

S U P R E M E C O U R T O F I N D I A
RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Writ Petition(s)(Civil) No(s).1261/2025

PANKAJ SINHA

Petitioner(s)

VERSUS

BAR COUNCIL OF INDIA & ORS.

Respondent(s)

(IA No. 331891/2025 - APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS)

ITEM NO.36Petition(s) for Special Leave to Appeal (C) No(s).36061/2025
(IA No. 323700/2025 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING C/C OF THE IMPUGNED
JUDGMENT)

Date : 05-01-2026 These matters were called on for hearing today.

CORAM : HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE JOYMALYA BAGCHIFor Petitioner(s) :Ms. Indira Jaising, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Vishal Sinha, Adv.
Mr. K. Paari Vendhan, AOR
Mr. Paras Nath Singh, Adv.
Ms. Lata, Adv.Mr. D N Chaturvedi, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Akhilendra Nath, Adv.
Mr. Satyadev Singh, Adv.
Mr. Chandan Kumar Mandal, Adv.
Mr. Kamlesh Kumar Singh, Adv.
Mr. Manish Mathur, Adv.
Mr. Satyam Gupta, Adv.
Mohd. Salman, Adv.
Mohd. Talib, Adv.
Mohd. Rahil, Adv.
Ms. Sangita Gharai, Adv.
Ms. Chandana, Adv.
Mr. Rahul, Adv.
Mr. Rajee Kumar Pandey, Adv.
Mr. Harish Kumar Khinca, Adv.
Mr. Shashank Singh, AOR
Mr. Pritam Singh, Adv.
Mr. Mata Prasad Singh, Adv.For Respondent(s) :Mr. Manan Kumar Mishra, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Anjul Dwivedi, Adv.

Dr. Ram Sankar, Adv.
Mr. Saurabh Tiwari, Adv.
Ms. Radhika Gautam, Adv.
Ms. Anjul Dwivedi, Adv.
Ms. Radhika Gautam, AOR

Mr. S Prabakaran, Sr. Adv.
Mrs. Usha Prabakaran, Adv.
Mr. Maheswaran Prabakaran, Adv.
Dr. Ram Sankar, Adv.
Mr. S Anand, Adv.
Mr. Sushant Singh, Adv.
Mr. N Adhil, Adv.
Ms. Sujatha Bagadhi, Adv.
M/s. Ram Sankar & Co, AOR

UPON hearing the counsel the Court made the following
O R D E R

1. The instant petitions seek reservation of seats for specially abled Advocates in the ensuing elections of State Bar Councils. During the course of hearing, we find that two issues arise for our consideration: (i) adequate representation of Advocates with special abilities in the upcoming elections of the State Bar Councils; and (ii) the payment of nomination fee of Rs. 1,25,000/- by advocates belonging to the specially abled category.
2. Since the election process has begun in most of the State Bar Councils, Mr. Manan Kumar Mishra, learned Chairman of the Bar Council of India, states that adequate representation shall be provided to advocates belonging to specially abled categories by means of co-option in different Committees.
3. As regard to the second issue, he has fairly agreed that advocates belonging to the specially abled category, if they want to contest the election of Bar Councils, shall be required to pay a symbolic nomination fee of Rs.15,000/- instead of Rs.1,25,000/-.
4. Ms. Indira Jaising, learned senior counsel, submits—and

rightly so—that this concession may be confined only to advocates belonging to specially abled categories, so that no parity can be claimed by other contesting advocates. Ordered accordingly. It is further clarified that the nomination through co-option of advocates from specially abled categories shall be without prejudice and in addition to their right to contest the elections.

5. The Bar Council of India shall, meanwhile, commence the process for amendment of the relevant provisions so as to ensure that, in future elections, adequate representation is given to such reserved categories as envisaged either under our constitutional framework or various welfare statutes. The Bar Council of India will further take up the issue of providing reservation of preferential treatment of the advocates belonging to categories of the specially abled, aiming for their effective representation, for which it is stated that an amendment to the statute might be necessary.

6. It goes without saying that the Bar Council of India may approach the competent authority for establishing a suitable mechanism for the revision of the enrolment fee.

7. Since this Court has already intervened and directed to provide adequate representation to women lawyers and for the co-option of advocates belonging to the categories of the specially abled, we request the High Courts not to entertain fresh petitions in this regard. Furthermore, the High-Powered Election Committee(s) at both the national and state levels have already been constituted under the orders of this Court; therefore also, there is no reason for the High Courts to entertain petitions, more so, when the

election process has already begun.

8. The petitions are, accordingly, disposed of.

9. All pending applications, if any, also stand disposed of.

(ARJUN BISHT)
ASTT. REGISTRAR-cum-PS

(PREETHI T.C.)
ASSISTANT REGISTRAR