



To,

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Prasanna B. Varale

The Chief Justice,

The High Court of Karnataka,

Bengaluru 560001



16.01.2023

Dear Hon'ble Chief Justice,

Re: Petition to reinstate the practice of releasing advance cause lists

DAKSH writes on behalf of the list of advocates appended to this letter, researchers and members of the general public.

The High Court of Karnataka has done a commendable job in taking a number of steps to increase the efficiency of court processes through the use of technology. Digital communication with lawyers and prompt updates regarding case status has helped advocates manage precious time and increased the access of the public to justice.

However, we write to inform you about a pressing need among the legal community and the general public in this connection. For a brief period of time till November 2021, the registry of the High Court of Karnataka followed the practice of releasing an "advance cause list" for final hearing in matters. Other courts such as the Supreme Court and High Court at Delhi currently follow this practice and the advocates practicing there have found it helpful. It ensures that we prepare documents and arguments for final hearings well in advance, reducing the likelihood of adjournments and unnecessary delays. However, we have noticed that this practice is no longer followed in the High Court of Karnataka. Often, we are given less than 24 hours' notice regarding final hearings in our matters. This leaves us with very limited opportunity to thoroughly prepare

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for the hearings and organise voluminous documents in time. This invariably leads to hearings being adjourned.

The lack of an advance cause list affects women advocates in particular, especially those with children as they typically have significant caregiving responsibilities in addition to their professional work. An advance cause list could help reduce uncertainty in the listing of matters and enable them to prepare for their hearings.

We believe that, by ceasing the practice of releasing an advanced cause list, precious judicial time is wasted. Advocates and our clients suffer inordinate delays caused by suboptimal management of time and effort.

This letter is a petition to your Lordship to reinstate the practice of regularly releasing advance cause lists so that we are given time of at least 3-4 days to prepare effectively for final hearings of matters in the High Court of Karnataka. We believe this will create more predictability in final hearings and trust in the justice system and lead to faster disposal of cases.

We request you as a judge and lawyer of eminence who will be aware of the importance of the rule of law and access to justice for the common public, to enable the re-commencement of this practice through appropriate instruction to the Registry of the High Court of Karnataka.

We would be much obliged if we could have a virtual meeting with you to explain this further, if required. We are very confident that you will intervene in the matter. We are prepared to lend all assistance to any set of officers you consider appropriate.

We appreciate your time, attention, and co-operation.

Thanking you,



1. S.S. Naganand
2. Aditya Sondhi
3. Harish Narasappa
4. Maneesha Kongovi
5. Anupama Hebbar
6. Manu Kulkarni
7. Aditya Bhat
8. Nitya Kaligotla
9. Tamarra Sequeira
10. Smaran Shetty
11. Vedanth Anand Chugh
12. Dharshini Sugumaran
13. Vikas Mahendra
14. Nandini S Patil
15. Sanjana M
16. Priyanka Yavagal
17. Nabeel
18. Avani Chokshi
19. Aishwarya Venugopal
20. R. Ravi Shankar
21. Nitya Kalyani
22. Ananrghya K Chandar
23. Avinash Balakrishna
24. Trimurthi BS
25. Achalanand VJ
26. Aditya Sethi
27. Ruha Shetty

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