

**OBITUARY REFERENCE ADDRESS BY HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SUDHANSHU DHULIA, CHIEF JUSTICE OF GAUHATI HIGH COURT, GUWAHATI, ON 21-01-2021 AT 3.30 PM, ON ACCOUNT OF SAD DEMISE OF SENIOR ADVOCATES DEVA KUMAR BHATTACHARYYA AND RAMESH PRASAD AGARWALLA, AND ADVOCATES BIMAL CHANDRA SAIKIA AND PUSPA GOGOI MEMBERS OF THE GAUHATI HIGH COURT BAR ASSOCIATION SITTING IN THE COURT NO.1 (NEW BLOCK).**

**THE GAUHATI HIGH COURT AT GUWAHATI  
(THE HIGH COURT OF ASSAM, NAGALAND, MIZORAM AND ARUNACHAL  
PRADESH)**

**BEFORE**

**HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE  
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE N. KOTISWAR SINGH  
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE MANASH RANJAN PATHAK  
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE MANOJIT BHUYAN  
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE MICHAEL ZOTHANKHUMA  
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SUMAN SHYAM  
HON'BLE MRS. JUSTICE RUMI KUMARI PHUKAN  
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE ACHINTYA MALLA BUJOR BARUA  
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE KALYAN RAI SURANA  
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE PRASANTA KUMAR DEKA  
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE HITESH KUMAR SARMA  
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE MIR ALFAZ ALI  
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE NANI TAGIA  
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE MANISH CHOUDHURY  
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SOUMITRA SAIKIA  
AND  
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE PARTHIVJYOTI SAIKIA**

**Reference by:**

1. Mr. S.N. Sarma, President, Gauhati High Court Bar Association.
2. Mr. Putul Chandra Deka, President, Gauhati High Court Advocates' Association.
3. Mr. Sailendra Das, Chairman of Bar Council of Assam, Nagaland, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim.
4. Dr. Ramesh Chandra Borpatragohain, Advocate General, Assam.

5. Mr. N.N.B. Choudhury, Additional Advocate General, Arunachal Pradesh.
6. Mr.A.D.Choudhury, Additional Advocate General, Mizoram.
7. Mr. Ranjit Kumar Deb Choudhury, Assistant Solicitor General of India.
8. Ms. M.Kechii, Addll. Senior Government Advocate, Nagaland

**Reply by: Hon'ble the Chief Justice**

1. My esteemed colleagues on the Bench.
2. Mr. S.N. Sarma, President, Gauhati High Court Bar Association.
3. Mr. Putul Chandra Deka, President, Gauhati High Court Advocates' Association.
4. Mr. Sailendra Das, Chairman of Bar Council of Assam, Nagaland, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim.
5. Dr. Ramesh Chandra Borpatragohain, Advocate General, Assam.
6. Mr. N.N.B. Choudhury, Additional Advocate General, Arunachal Pradesh.
7. Mr. A.D.Choudhury, Additional Advocate General, Mizoram.
8. Mr. Ranjit Kumar Deb Choudhury, Assistant Solicitor General of India.
9. Ms. M. Kechii, Addll. Senior Government Advocate, Nagaland
10. Members of the Bar
11. Members of Judicial Service and Registry.

Today, we have assembled here to mourn the sad demise of Senior Advocates Deba Kumar Bhattacharyya and Ramesh Prasad Agarwalla, as also the sad demise of Advocates Bimal Chandra Saikia and Pushpa Gogoi.

Deba Kumar Bhattacharyya, Senior Advocate, left us for his heavenly abode on 15<sup>th</sup> January, 2021 at Guwahati at the age of 88 years. Late Deba Kumar Bhattacharyya is the father-in-law of my esteemed colleague in the Bench Justice Achintya Malla Bujor Barua.

