HIGH COURT OF MANIPUR
AT IMPHAL

NOTIFICATION
Imphal the 5th December, 2025

THE HIGH COURT OF MANIPUR
(DESIGNATION OF SENIOR ADVOCATES) RULES, 2025

No. HCM/R-46/2019-Estt.(I)/ In exercise of the powers conferred by Article 227(2)(b) of the Constitution of India read with Section 34(1) and Section 16(2) of the Advocates Act, 1961, and in accordance with the guidelines laid down by the Supreme Court of India in its judgment dated 13.05.2025 in Criminal Appeal No. 865 of 2025, titled *Jitender @ Kalla* –Vs- *State (Govt. of NCT of Delhi) and Anr.*, and in supersession of all the previous notifications No. HCM/R-46/2019-Estt.(I)/13339 and No. HCM/R-46/2019-Estt.(I)/4699 dated 01/08/2022 and 21/02/2024 respectively, the High Court of Manipur is pleased to notify the Rules for Designation of an Advocate as Senior Advocate and the matters incidental thereto.

1. **Short title, extent and commencement.-**
   (i) These Rules shall be called 'The High Court of Manipur (Designation of Senior Advocates) Rules, 2025'.
   (ii) These Rules shall extend to the entire jurisdiction of the High Court of Manipur.
   (iii) These Rules shall come into force immediately.

2. **Definitions.-** In these Rules, unless the context otherwise requires,-
   (a) 'Advocate' means an Advocate who has been admitted to the rolls and continues to be on the roll of the Bar Council of Manipur constituted under the provisions of the Advocates Act, 1961;
   (b) 'Chief Justice' means the Chief Justice of the High Court of Manipur and includes a Judge appointed under the Constitution to perform the duties of Chief Justice;

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(c) 'Court' includes any authority exercising judicial powers in the State of Manipur;

(d) 'Full Court' means meeting of all the Judges of the High Court of Manipur convened by the Chief Justice to discuss administrative agenda of seminal nature;

(e) 'High Court' means the High Court of Manipur;

(f) 'Judge' means the Judge of the High Court of Manipur;

(g) 'Registrar General' means the Registrar General of the High Court of Manipur;

(h) 'Roll' means the roll of Advocates prepared and maintained under the Advocates Act, 1961;

(i) 'Secretariat' means the Permanent Secretariat established by the Chief Justice of the High Court of Manipur for the purpose of Designation of Senior Advocate under sub-rule (i) of Rule 5 of these Rules;

(j) 'State' means the State of Manipur;

(k) 'State Bar Council' means the Bar Council of Manipur and shall include the authority exercising such powers;

(l) 'Tribunal' includes any authority or person(s) legally authorized to take evidence and before whom advocates are, by or under any law for the time being in force, entitled to practice.

3. Eligibility conditions for Designation of an Advocate as Senior Advocate.-

An Advocate shall be eligible to be designated as a Senior Advocate, if he/she:

(i) has a minimum standing of 10 (ten) years as an Advocate (enrolled under the Bar Council of Manipur) of which 5 (five) years of practice should ordinarily be in any court/tribunal within the jurisdiction of the High Court of Manipur preceding the date of consideration of his/her case for designation as a Senior Advocate;

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Provided that while calculating the aforesaid standing of 10 (ten) years, the period spent by an Advocate serving as a Judicial Officer shall be taken into consideration.

(ii) has attained position of eminence at the Bar, rather has several qualities of a professional, viz., integrity, respect, confidence, dependability, honesty, communication skills and commitment to administration of justice and rule of law;

(iii) possesses ability, legal acumen, special knowledge or distinction and reputation achieved in practice of law, such as he/she is always fair while conducting cases before the Courts and his/her behaviour with the Judges and other members of the Bar is respectful;

(iv) is liable to be taxed under the Income Tax Act and in case of those who are not liable to pay tax, a statement of the extent of income shall be furnished;

Provided that the High Court of Manipur, for reasons to be recorded in writing, may grant an exemption to any individual member from the above requirement regarding income.

