

Reference by
Hon'ble Chief Justice of India Justice N V Ramana
from the Ceremonial Bench to bid farewell to
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rohinton F Nariman

12 August, 2021

1. We have assembled here on the Ceremonial Bench to bid farewell to Brother Justice Rohinton Fali Nariman.
2. Justice Nariman was born on 13 August 1956 to Mr. Fali Nariman, a distinguished jurist, and Mrs. Bapsi Nariman. He graduated from Shri Ram College of Commerce and completed his LL.B. from University of Delhi where he obtained a first-class degree and stood second in his entire batch. Subsequently, he went to Harvard Law School to complete his LL.M. degree. After completing his postgraduation in law, he practised Maritime Law in New York for one year. He joined the Bar as an advocate in 1979 and was designated as a Senior Advocate by the Supreme Court in 1993, at the young age of 37. He was appointed as the Solicitor General of India at the age of 55.

3. Brother Nariman had an extremely successful practise. He practised law for nearly 35 years before being elevated as a Judge of the Supreme Court of India directly from the Bar on July 7, 2014.

4. He was the fifth counsel ever to be directly elevated to the Supreme Court bench from the Bar.

5. I think there is no need to elaborate the impact Brother Justice Nariman has had as a Judge of this Court. As a judge of the Supreme Court, he has disposed of nearly **13,565** cases. All I can state is that with judgments like ***Shreya Singhal***, his opinions in ***Puttaswamy*** and ***Shayara Bano***, he has left an indelible mark on the jurisprudence of the country. His judgments reflect his erudition, clarity of thought and scholarly approach. This institution will surely miss his knowledge and intellect.

6. Retirement of luminaries such as Brother Nariman, who are repositories of legal acumen, makes one wonder

if a person's age is the appropriate yardstick to decide the tenure and time of retirement.

7. Personally, I am a little overwhelmed and I am finding it difficult to express my thoughts in words.

8. I think I can conclude this reference with just one line: with Brother Nariman's retirement, I feel like I am losing one of the lions that guarded the judicial institution; one of the strong pillars of the contemporary Judicial System. He is a man of principles and is committed to what is right.

9. I am sure that there are certainly many more chapters left to be written in the professional life of Brother Nariman. I look forward to his continued contribution in enriching the legal world. On my own behalf, and on behalf of all my Brother and Sister Judges, I wish him all the best for all his future endeavours.

Thank you