

ATMAN

(A Biannual News Bulletin of the Gauhati High Court)

Published from Guwahati for private circulation



(The High Court of Assam, Nagaland, Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh)

Guwahati ::: Ninth Year ::: 17th Issue ::: September, 2017

Events organized during April, 2017 to September, 2017

- ❖ Inauguration of Court of Addl. District & Sessions Judge, Champhai, Mizoram on 21st April, 2017
- ❖ Programme on Foreigners' Tribunal held at Assam Administrative Staff College on 07/04/2017
- ❖ Judicial Knowledge Enhancement Programme for Grade-I Judicial Officers at Assam Administrative Staff College on 22nd & 23rd April, 2017
- ❖ 3rd Zonal Conference- Upper Assam Division & Nagaon and Morigaon districts at Jorhat
- ❖ Swearing-in-ceremony of Justice Hitesh Kumar Sarma and Justice Mir Alfaz Ali as Addl. Judges of Gauhati High Court on 19/05/2017
- ❖ Judicial Knowledge Enhancement Programme for Grade-II Judicial Officers at Judicial Academy, Assam on 27th & 28th of May, 2017
- ❖ Judicial Augmentation Programme for Grade-II Judicial Officers at Judicial Academy, Assam on 3rd & 4th of June, 2017
- ❖ The Chief Justice at UNICEF programme at Dibrugarh on 16th & 17th June, 2017
- ❖ Empowerment programme for Grade-III Judicial Officers held at Assam Administrative Staff College on 22nd & 23rd July, 2017
- ❖ Separation of Judiciary from Executive in Dima Hasao district on 29th July, 2017 at Haflong
- ❖ Separation of Judiciary from Executive in Karbi Anglong district on 12th August, 2017 at Diphu
- ❖ Programme on "Reach out and Respond" (সেঁহাৰি) fitment of artificial limbs and distribution of aids and appliances, to differently-abled persons on 19th August, 2017 at Dibrugarh
- ❖ Additional Court & Bar Building, Dibrugarh inaugurated on 20th August, 2017
- ❖ Eastern Zone Regional Conference on Waste Disposal & Management at Sankardev Kalakshetra, Guwahati on 9th & 10th September, 2017
- ❖ Regional Meet of Legal Services Authorities of North-Eastern States at Shillong, Meghalaya, on 27th September, 2017

From the Chief Justice

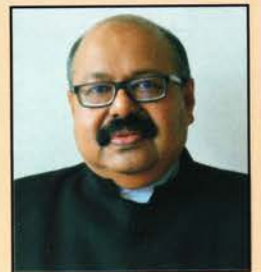
It is always a pleasure to write for ATMAN- an envoy of the Gauhati High Court which carries its news to the outside world. Last six months had been very eventful with multifaceted occasions and celebrations which have seen not only beneficial steps taken by the High Court for the poor and downtrodden, but also separation of Judiciary from the Executive in two districts, which was a long pending issue. I strongly believe it to be a major step to inculcate belief on Judiciary and confidence on its independence, into minds of the citizens especially the residents of Karbi-Anglong and Dima Hasao.

I wish ATMAN a success and hope that it will carry more news in the days to come.

— Justice Ajit Singh

Editor speaks

The first issue of ATMAN was published in September, 2009 to mirror the activities relating to the Gauhati High



Court. For last 9 years, the bi-annual bulletin has faithfully chronicled the judiciary related events. The newsletter has proved its worth on several occasions, as a dependable source of information and team ATMAN hopes to continue its good work in the years ahead.

— Justice Hrishikesh Roy

Inauguration of Court of Addl. District & Sessions Judge, Champhai, Mizoram on 21st April, 2017



Chief Justice Ajit Singh & Law Minister Pu Lalsawta unveiling the plaque



Chief Justice Ajit Singh delivering the speech during the programme

Justice Ajit Singh, the Chief Justice of Gauhati High Court and Pu Lalsawta, Minister of Law & Judicial Department, Government of Mizoram, inaugurated the New Additional District & Sessions Judge Court at Champhai, Mizoram on 21st Day of April, 2017, in presence of Justice Michael Zothankhuma, the Portfolio Judge of State of Mizoram.

