear the speech of His Lordship.

Before parting, I must remind all of you about the Mega Lok Adalat to be held on 23.11.2013. We, at the High Court level, have been holding meetings with the Government Officials as also the officials from the transport sector and insurance sectors. Though, they, on their side, have assured full cooperation in settling as many number of cases as possible, the common grievance expressed by them is that the claimants/advocates do not cooperate in settling the cases. Of the cases listed, only 20% or 25% were taken up and rest

could not be taken up because of non-appearance of claimants. I request all of you, as Judicial Officers, to use your high office to educate the claimants about the benefits of settlement of cases and discuss with their advocates so that the claimants can see the end of their cases at the earliest. The success of the Lok Adalat depends on you.

I wish all of you all the best in your career.