(v) maintains decorum while conducting cases before the Court;

(vi) always acts first as an officer of the Court and, thereafter, a mouthpiece of his/her client;

(vii) follows the highest standards of professional etiquette and ethics;

(viii) acts as a mentor to the Junior Advocates;

(ix) has participated in *pro bono* work;

(x) has not been convicted by a competent court of law and should not have been punished for an offence involving moral turpitude or contempt of court or should not have been punished by the Bar Council of Manipur or by Bar Council of India for any act of misconduct.

4. Motion of designation as Senior Advocate. –

(i) Designation of an Advocate as Senior Advocate by the High Court may be considered on the written proposal made by:

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(a) the Chief Justice of the High Court of Manipur; or

(b) any sitting Judge of the High Court of Manipur; or

(c) the Advocate General of the State of Manipur, provided he/she himself or herself is a Senior Advocate; or

(d) two existing Senior Advocates of the High Court of Manipur.

Provided that every such proposal shall be made, as far as possible, in Form No. 1 of Appendix-A appended to these Rules and shall carry the written consent of the Advocate concerned to be designated as Senior Advocate.

(ii) Along with the proposal, the Advocate concerned shall append a certificate, as far as possible in Form No. 2 of Appendix-B appended to these Rules that he/she has not applied or his/her name has not been proposed to any other High Court or Supreme Court for being designated as Senior Advocate and the same has not been rejected within a period of two years prior to the date of such application/proposal.

Explanation: Proposal for an Advocate mainly practicing before the Trial Courts/Specialized Tribunals and having gained domain expertise shall be considered irrespective of his/her limited number of appearances before the High Court. The High Court can call for the views of the District Judges or Presiding Officer of Tribunals on such applications. Moreover, at the time of consideration, views of Administrative/Portfolio Judge of concerned District can also be called for.

5. Permanent Secretariat for Designation of Senior Advocates.-

(i) A secretariat known as 'Permanent Secretariat for Designation of Senior Advocates' shall be constituted by the Chief Justice to provide secretarial assistance to all matters relating to designation of Senior Advocates by the High Court;

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(ii) The Secretariat constituted under sub-rule (i) above shall be composed of such members as may be decided by the Chief Justice as he/she deems fit;

(iii) The Secretariat shall perform such functions from time to time, as are deemed necessary, including the manner in which and the source(s) from which necessary data and information are to be collected, compiled and presented.

6. **Invitation of proposals.-** The Secretariat shall initiate the process of designation for Senior Advocate at least once every year by inviting proposals from the persons mentioned in Rule 3, for designation as Senior Advocates. The notice inviting proposals shall be published on the official website of the High Court.

7. **Procedure for designation.-**

(i) All written proposals for designation of Advocates as Senior Advocates shall be submitted to the Secretariat through the Registrar General, High Court;

(ii) On receipt of any proposal for designation of an Advocate as Senior Advocate, the Secretariat shall compile the relevant data and information with regard to the reputation, conduct, integrity of the Advocate concerned, including his/her participation in *pro bono* work; reported/unreported judgments for the last 5 (five) years in which the concerned Advocate has appeared and actually argued. In case of an Advocate who was earlier serving as a Judicial Officer, judgments rendered by him/her in the last 5 (five) years and his/her ACRs for the last 5 (five) years may also be considered;

(iii) The Secretariat will publish the proposal for designation of a particular Advocate as Senior Advocate in the official website of the High Court, inviting suggestions/views of other stakeholders in the proposed designation within such reasonable time as may be fixed by the Secretariat and extendable with the permission of the Chief Justice;

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(iv) After the information in terms of the above is compiled and all such information and suggestions/views of other stakeholders have been received, the Secretariat shall put up the case before the Full Court after due scrutiny;

(v) That it shall be the prerogative of the Full Court, to decide the number of Senior Advocates to be designated by taking into consideration standing at the Bar of an Advocate, which means position of eminence attained by an Advocate at the Bar by virtue of his/her ability, seniority, legal acumen and high ethical standards maintained by him or her, both inside and outside the Court;

(vi) While considering the proposals for Senior Advocate, the Full Court shall make an endeavour to arrive at a consensus. However, if a consensus on designation of Advocates is not arrived at, the decision making shall be by a democratic method of voting by way of secret ballot. In case of such voting, the decision shall be carried out by majority of Judges present and voting. However, in case of a tie, the Chief Justice shall have the casting or deciding vote;

(vii) On the approval of the Full Court, an Advocate shall be designated as Senior Advocate;
Explanation: The Full Court may, in deserving cases, confer designation *suo motu*, upon an Advocate fulfilling the eligibility criteria, after obtaining consent of the said Advocate.