Programme on Foreigners' Tribunal held at Assam Administrative Staff College on 07/04/2017

The Home & Political Department (B), Government of Assam in association with Gauhati High Court & Judicial Academy, Assam, organised a One-day workshop on 07/04/2017 at the Administrative Staff College, Khanapara for the Members of the Foreigners' Tribunal. The programme was attended by Justice Ujjal Bhuyan who inaugurated the workshop followed by lectures from Justice (Retd.) B. P. Katakey, Justice (Retd.) B. K. Sharma, former Judges of Gauhati High Court. Ms. T. Y. Das, Additional Chief Secretary, Government of Assam, Ms. L. S. Changsan, Commissioner & Secretary, Home, Government of Assam and Mr. R. M. Singh, DGP (Border) were also present in the programme. A total number of 93 members participated in the workshop.



Justice Ujjal Bhuyan addressing the gathering during the workshop



Justice (Retd.) B.P. Katakey delivering his speech during the workshop

Judicial Knowledge Enhancement Programme for Grade-I Judicial Officers at Assam Administrative Staff College on 22nd & 23rd April, 2017

A two-day Judicial Knowledge Enhancement Programme was conducted by the Gauhati High Court in association with Judicial Academy & NEJOTI at the Assam Administrative Staff College, Khanapara, for the Grade-I Judicial Officers of Assam, Nagaland, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh. The Officers from Police and Insurance department, Advocates and Mediators also participated in the programme.



Justice Manojit Bhuyan during his welcome address



Justice Arup Kumar Goswami with his inaugural speech



Justice S. J. Mukhopadhyaya, Former Judge, Supreme Court during inter-action



Justice Joymalya Bagchi of Calcutta High Court, addressing the Judicial Officers



Justice (Dr.) B.B Parsoon, Former Judge, P&H High Court, during the programme



Justice J. R. Midha, Judge, Delhi High Court, addressing the participants

3rd Zonal Conference- Upper Assam Division & Nagaon and Morigaon districts at Jorhat



Chief Justice Ajit Singh welcoming the participants in the conference



Interaction with the participants during the conference at Jorhat

The 3rd Zonal Administrative Conference of the District Judiciary and District & Police Administration of the Upper Assam Division and Nagaon & Morigaon districts of Central Assam Division was held at Jorhat on 13th May, 2017. The Conference was attended by the LR & Secretary to the Govt. of Assam, Judicial Department, Commissioner of Upper Assam & Central Assam Division, District Judges, Deputy Commissioners, Superintendents of Police, Chief Judicial Magistrates and officials of PWD, Assam. The Conference was presided over by Justice Ajit Singh, Chief Justice, Gauhati High Court. Others present were Justice Hrishikesh Roy, Judge in-charge Administrative Department, Justice Ujjal Bhuyan, Justice Manojit Bhuyan, Justice Suman Shyam, Justice P. K. Phukan and Members of the Registry of the High Court.

The Chief Justice welcomed the participants in the conference and various topics relating to infrastructural requirements, disposal of seized psychotropic substances, appointment of Public Prosecutors, withdrawal of cases and inter-departmental administrative issues were discussed.



Members of the Registry during the Zonal Conference at Jorhat



A cross section of the participants

Laws are a dead letter without courts to expound and define their true meaning and operation.

— Alexander Hamilton

**Swearing-in-ceremony of Justice Hitesh Kumar Sarma and
Justice Mir Alfaz Ali as Addl. Judges of Gauhati High Court
on 19/05/2017**



***Justice H. K. Sarma being administered
oath by the Chief Justice***



***Justice Mir Alfaz Ali taking oath of office
in the Chief Justice's Court room***

Justice Ajit Singh, the Chief Justice of Gauhati High Court administered oath of office to Justice Hitesh Kumar Sarma and Justice Mir Alfaz Ali as Additional Judges of the Gauhati High Court on 19/05/2017, for a period of two years.

Prior to elevation, Justice Hitesh Kumar Sarma was the Registrar General of the Gauhati High Court and served in different capacities in the District Courts and also as the Legal Remembrancer and Secretary, Judicial Department, Government of Assam.

Justice Mir Alfaz Ali held various posts in the subordinate judiciary and served as the Member Secretary, Assam State Legal Services Authority and was posted as the Registrar (Vigilance), of the Gauhati High Court.

