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THE ANDHRA PRADESH GAZETTE
PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

RULES SUPPLEMENT TO PART II EXTRAORDINARY

No.1

AMARAVATI, TUESDAY, JUNE 23, 2026

G.285

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HIGH COURT OF ANDHRA PRADESH AT AMARAVATI

Memo No. 1494 & 1495/13/B/2026

Dated: 16.06.2026

PUBLICATION OF NOTIFICATION OF NEW RULES, VIZ., "THE HIGH COURT OF ANDHRA PRADESH (DESIGNATION OF SENIOR ADVOCATES) RULES,, 2024".

Ref:-A Letter ROC.No.535/SO/2025, dt.20.02.2026 and dt.09.06.2026 along with enclosures received from the Registrar General, A.P. High Court Building, Nelapadu, Amaravati, received on 15.06.2026.

**"The High Court of Andhra Pradesh (Designation of Senior Advocates)
Rules, 2025"**

ROC No.535 /SO/2025

Date: 20.02.2026

NOTIFICATION NO. 9 /SO/2026

In exercise of the powers conferred under Sec. 34(1) read with section 16(2) of the Advocates Act, 1961 and in accordance with the guidelines laid down by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in Jitender @ Kala Vs State (Govt of NCT of Delhi) and another (Criminal Appeal No.865 of 2025 decided on 13-5-2025) the High Court of Andhra Pradesh, hereby frames the following rules in supersession of the existing rules/ guidelines U/s. 16(2) of The Advocates Act, 1961 for designation of an Advocate as a Senior Advocate.

1. Short Title and Commencement:

- (a) These Rules shall be called "The High Court of Andhra Pradesh (Designation of Senior Advocates) Rules, 2025"
- (b) These Rules shall come into force with immediate effect.

2. Definitions:

- (a) "Advocate" means an Advocate who has been admitted to the rolls and continues to be on the rolls of the Bar Council of Andhra Pradesh constituted under the Advocates Act, 1961.
- (b) "High Court" means the High Court of Andhra Pradesh constituted as per the provisions of the Andhra Pradesh Reorganization Act, 2014.
- (c) "Senior Advocate" means an Advocate designated U/s. 16(2) of the Advocates Act, 1961 and as per the Rules made there under.
- (d) "Secretariat" means the Secretariat established by the Hon'ble Chief Justice of High Court of Andhra Pradesh under these Rules.

- (e) "Stake-holder" means and includes every person directly concerned with or affected by the designation of an Advocate as Senior Advocate by the High Court of Andhra Pradesh.
- (f) "Instructing Counsel or Advocate on Record" means an Advocate other than a Senior Advocate who has been instructed by the client in the matter and who is on record of the concerned matter by accepting Vakalat.

3. Qualifications and disqualification for Designation of Senior Advocate:

- 1. The Advocate must have the following qualifications to designate as Senior Advocate;
 - (i) must have standing of 10 years at the Bar ordinarily practicing in the High Court of Andhra Pradesh or Special Tribunals or in the courts of District Judiciary.,

Explanation – I: The eligibility condition with regard to minimum standing of 10 (ten) years as mentioned above shall not be applicable to a retired Judicial Officer who has acquired the Standing of 10 (ten) years practice in the High Court or Special Tribunals or the Courts in the District Judiciary before or after they became Judicial Officer. „

Explanation–II: Law Officers of the State and Central Governments including the Government Pleaders, Standing Counsel and Public Prosecutors etc., excluding the Advocate General of the State are not entitled for automatic designation of the Senior Advocate by virtue of their appointment, or their previous post such as Law Officer, unless they make an application and satisfy the eligibility conditions.

- (ii) Enrolled with Bar Council of Andhra Pradesh constituted under the Advocates Act, 1961.

- (iii) Above 45 years of age. However, **this is no bar** for considering the applications by advocates below 45 years of age in exceptional cases.
- (iv) Annual average income of Rs. 7.00 lakhs (rupees seven lakhs only) net or more during the preceding 5 years from legal profession and such income must be reflected in the Income Tax Returns submitted by Advocate;
- (v) Must not be convicted by a competent court of law and should not have been punished for an offence involving moral turpitude or for contempt of Court or should not have been punished by the Bar Council of the State of Andhra Pradesh or by the Bar Council of India for any act of misconduct.