(viii) Upon an Advocate being designated as Senior Advocate, the Registrar General shall communicate the same to the Supreme Court of India and all the High Courts and Bar Council of India, the State Bar Councils and Bar Associations of the State. The Registrar General shall notify the same on the official website of the High Court and also cause the same to be published in the Official Gazette of the State;

(ix) The cases that have not been favourably considered by the Full Court may be reviewed/reconsidered after expiry of a period of two

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years following, in the manner indicated above, as if the proposal is being considered afresh;

8. Restrictions on the designated Senior Advocate.-An Advocate, on being designated as Senior Advocate, shall be subject to such restrictions as the High Court of Manipur, the Bar Council of India, or the Bar Council of Manipur may prescribe.

9. Canvassing. – Canvassing in any manner by a nominee for designation as Senior Advocate shall disqualify him/her from being designated.

10. Review and recall.– In the event of a Senior Advocate being found guilty of any such conduct which, according to the Full Court, disentitles him/her to be worthy of designation as Senior Advocate, the Full Court may review and recall its decision to designate the concerned person as Senior Advocate after such notice as may be directed by the Chief Justice.

11. Cancellation of designation. – The designation of Senior Advocate shall be liable to be cancelled after due notice in the event of it being found that his/her name has been removed from the roll of Advocates maintained by the Bar Council of Manipur under Section 35(3)(d) of the Advocates Act, 1961.

12. Notification of recall.– In the event of recalling of designation of an Advocate as a Senior Advocate, a notification to that effect shall be issued and published in such manner as may be directed by the Chief Justice.

13. Interpretation.- All questions relating to the interpretation of these rules shall be referred to the Chief Justice, whose decision thereon shall be final.

14. Repeal and Saving.-All the previous Rules in respect of the subject matter covered by these Rules, are hereby repealed. However, this repeal shall not, *ipso facto*, invalidate actions taken under the repealed Rules/Guidelines.

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APPENDIX-A

FORM NO.1

[Rule 4(i)]

FORM OF PROPOSAL FOR DESIGNATION AS SENIOR ADVOCATE

It is proposed that the Advocate whose particulars are given below may be designated as Senior Advocate by the High Court of Manipur.

			Paste Recent Passport size colour photograph	
1.	Name of the Advocate:			
2.	Date of Birth:			
3.	Address in full:	Office		
		Residence		
4.	Contact Details:		Mobile	
			Landline	
			Email	
5.	Educational Qualification:			
6.	Advocate Enrolment Details:		Bar Council, where registered	
			Date of enrolment	
			Enrolment Number	
			Number of years of practice from date of enrolment	
7.	Income Tax Details:		Whether Advocate under proposal is an income tax assessee in respect of professional income?	

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		If so, details of income assessed for the last three financial years.		
		Permanent Income Tax A/c Number		
8.	Number of reported judgments (excluding order that do not lay down any principle of law) in the last five years in cases in which the proposed advocate has appeared as- a) lead arguing counsel; and b) assisting counsel	Number of Judgments as		
		Lead Arguing Counsel		
		Assisting Counsel		
9.	Number of unreported judgments (excluding order that do not lay down any principle of law) in the last five years in cases in which the proposed advocate has appeared as- a) lead arguing counsel; and b) assisting counsel	Lead Arguing Counsel		
		Assisting Counsel		
10.	*Pro bono/amicus curiae* cases/work handled during last five years:			
11.	Articles/books published, experience of teaching assignments in the field of law, guest lectures delivered in law schools or professional institutions connected with law:	Academic articles/ books published		
		Teaching Assignment(s)		
		Guest lectures delivered in law schools or professional institutions connected with law		
12.	Courts where the proposed advocate is practising (indicate Court-wise period):	Supreme Court of India/High Court(s)/ District/Lower Court(s)/Tribunal(s) etc.	Duration	
			From	To