With the swearing of the two new Additional Judges, the present functioning strength of the Gauhati high Court is now 19 (Nineteen).

A country is in a bad state, which is governed only by laws; because a thousand things occur for which laws cannot provide, and where authority ought to interpose.

— Samuel Johnson

Judicial Knowledge Enhancement Programme for Grade-II Judicial Officers at Judicial Academy, Assam on 27th & 28th of May, 2017



Justice Hrishikesh Roy addressing the Judicial Officers at Guwahati



Justice Arup Kumar Goswami delivering his speech to the participants

A two-day Judicial Knowledge Enhancement Programme was conducted by the Gauhati High Court in association with Judicial Academy & NEJOTI on 27th & 28th May, 2017 at the Conference Hall of the Judicial Academy, Assam, for the Grade-II Judicial Officers of Assam, Nagaland, Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh. A total number of 57 Judicial Officers participated in the programme. The programme was inaugurated by Justice Hrishikesh Roy, Judge-in-Charge, Training.



Justice P. K. Deka interacting with the stakeholders at Guwahati



Justice P. G. Agarwal, Former Judge, Gauhati High Court & Angshuman Bora, Senior Advocate, during the working session

Man, when perfected, is the best of animals, but when separated from law and justice, he is the worst of all.

— Aristotle

Judicial Augmentation Programme for Grade-II Judicial Officers at Judicial Academy, Assam on 3rd & 4th of June, 2017



Justice Roshan Dalvi, Former Judge, Bombay High Court, with her address



Justice Hrishikesh Roy, Judge-in-Charge, Training, in the augmentation programme



Justice Suman Shyam addressing the Judicial Officers



Justice K. R. Surana with his speech during the programme



Justice A. M. Bujor Barua interacting with the participants in the programme



Senior Advocate Angshuman Bora addressing the Judicial Officers

A two-day Augmentation Programme was conducted by the Gauhati High Court in association with Judicial Academy & NEJOTI on 3rd & 4th June, 2017 at the Conference Hall of the Judicial Academy for Grade-II Judicial Officers of Assam, Nagaland, Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh. A total number of 51 Judicial Officers participated in the programme. The workshop was inaugurated by Justice Hrishikesh Roy, Judge-in-charge, Training and was attended by Justice Suman Shyam, Justice A. M. Bujor Barua, Justice K. R. Surana, Justice (Retd.) Roshan Dalvi and Senior Advocate Angshuman Bora.

The Chief Justice at UNICEF programme at Dibrugarh on 16th & 17th June, 2017

Justice Ajit Singh, Chief Justice, Gauhati High Court visited the district of Dibrugarh on 16th & 17th June, 2017 to interact with key functionaries and stakeholders of the Government to assess, the current status of various Government projects undertaken to improve the health and nutritional status of the children and adolescence in the tea gardens in the district of Dibrugarh. The Chief Justice was accompanied by the team of UNICEF, Guwahati Field Office, Deputy Commissioner, Dibrugarh, Secretary, District Legal Services Authority, Dibrugarh, Doctors from the Assam Medical College, Dibrugarh and other NGOs.



Chief Justice Ajit Singh at the Dikom Tea Estate, Dibrugarh



Chief Justice Ajit Singh with children of the Tea Estates, Dibrugarh

Empowerment programme for Grade-III Judicial Officers held at Assam Administrative Staff College on 22nd & 23rd July, 2017

A two day Empowerment Programme was conducted by the Gauhati High Court in association with Judicial Academy, Assam & NEJOTI on 22nd & 23rd July, 2017 at the Administrative Staff College, Khanapara for Grade-III Judicial Officers of Assam, Nagaland, Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh. A total number of 99 Judicial Officers participated in the programme. The programme was attended amongst others by Justice Manojit Bhuyan, Justice P. K. Phukan, Justice A. M. Bujor Barua, Justice K. R. Surana and Justice (Retd.) A. C. Upadhaya.