4. Factor to be considered in assessing the ability of Advocates.

- I. In addition to the standing at the Bar, the Advocate must have necessary ability to the satisfaction of the High Court, to designate as Senior Advocate. To assess the ability of an Advocate for being designated as Senior Advocate, the following basic factors should be taken into account.
 - a. Legal acumen of the Advocate,
 - b. High ethical standards maintain by him, both inside and outside the Court.
 - c. Articles written by the Advocate on legal issues.
 - d. Number of cases conducted by Advocate individually (in the judgments/orders name of Advocate must reflect as the person who had argued);

- e. Number of reported judgments and unreported judgements in which substantial legal principles are involved, in case of advocates practicing in High Court;
 - f. Opinion of Principal District Judge in case of advocates practicing in District Judiciary;
 - g. In case of an Advocate practicing in courts other than headquarters of the District, in addition to the opinion of Principal District Judge, opinion of the local Additional District Judge with reasons;
 - h. Opinion of the Presiding Officer in case of Advocates practicing in Special Tribunals;
 - i. Books Written by Advocate;
 - j. Probono cases conducted by Advocate;
 - k. Research work in the field of law;
 - l. Expertise in specialized subjects;
 - m. Participation in seminars and conferences conducted by reputed organisations in relation to legal subjects;
- II. The above factors are not the qualifications to designate the advocates as senior Advocates and they are only supporting factors to assess the ability of an Advocate to be designated as senior Advocate by the High Court. Further, the above factors are only illustrative and not exhaustive. At the time of consideration, the High Court, may also take several other factors into consideration basing on available material.

5. Establishment of Permanent Secretariat

The Hon'ble the Chief Justice would constitute a Permanent Secretariat to receive the applications from Advocates, to process them and to place them before Full court.

6. Procedure to designate the advocates as Senior Advocates

- a) At least once in a year, the High Court shall take up the process for designation of advocates as Senior Advocates. The Chief Justice may also take a decision to take up the process of designation more than once in a year if the circumstances warrant;
- b) The Advocates shall submit the applications to the permanent secretariat in the form prescribed in Annexure I of these Rules with relevant material and undertaking that his/her application has not been rejected by any High Court within a period of two years prior to the date of the proposal or application.
- c) In deserving cases, the full court may recommend an advocate to be designated as Senior Advocate, though no application is submitted by such advocate. In such a case, consent from such advocate is necessary. At the time of such consideration by Full Court, it shall not go by the requirements as contemplated in Rule No.4
- d) The permanent Secretariat shall process the applications received up to one month prior to the date fixed for the full court meeting and place the relevant material before all the Judges with the permission of the Chief Justice. In appropriate cases, the permanent Secretariat may process and place the applications received within one month after fixing the date for Full court meeting with the approval of the Chief Justice. All other applications received after fixing the date for full court meeting shall be placed before full court only in the next meeting as fixed by the Chief Justice.

- e) The application along with relevant material shall be circulated to all the Judges in advance before the Full Court meeting.
- f) In the Full Court meeting, the Judges may choose to designate the applicant by consensus or by way of secret ballot.
- g) In the event of secret ballot, the advocate who secures the majority of vote shall be designated as Senior Advocate.
- h) Every applicant, who is designated as Senior Advocate shall maintain one Junior Advocate in his office on a monthly stipend of not less than Rs.25,000/- and a declaration as prescribed by the Hon'ble the Chief Justice to that effect, shall also be filed with the application.

7. Restrictions on Senior Advocates:

An Advocate on being designated as Senior Advocate, shall not:-

- a. File Vakalatnama or memo of appearance in any Court or Tribunal. However, the Instructing Counsel or Advocate on Record shall file a memo of intimation in the concerned Court intimating the appearance of the Senior Advocate in the case so engaged.
- b. Appear before a Court or Tribunal without an instructing Advocate.
- c. Accept instructions to draw pleadings or affidavits, advise on evidence or do any drafting work of an analogous kind in any Court or Tribunal or undertake canvassing work of any kind whatsoever;

Note:- The said restrictions shall not apply for settling any such matter as aforesaid in consultation with an instructing advocate;

- d. Accept directly from a party any brief or instructions to appear in any Court or Tribunal.
- e. Appear for mentioning of any matters to the Court nor appear for getting adjournments.
- f. Shall not enter into direct professional correspondence with a litigant except for the purpose of giving opinion.

8. **Canvassing:**

An advocate who has applied for his designation as Senior Advocate shall not indulge in the acts of Canvassing in any form including meeting the Hon'ble Judges. Such an act shall result in disqualification of the application of the concerned Advocate who sought designation.

9. **Review and Recall:**

- a. There shall be a Permanent Committee consisting of three senior most Judges of the High Court after the Hon'ble Chief Justice for purpose of this rule.
- b. If is found that any Senior Advocate has-
 - i. Committed any professional misconduct; or
 - ii. Shown intemperate behavior either inside or outside the Court or
 - iii. been found invariably negligent in discharge of professional duties; or