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13.	Tribunal(s) where the proposed advocate has specialized practised (Applicable to those practising before Tribunals):	Tribunal(s)	Duration	
			From	To
14.	Nature of practice- e.g., Civil, Criminal, Constitutional, Taxation, Labour, Company, Service, etc.:			
15.	Field of domain expertise in law such as Constitutional law, Inter-State Water Disputes, Criminal Law, Arbitration Law, Corporate Law, Family Law, Human Rights Law, Public Interest Litigation, International Law, Law relating to Women, etc., in which the proposed advocate has specialization/expertise:			
16.	Whether the name of proposed advocate was proposed earlier to the High Court of Manipur for designation of Senior Advocate; if so, current status of the proposal:			
17.	Whether any FIR has ever been filed against the proposed advocate; if so, current status of the FIR/case:			
18.	Whether the proposed advocate is a party to any civil, criminal or other litigation; if so, the nature of involvement:			

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19.	(i)	Has the proposed advocate at any point of time been:		
		(a)	arrested?	
		(b)	prosecuted?	
		(c)	kept under detention?	
		(d)	bound down?	
		(e)	fined by a court of law?	
		(f)	convicted by a court of law for any offence?	
		(g)	debarred from any examination or rusticated by any authority/ institution/ council?	
		(h)	debarred/disqualified by any public commission/ authority?	
	(ii)	Is any case pending against the proposed advocate in any court of law at the time of submitting the proposal?		
	(iii)	If the answer to any of the above-mentioned questions is 'Yes", give full particulars of the case/arrest/detention/fine/conviction/sentence/punishment, etc., and/or the nature of the case pending in the Court/Authority or Institution, etc., at the time of submitting this proposal:		
20.	Whether any proceedings were initiated or are pending against the proposed advocate before Bar Council of India or State Bar Council(s)? If so, particulars thereof:			

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21.	General state of health of the proposed advocate:	
22.	Any other relevant information:	

PROPOSAL

I_____, Chief Justice/ Judge /Advocate General/Senior Advocate, High Court of Manipur, proposed that the Advocate whose particulars are given above may be designated as Senior Advocate by the High Court of Manipur.

Date: SIGNATURE OF PROPOSER

CONSENT

I_____ Advocate hereby give my consent for being designated as Senior Advocate by the High Court of Manipur.

I hereby verify that the information furnished above is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief and nothing material is concealed or suppressed therefrom. I understand that furnishing of false information or suppression of any factual information would render me unfit for being designated as Senior Advocate.

Date: SIGNATURE OF ADVOCATE

Note: *General instructions to be followed while filing up Appendix-A and Appendix-A1 are attached herewith.*

APPENDIX-A1

PRESCRIBED FORMATS

LEAD ARGUING COUNSEL

[List of Reported Judgments (excluding orders not laying down any principle of law) in the last five years]

Sl.No	Court(s)	Citation/Case Number	Cause Title and	Decided on	Legal formulation

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			Subject Matter		advanced by the proposed advocate

ASSISTING COUNSEL

[List of Reported Judgments (excluding orders not laying down any principle of law) in the last five years]

Sl.No	Court(s)	Citation/Case Number	Cause Title and Subject Matter	Decided on	Legal formulation advanced by the proposed advocate

LEAD ARGUING COUNSEL

[List of unreported Judgments (excluding orders not laying down any principle of law) in the last five years]

Sl.No	Court(s)	Citation/Case Number	Cause Title and Subject Matter	Decided on	Legal formulation advanced by the proposed advocate

ASSISTING COUNSEL

[List of unreported Judgments (excluding orders not laying down any principle of law) in the last five years]

Sl.No	Court(s)	Citation/Case Number	Cause Title and Subject Matter	Decided on	Legal formulation advanced by the proposed advocate

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List of matters in which the proposed advocate have appeared as *Pro-Bono/Amicus Curiae* in the last five years

Sl.No	Court(s)	Citation/Case Number	Cause Title	Decided on	Reportable/Unreportable

Details of academic articles/books published, experience of teaching assignments in the field of law, guest lectures delivered in law schools or professional institutions connected with law.