Justice Shalini Phansalkar Joshi of Bombay High Court, speaking during the programme



Justice Roshan Dalvi, Former Judge, Bombay High Court, addressing the Judicial Officers

Separation of Judiciary from Executive in Dima Hasao district on 29th July, 2017 at Haflong



Sri Sarbananda Sonowal, Chief Minister, Assam at Haflong Court inauguration



Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal and Chief Justice Ajit Singh unfurling the plaque of Court building



Justice Hrishikesh Roy in the Court Inauguration Programme, Haflong



Chief Justice Ajit Singh in the inauguration of Courts in Dima Hasao district

Judicial Court Building for the Dima Hasao district at Haflong was inaugurated on 29.07.2017, in presence of the Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal, Chief Justice Ajit Singh, Justice Hrishikesh Roy, Judge-In-charge Administrative Department, Justice Mir Alfaz Ali, Portfolio Judge for the District of Dima Hasao and Sri V. K. Pipersenia, Chief Secretary, Government of Assam. The inauguration of the Court in the hill district saw the separation of the Judiciary from the Executive, which was a long felt desire of the people of the district of Dima Hasao.

Laws are made for men of ordinary understanding and should, therefore, be construed by the ordinary rules of common sense. Their meaning is not to be sought for in metaphysical subtleties which may make anything mean everything or nothing at pleasure.

— Thomas Jefferson

Separation of Judiciary from Executive in Karbi Anglong district on 12th August, 2017 at Diphu

Chief Justice Ajit Singh, Gauhati High Court inaugurated the Judicial Court Building for Karbi Anglong district at Diphu on 12.08.2017 in presence of Justice Hrishikesh Roy, Judge-In-charge Administrative Department and Justice Mir Alfaz Ali, Portfolio Judge for the district of Karbi Anglong. The inauguration of the Courts at Karbi Anglong was a long felt aspiration of the people in the hill district. The separation of Judiciary from Executive will ensure proper dispensation of justice for the people of Karbi Anglong district.



Chief Justice Ajit Singh lighting the ceremonial lamp at Diphu



L-R: Adil Khan, DC, Justice Hrishikesh Roy, Chief Justice Ajit Singh, Justice M.A. Ali and A Ahmed, District Judge, Karbi Anglong



Audience at Diphu during the inaugural programme



Justice Hrishikesh Roy on separation of Judiciary for Karbi Anglong district

Law and order exist for the purpose of establishing justice and when they fail in this purpose they become the dangerously structured dams that block the flow of social progress.

— Martin Luther King, Jr.

Programme on “Reach out and Respond” (সঁহাৰি) fitment of artificial limbs and distribution of aids and appliances, to differently-abled persons on 19th August, 2017 at Dibrugarh

Project “Reach out and Respond” (সঁহাৰি) for fitment of artificial limbs and distribution of aids and appliances to differently-abled persons was launched under the aegis of the Assam State Legal Services Authority, in association with the Social Welfare Department, Health & Family Welfare Department, Government of Assam, Bhagwan Mahaveer Viklang Sahayata Samiti, Jaipur and Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India from 19th to 25th August, 2017 at H.S. Kanoi College, Dibrugarh.

The programme was formally inaugurated in presence of Chief Minister of Assam, Chief Justice of Gauhati High Court, Executive Chairman, Assam State Legal Services Authority, Chief Secretary, Government of Assam and Principal Secretary, Social Welfare Department of Assam. All total 263 prosthetic limbs were fitted and 1738 assistive devices were distributed to the beneficiaries.



Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal addressing the সঁহাৰি programme



Chief Justice Ajit Singh with his address in the “Reach out & Respond” initiative



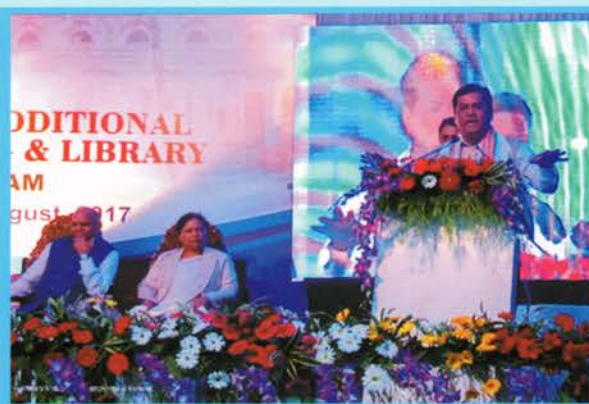
V. K. Pipersenia, Chief Secretary, Govt. of Assam, with his welcome speech