- iv. been found by the Bar Council of India or Bar Council of Andhra Pradesh or the Bar Council of any other State to have committed professional or other misconduct; or
 - v. been convicted of an offence involving moral turpitude or for Contempt of the Court; or
 - vi. For any other reason lost the privilege to be a Senior Advocate, then, for any one or more of the foregoing reasons, the name of the Senior Advocate will be placed before the Hon'ble Chief Justice for recalling of his designation.
- (c) On being satisfied that the matter should be further considered, the Hon'ble Chief Justice shall refer the issue to the Permanent Committee. The Permanent Committee shall give an opportunity to the Senior Advocate to plead his/her case including a personal hearing and thereafter submit its recommendation.
- (d) If the Committee, in its report recommends withdrawal/recall of the designation as Senior Advocate, the Hon'ble Chief Justice shall place the report with the recommendations of the Committee at the next Full Court meeting for its consideration.
- (e) If majority of the Hon'ble Judges present at the meeting are of the view that the Senior Advocate has forfeited his/her privilege, the Full Court shall recall his/her designation as a Senior Advocate.
- (f) The Registrar General shall notify the decision to the Advocate and to the Bar Council of Andhra Pradesh and other concerned who shall delete the name from the list of Senior Advocates maintained by them in their respective Registers.

- (g) Nothing contained in these rules shall prevent an Advocate, who has been designated by the High Court of Andhra Pradesh as a Senior Advocate, from submitting a Suo Moto Application to withdraw or recall his/her designation as a Senior Advocate. In the event of such an application addressed to the Permanent Secretariat being submitted, the Permanent Secretariat shall place it before the Hon'ble Chief Justice for appropriate orders thereon.
- (h) The Registrar General shall notify withdrawal of the designation in official website of the High Court while communicating the same to the concerned.

10. **Interpretation:**

All questions relating to the interpretation of these rules shall be referred to the Hon'ble Chief Justice of the High Court whose decision thereon shall be final. The Hon'ble Chief Justice may issue directions for the removal of difficulties either in general terms or in particular instance as the exigencies may require.

11. **Reconsideration:**

If the application for the designation as Senior Advocate is not favourably considered by the Full Court, the said Advocate shall not be allowed to make fresh proposal for a period of two years from the date of such decision of the Full Court. However, after lapse of two years, the said Advocate can make a fresh application as per Rules for reconsideration.

12. Deferment and Reconsideration:

The Full Court shall have the power to defer the proposal/Application of any of the Advocate for valid reason/ reasons. All such cases which are deferred for being designated as Senior Advocate shall not be reconsidered until expiry of one year from the date of deferment. The deferred Advocate shall make a fresh Application by following the procedure prescribed in the Rules after lapse of the lock-in period of one year.

13. Type of Gown to be worn by designated Senior Advocates:

The designated Senior Advocate would wear a Gown similar to that of the Judges of the High Court.

14. Savings:

All the previous Rules in respect of the subject matter, including the Guidelines for Designating of an Advocate as Senior Advocate, made by the High Court of Andhra Pradesh with all amendments/modifications, are hereby superseded. However, this shall not, by itself, invalidate the actions taken under the superseded Rules/Guidelines and all those actions are saved under these Rules.

REGISTRAR GENERAL

FORM-I
{Rule5(B)(a)}

Personal Information

1. Name :
2. Father's/Husband's Name :
3. Address including e-mail :
address
4. Permanent Address :
5. Age/Date of Birth :
6. Educational Qualification :
7. Date of Enrolment and its particulars :
8. Name of the Bar Association of which he/she is a member :
9. Number of years of practice and in which Court/s :
10. If specialized in any branch of law :
11. Whether he/she is, or had been, in the panel of Advocates of the State or Central Government, or a public sector undertaking or a statutory body, or institution. If so details thereof :

12. Particulars of Important :
matters in which he/she
appeared and particulars of
25 (Twenty Five) citations of
reported cases (Judgments
laid down any principle of law)
13. Names and particulars of :
Advocates associated with
him in his/her
chambers/office
14. Particulars of cases in which :
he/she appeared as an
arguing counsel, on behalf of
another advocate (not being
an advocate from his
chambers/office), during the
preceding five years, and the
name and particulars of the
Advocate on whose behalf
he/she appeared
15. Particulars of articles, if any, :
published in any journal or
books, if any, authored
16. Whether associated with any :
faculty of Law (If so the
particulars thereof)
17. Particulars of Guest :
Lectures delivered in law
schools and professional
institutions
18. Particulars of the cases in :
which he/she provided free
legal aid and pro bono work.

19. Whether his/her name was :
earlier proposed for being
designated as Senior
advocate of the High Court of
Judicature at Hyderabad for the
State of Telangana and the
State of Andhra Pradesh, or
any other High Court, or of the
Supreme Court of India. If so
the decision thereon.
20. Whether involved in any :
Criminal Case, or disciplinary
proceedings before the State
Bar Council. If so, the
particulars, the result/the stage
of the proceedings
21. Whether any application for :
designation is pending with any
High Court and Supreme Court
at present
22. Income Particulars :
(enclose five years certified
Income Tax Returns)

DECLARATION

I, _____ Son/Daughter of _____
Aged --- years, Advocate, resident of ---do hereby declare that the above
stated particulars are true and correct.

Place:

Signature of Applicant

Date:

(Name of the applicant in Block letters)

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