Born on 2<sup>nd</sup> October, 1932 in the district of Jorhat, Late Bhattacharyya obtained his Bachelors' Degree in Science from the prestigious Cotton College, Guwahati, and obtained his degree in law from the Calcutta University. He joined the Bar in the year 1960. I am told that Late Bhattacharyya initially started his practice in the subordinate courts and later shifted to High Court and went on to become one of the finest Civil, Criminal and Constitutional lawyers of North East India. It is needless to say that due to his expertise in the field of civil and criminal laws, he was designated as a Senior Advocate by the Gauhati High Court on 18<sup>th</sup> December, 1986. I am told that Late Deba Kumar Bhattarcharjee had an absolute clarity of thought which was reflected in his precise arguments. He maintained high standards of professional integrity throughout his career. Thus he enjoyed a remarkable standing in the Bar and commanded respect from both the Bar and Bench. With his death, the legal fraternity has lost a legal stalwart creating a vacuum which will be hard to be filled in. Late Bhattacharyya leaves behind his wife, one daughter Smti Uttara Bujarbaruah, who was once a practicing Advocate of this High Court and two(2) sons, one of whom is a District Judge at Dima Hasao district in Assam and a host of relatives.

Bar has also witnessed the sad demise of Senior Advocate Ramesh Prasad Agarwalla who breathed his last on 17<sup>th</sup> January, 2021 at Kolkatta, at the age of 83 years.

Born on 23<sup>rd</sup> August, 1937 at Golaghat district of Assam, Late Agarwalla obtained his Masters' Degree as well his law degree from Gauhati University, and obtained his degree in law from Gauhati University in the year 1974. He joined the Bar and specialized in tax laws and later shifted his base to Kolkatta. He was also a Rotarian and was recipient of many awards for his distinguished service in society. Due to his expertise in the field of law he was conferred with the designation of a Senior Advocate by the Gauhati High Court on 24<sup>th</sup> February, 1994. I am told that Late Agarwalla was also associated with Indian

Red Cross Society, Assam Sahitya Sabha, Jorhat Districts Sports Association, Tax Bar Association, Guwahati and ITAT Bar Association, Guwahati

His sudden demise is a great loss to the legal fraternity. I am informed that, Late Agawalla was a simple but knowledgeable, lawyer with an amiable nature and always used to come to the court well prepared. I have also come to learn that he advocated his views fearlessly for which he earned respect from the Bar and Bench. Late Agarwalla leaves behind his wife Sharda Agarwalla and three (3) sons.

Late Bimal Chandra Saikia was born on 1<sup>st</sup> January, 1946 and left for heavenly abode on 29<sup>th</sup> December, 2020, at the age of 74 years, leaving behind his wife and two (2) sons. Late Saikia also served as the Additional Senior Government Advocate for the state of Assam. I am told that Late Saikia was a prolific writer and has many publications to his credit.

Late Pushpa Gogoi was born on 11<sup>th</sup> November, 1959 and breathed her last on 19<sup>th</sup> January, 2021 at the age of 62 years. She has left her husband Sri Girin Phukan (Retired Joint Director, Social Welfare Department) and two (2) daughters, one of whom is an engineer and one a doctor.

As I have joined this High Court very recently, I did not have the opportunity to meet any of them personally, but I am told that late Deba Kumar Bhattacharyya and Ramesh Prasad Agarwalla, Senior Advocates were admired and respected by one and all for their adroitness in the art of advocacy, benevolent approach and amiable dispositions. Their contributions in the legal field and to the society at large will be remembered by one and all.

Similarly, advocates Bimal Chandra Saikia and Puspa Gogoi were equally loved and respected for their simplicity, straight approach and upright and courteous submissions in the Court.

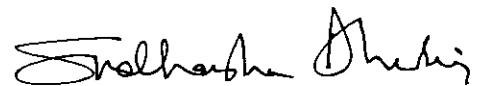
Their death is a great loss, not only, to their respective families but also to our legal fraternity.

I and my esteemed colleagues on the Bench, fully associate with the sentiments and feelings expressed by the members of the Bar. I, on my behalf and on behalf of my esteemed colleagues on the Bench and members of the Registry convey our heartfelt condolence to the members of the bereaved families and pray the Almighty to grant eternal peace to the departed souls and give sufficient strength and courage to the members of their families to bear the irreparable loss.

As a mark of respect to the departed souls, I request the learned members of the Bar and Bench to observe a minute's silence.

The Court work on the judicial side will remain suspended for the rest of the day as a mark of respect to the departed souls.

The Registry is directed to communicate the proceedings and convey our heartfelt condolence to the members of the bereaved families.



(Sudhanshu Dhulia)

Chief Justice  
Gauhati High Court,  
Guwahati