

A Judicial Colloquium on 'Judicial Ethics & Conduct' was organized in the Auditorium of the Academy on May 25, 2014. This Colloquium was attended by more than 300 Judicial Officers from the States of Punjab, Haryana and U.T., Chandigarh. 4 District & Sessions Judges read out papers on the issue. Senior Judicial Officers raised their queries regarding ethics and conduct. Hon'ble the Chief Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul, High Court of Punjab & Haryana guided the Judicial Officers and told them what to do and what not to do.

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Dipak Misra, Judge, Supreme Court of India was the Chief Guest on the occasion. In his thought provoking speech, his Lordship was pleased to highlight the following points:-

1. **It is paramount on the part of a judicial officer to constantly remember that at court he is alone. By this I do not intend to say that you have to suffer from loneliness or melancholia. It only conveys a simple thing i.e. you and you alone are responsible for your own deed and action and to that extent you are alone.**
2. **Maintaining punctuality during court hours is a respect for Rule of Law. Non-maintenance of that principle, not only is violative of Rule of Law but also thereby an unethical conduct.**
3. **A judge must have intellectual integrity which means avoidance of egotism and self-hypocrisy. Social hypocrisy at times may be excusable but self hypocrisy is not only inexcusable but condemnable.**
4. **A judge should have physical morality, intellectual objectivity and constitutional ethicality.**
5. **As a part of an institution, one must believe in institutional collegiality and should not get wedded to individual notion as that is likely to lead to indiscipline.**
6. **Imposition of adequate sentence in criminal matters is a sacrosanct duty of judicial officers and judges. Abuse of**

discretion in this regard amounts to disrespect to collective cry of the society. In my opinion it is judicially unethical.

- 7. Though you are told, you are performing divine duty, that should be treated as a warning not as a pride. I would suggest it should be regarded as you function as a part of serviceability of the institution. Nothing more, nothing less.**
- 8. Writing a judgment is an energy spending exercise, both mental as well as physical. Mere spending of energy is not good enough. It has to be well directed. It is seen that certain judges place reliance on judgments without going through the entire judgments and thereby are not in a position to understand and appreciate the ratio stated therein. The mistake is obvious. Apart from being an error, I would think it is an act of undisciplined energy and therefore, intellectually immoral.**
- 9. Some judicial officers, as I know, divide between their personal time and working time. There is nothing wrong but you cannot disrobe yourself about the decorum that office demands. You have to bear in mind all time that public at large do watch you and any action which is unacceptable in whichever time it is committed is immaterial.**
- 10. Ambition should be mothered by honesty and not the vice-versa.**
- 11. Never think yourself as holier than thou and others are beneath you. It is sincerity and ethicality that eventually matters and not preaching of it.**
- 12. To understand the nuances and subtleties of law one has to fall in love with law. Alertness, concentration and focus are the tools to get an MRI of law which will enable**

one to find out the finest implications of law. More you understand, I am sure, more hungry you shall become.

- 13. Procrastination in rendering of decision not only depicts laziness but unethicity.**