Sl.No	Topic of published academic articles/ Books/Lecture/Courses	Experience details of teaching assignment and guest lectures delivered in law schools or professional institutions connected with law	Names of law schools or professional institutions connected with law	Any other relevant details

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS TO BE FOLLOWED WHILE FILING UP APPENDIX A/A1 TO THE HIGH COURT OF MANIPUR (DESIGNATION OF SENIOR ADVOCATES) RULES, 2025	
1.	Every proposal and additional information in the prescribed formats marked as Appendix-A and Appendix-A1 respectively shall be made in English, typed/printed with font size (Arial-14) in 1.5 line spacing on white paper (A4 size) with an inner margin of about four centimetres width on top and the left side.
2.	Documents accompanying the proposal should be numbered consecutively in an Index.

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3.	All documents annexed to the proposal should be accompanied by an Index containing the details thereof. (*The Permanent Secretariat, at any stage, may ask for the supportive documents for verification in the light of the facts mentioned in the proposal*)
4.	Name of the proposed advocate should tally with his/her name as mentioned in the enrolment certificate. Abbreviated name shall NOT be accepted.
5.	The proposal should be presented in the shape of a paper book, duly tagged & indexed and not in spiral binding and the like.
6.	(i) All photocopies of the accolades/testimonials should be legible and true copies of their respective originals. (ii) English translation of regional documents, if any, should be annexed thereto.
7.	5 (five) sets of the proposal in the form of paper book, identical in all respects, should be filed.
8.	Passport size colour photograph (original) should be pasted on each copy of the proposal. One additional recent passport size colour photograph (mentioning the name of the proposed advocate on its back side) should be provided in a separate envelope.
9.	The soft copy of the proposal along with Appendix-A/Appendix-A1 should be submitted through e-mail: rg.mnphc@indiancourts.nic.in/registrar.hcmimphal@gov.in , in addition to the hard copy thereof.
10.	Information relating to reported judgments, unreported judgments, *pro bono/amicus curiae*, articles/books/teaching assignments/guest lectures, may be provided in the prescribed formats, which are parts of Appendix-A/Appendix-A1.

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APPENDIX-B

FORM NO. 2

[Rule 4 (ii) Along with the proposal, the Advocate concerned shall append his/her certificate that he/she has not applied to any other High Court or Supreme Court for being designated as Senior Advocate and that his/her proposal/application has not been rejected by such Court within a period of two years prior to the date of the proposal.

FORM FOR INFORMATION PERTAINING TO PREVIOUS APPLICATION FOR DESIGNATION OF SENIOR ADVOCATE (IF ANY)

Advocate concerned may furnish relevant information pertaining to previous application for designation of senior advocate. (if any)

1. Whether any previous application for designation of senior Advocate have been made or not?

   Yes ☐ No ☐

2. If yes, specify the Court?

   ☐

3. Whether such application was rejected or deferred/not yet considered?

   Rejected ☐ Deferred/not yet considered ☐

4. In which year, such application was rejected?

   ☐

5. In case of rejection or deferment of the application, appropriate documents may be enclosed (if possible).

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By Order.,

Sd/-

(OJESH MUTUM)
REGISTRAR GENERAL
HIGH COURT OF MANIPUR

Memo. No. HCM/R-46/2019-Estt.(I)/25695-708 Imphal, 5th December, 2025

Copy to :-

1. The Principal Secretary to Hon'ble The Chief Justice, High Court of Manipur.
2. P.S. to Hon'ble Mr. Justice A. Bimol Singh, Judge, High Court of Manipur.
3. P.S. to Hon'ble Mr. Justice A. Guneshwar Sharma, Judge, High Court of Manipur.
4. The Advocate General, Manipur.
5. The Principal Secretary (Law), Govt. of Manipur.
6. The Secretary (Judicial), Govt. of Manipur.
7. The Government Advocate, Govt. of Manipur.
8. The Deputy Solicitor General of India.
9. The Chairman, Bar Council of Manipur.
10. The President, High Court Bar Association, Manipur.
11. The President, All Manipur Bar Association.
12. The Director, Directorate of Printing and Stationery, Govt. of Manipur Government with a request to publish the notification in the next issue of the government Gazette.
13. The Systems Analyst, High Court of Manipur for uploading the same on the official website.
14. Office file.

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REGISTRAR GENERAL
HIGH COURT OF MANIPUR