

**ONE-DAY SPECIAL TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR DISTRICT  
JUDGES, SENIOR CIVIL JUDGES AND CIVIL JUDGES**

**SPEECH ON  
'DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF JUDICIAL OFFICERS'  
BY HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE**

**25.01.2014 – 11.10 AM**

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Vanakkam.

My Lord Hon'ble Mr.Justice G.S. Singhvi, former Judge, Supreme Court of India, Mr. Justice Satish K. Agnihotri, Mrs. Justice Chitra Venkataraman, President and Members of the Board of Governors of the Tamil Nadu State Judicial Academy, Sister and Brother Judges, learned Judicial Officers, ladies and gentlemen,

A very Good Morning to all of you,

At the outset, let me thank, on behalf of the Tamil Nadu State Judicial Academy and on my own behalf, Hon'ble Mr.Justice G.S. Singhvi, for having consented to be with us and share His Lordship's experience as a Judge for more than 23 years.

Dear Judicial Officers, by this time, you would have realised how onerous is the duties and responsibilities of a Judicial Officer. In the training as well as through your interaction with your colleagues, you must be now in a position to understand what are your duties and responsibilities as a Judicial

Officer. Let me also make a small effort to share with you what I perceive as duties and responsibilities of a Judicial Officer. Of course, what I am going to say are not substitutes to those what you have heard but they are complementary.

As a Judicial Officer, you have to play multifaceted roles. On the judicial side, you interpret the law, assess the evidence presented before you and control how hearings and trials are to be conducted in the court. In our adversarial system of justice, we must ensure that the evidence on both sides are fully presented and that both sides are fully heard. Then you have to provide an independent and impartial assessment of facts and apply the law to those facts.

On the administrative front, you are responsible for the management of the Court and its staff. You are also to maintain cordial relationship with the Bar fulfilling their just demands but at the same time not to succumb to the pressures of the Bar or their unreasonable demands. You are expected to coordinate with the High Court on the one side and the district administration on the other side so that the needs of the district judiciary are met. You must have the professional competence in judicial administration and facilitate the performance of administrative responsibilities of court staff. You should guard against nepotism and favouritism while dealing with administrative duties.

Now, the District Courts have been provided with Court Managers and System Officers. Please make best use of these personnel to improve the efficiency of the administration. Our ultimate object is that the litigant must be in a position to know as to what is happening to his case and also he must have the satisfaction that he was given full opportunity to put forth his case. Making use of information technology, you must ensure timely issuance of orders and other documents to the litigants.

You should be patient, dignified, respectful and courteous to advocates, litigants, witnesses and others whom you come across in your official work. As far as practicable, please avoid participating in extrajudicial activities that detract you from the dignity of the judge's office, interfere with your performance of official duties or that reflect adversely on your impartiality.

I take this opportunity to reiterate what I spoke on 9.11.2013 here to the newly recruited Judicial Officers. Being in the subordinate judiciary, you have the opportunity to deal directly with the litigant public unlike the Judges of appellate Courts. The impression that you create on the litigant in your court will determine the litigant's view about the judiciary. So, you have to imbibe yourself good qualities in conducting yourself in a dignified and decent manner when you are in the Court as well as outside the court. The image so formed by the litigant seeing your conduct should enhance the reputation of the judiciary.

We, on our part, through Tamil Nadu State Judicial Academy, will always be there to help you. The Academy has published books, ‘Courts-Staff-Registers – Legal Procedures: A Guide for District Judiciary, ‘Effective District Administration’, and ‘Important Legal Provisions at a Glance’. You can make best use of these materials not only to enhance your knowledge but also to ensure quality administration.

As we all await to hear what Hon’ble Mr.Justice G.S. Singhvi will speak on ‘Challenges before the Judiciary’, I conclude my speech,

JAI HIND.