Justice Hrishikesh Roy in the “Reach out and Respond” programme, Dibrugarh



Justice Ranjan Gogoi lighting the ceremonial lamp along with Justice Amitava Roy



Sri Sarbananda Sonowal, Chief Minister, Assam, speaking on the occasion



Justice Amitava Roy addressing the gathering



Chief Justice Ajit Singh delivering his speech at Dibrugarh



Justice Hrishikesh Roy in the Court/Bar Building inauguration, Dibrugarh



Justice Suman Shyam with his welcome address at Dibrugarh

The Additional Court Building and Library was inaugurated in a glittering function at Dibrugarh on 20.08.2017. The building, constructed at a cost of Rs.3,64,70,700/-, will accommodate 4(four) Court rooms, a Library with e-facility for the Bar and Bench along with space for Bar and Advocates' Clerks. The building was formally inaugurated in the presence of Sri Sarbananda Sonowal, Chief Minister, Assam, Justice Ranjan Gogoi & Justice Amitava Roy, Judges, Supreme Court of India, Justice Ajit Singh, Chief Justice, Gauhati High Court, Justice Hrishikesh Roy, Judge-In-charge Administrative Department, Justice Arup Kumar Goswami, Justice Ujjal Bhuyan, Justice Suman Shyam and Sri V.K. Pipersenia, Chief Secretary, Government of Assam.

Valedictory Programme for the pre-appointment Trainees in Grade-III of Assam Judicial Service on 3rd September, 2017



Justice Ujjal Bhuyan addressing the trainee Grade-III Officers



Justice Arup Kumar Goswami with his speech on Bar and Bench relationship



Justice Hrishikesh Roy delivering the keynote address to the newly inducted Judicial Officers



Chief Justice Ajit Singh distributing books to the new entrants



A cross section of the Hon'ble Judges and newly inducted Judicial Officers

Valedictory programme for the 49 pre-appointment trainee Officers of Grade-III of Assam Judicial Service was organised by Judicial Academy & NEJOTI on 3rd September, 2017, at the Conference Hall of the Judicial Academy, Assam. The programme was attended by Chief Justice Ajit Singh, Justice Hrishikesh Roy, Judge-in-Charge, Training, Justice Arup Kumar Goswami, Justice Ujjal Bhuyan, Justice P. K. Phukan, Justice R. K. Phukan, Justice A. M. Bujor Barua, Justice K. R. Surana, Justice P. K. Deka, Justice N. Sailo, Justice A. Borthakur & Justice H. K. Sarma.

The Chief Justice administered oath to all the trainee Judicial Officers and also distributed books & certificates to the Officers.

**Eastern Zone Regional Conference on Waste Disposal & Management
at Sankardev Kalakshetra, Guwahati on 9th & 10th September, 2017**



Justice S.A. Bobde, Judge, Supreme Court of India lighting the inaugural lamp



Justice A.K. Goel, Judge, Supreme Court of India addressing the gathering



Justice U. U. Lalit, Judge, Supreme Court of India with his speech



Justice Amitava Roy, Judge, Supreme Court of India at Green Tribunal Meet at Guwahati



Justice Hrishikesh Roy during the plenary session at Guwahati

A two-day Eastern Zone Regional Conference was organised by the National Green Tribunal at Sankardev Kalakshetra, Guwahati. The conference highlighted the issue of environmental degradation and stressed on the use of technology to carry out waste management. The conference was attended by Justice S.A. Bobde, Justice U.U. Lalit, Justice A.K. Goel, Justice Amitava Roy (Judges, Supreme Court of India),

Sarbananda Sonowal, Chief Minister, Assam, Pramila Rani Brahma, Minister of Environment & Forest, Assam, Justice Swatanter Kumar, Chairperson, NGT, Justice Ajit Singh, Chief Justice, Gauhati High Court, Justice Tshering Wangchuk, Chief Justice, Bhutan, Justice D. Maheswari, Chief Justice, High Court of Meghalaya, Justice S.K. Agnihotri, Chief Justice, High Court of Sikkim, Justice N. Kotiswar Singh, Chief Justice (Acting), High Court of Manipur, Justice D.N. Patil, Chief Justice (Acting), High Court of Jharkhand, Justice Hrishikesh Roy, Justice Arup Kumar Goswami, Justice S.P. Wangdi, JM, NGT, Kolkata, Justice M.S. Nambiar, JM, NGT, Justice U.D. Salvi, Judicial Member, NGT, Justice Dalip Singh, JM, NGT, Justice Dr. P. Jyothimani, JM, NGT and various technical experts from the relevant field.

