

ADDRESS BY MR. JUSTICE SALAHUDDIN PANHWAR
AT THE FULL COURT REFERENCE ON ELEVATION TO
THE SUPREME COURT OF PAKISTAN ON 12.02.2025

1. Mr. Sarfaraz Ali Metlo, President, Sindh High Court Bar Association
2. Mr. Qurban Ali Malano, President, Sukkur High Court Bar Association.
3. Mr. Ayyaz Hussain Tunio, President, Hyderabad High Court Bar Association,
4. Mir Pervaiz Akhtar Talpur, President, Mirpurkhas High Court Bar Association,
5. Mr. Aamir Nawaz Warraich, President, Karachi Bar Association,
6. Mr. Zia-ul-Haq Makhdoom, Additional Attorney General for Pakistan,
7. Mr. Jawad Dero, Additional/Acting Advocate General Sindh,

Distinguished guests, lawyers and judges Assalam-o-Alaikum,

I am deeply grateful to all the speakers for their kind words. My journey as a member of legal fraternity continues, and every step—whether as a lawyer, a judge of the Sindh High Court, or now embarking on a new and greater responsibility—has been a path of learning and growth.

The law is not just a profession but a profound duty, one that demands both knowledge and empathy. Throughout my career, I have sought to understand the miseries of the common man which is our majority and living under the mental state of Stockholm Syndrome.

Inspired by Victor Hugo's *Les Misérables*, I have always stood with those who suffer under injustice, believing that the law must serve as a shield for the vulnerable rather than a weapon of the powerful.

As a member of legal fraternity, I have explored the legal landscape through two schools of thought—hard positivism and soft positivism. I have always aligned myself with the latter, striving to interpret and extend the law in ways

that address the hardships of those living within a deeply feudal social structure and deprived from their fundamental rights. There remains much to be done, and my role in this journey is still unfolding.

To all who have stood by me—my family, friends, fellow lawyers, and colleagues—your support has been invaluable.

I extend my deepest gratitude to my dedicated paralegal staff, particularly my former reader Mr. Shahnawaz and my current reader Mr. Sajid Khan. I also wish to acknowledge the tireless efforts of Mr. Sajid Akhtar, Mr. Muhammad Imran Khan (PS), Mr. Muhammad Zeeshan (Stenographer/PA), Mr. Abbasi (Daftiri), Mr. Ikram (Farash), Mr. Rafiq (Hawaldar), Driver Mr. Sher Muhammad and my gunman Mr. Tahir. Their dedications to work as a team have been instrumental in my journey.

History remembers those who strive for justice. I remain committed to playing my role, not as a passive observer but as an active force for change, hence, my judgments are not just legal decisions; they are a reflection of who I am, of my principles and my unwavering commitment to justice.

Thank you.

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