Regional Meet of Legal Services Authorities of North-Eastern States at Shillong, Meghalaya, on 27th September, 2017



From L-R: Justice Hrishikesh Roy, Justice Ajit Singh, Chief Justice, Gauhati High Court, Justice Ranjan Gogoi, Judge, Supreme Court of India, Justice N. Kotiswar Singh, Chief Justice (Acting), High Court of Manipur and Justice S. Talapatra, Judge, High Court of Tripura



A cross-section of the participants during the Regional Meet at Shillong



Justice Ranjan Gogoi, Judge, Supreme Court of India addressing the participants



Justice D. Maheswari, Chief Justice, High Court of Meghalaya with his speech

Regional Meet of the State Legal Services Authorities of North-Eastern States under the aegis of National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) was organised at Shillong, Meghalaya on 27th September, 2017. The meet discussed the difficulties faced by the State Legal Services Authorities and the District Legal Services Authorities in implementing various legal services programme and on optimum utilisation of the grants made available by NALSA under various schemes.

IN THE GAUHATI HIGH COURT

[THE HIGH COURT OF ASSAM, NAGALAND, MIZORAM AND ARUNACHAL PRADESH]

THE CHIEF JUSTICE AND JUDGES OF THE GAUHATI HIGH COURT

Permanent Judges

Sl.No	Name of Chief Justice /Judges	Date of Elevation	Date of Retirement
1.	Chief Justice Ajit Singh	05.03.2016	05.09.2018
2.	Justice Hrishikesh Roy	12.10.2006	31.01.2022
3.	Justice A.K. Goswami	24.01.2011	10.03.2023
4.	Justice Ujjal Bhuyan	17.10.2011	01.08.2026
5.	Justice Manojit Bhuyan	07.01.2015	04.02.2021
6.	Justice Michael Zothankhuma	07.01.2015	22.10.2027
7.	Justice Suman Shyam	07.01.2015	11.06.2031

Additional Judges

Sl.No	Name of Additional Judges	Date of Birth	Date of Elevation	Current Tenure Till
1.	Justice Lanusungkum Jamir	01.03.1964	22.05.2013	18.11.2017
2.	Justice M. R. Pathak	28.08.1965	22.05.2013	18.11.2017
3.	Justice Paran Kumar Phukan	29.10.1955	07.01.2015	28.10.2017
4.	Justice Rumi Kumari Phukan	01.07.1960	07.01.2015	06.01.2018
5.	Justice Songkhupchung Serto	01.03.1961	03.10.2016	02.10.2018
6.	Justice A.M. Bujor Barua	15.12.1961	15.11.2016	14.11.2018
7.	Justice Kalyan Rai Surana	13.12.1965	15.11.2016	14.11.2018
8.	Justice Prasanta Kumar Deka	05.11.1959	15.11.2016	14.11.2018
9.	Justice Nelson Sailo	09.10.1968	15.11.2016	14.11.2018
10.	Justice Ajit Borthakur	01.12.1961	15.11.2016	14.11.2018
11.	Justice Hitesh Kumar Sarma	01.07.1960	19.05.2017	18.05.2019
12.	Justice Mir Alfaz Ali	21.04.1959	19.05.2017	18.05.2019

IN THE GAUHATI HIGH COURT

PENDENCY, INSTITUTION AND DISPOSAL STATEMENT OF GAUHATI HIGH COURT

FOR THE PERIOD FROM 01.04.2017 to 30.09.2017

Name of Benches	Pendency as on 01.04.2017	Institution for the period from 01.04.2017 to 30.09.2017	Disposal for the period from 01.04.2017 to 30.09.2017	Total pendency as on 30.09.2017
Principal Seat	27756	7564	8196	27068
Kohima Bench	427	271	336	362
Aizawl Bench	371	212	219	364
Itanagar Bench	923	746	488	1181
Total	29477	8793	9239	28975

Excluding Misc. Cases