

Board of Revenue for Rajasthan

Advocate Shri Bhawani Singh Shaktawat – An Obituary Dated January 12, 2018

**V.Srinivas, IAS,
Chairman Board of Revenue for Rajasthan**

I vividly remember that day in 2017, when Shri Bhawani Singh ji Shaktawat welcomed me as the 47th Chairman of the Board of Revenue in a felicitation function organized by the Rajasthan Revenue Bar Association. This towering personality, a legal luminary, a founding pillar of the Board of Revenue warmly welcomed me - a young colleague. into the complex world of Revenue Courts. I had grown up reading case laws in which he had argued in the Board of Revenue for nearly 50 years. Shri Bhawani Singh ji Shaktawat has helped enhance the stature and reputation of the Board of Revenue with his seriousness of purpose and relentless commitment to improved justice delivery systems to thousands of litigants. The Board of Revenue is so much poorer in his absence.

In 2017, Shri Bhavani Singh ji appeared in my Double Bench and Larger Bench and argued in over 100 cases. He guided me to pursue radical reforms for bringing transformational changes in the Revenue Administration of Rajasthan. I always saw him as a role model for the Rajasthan Revenue Bar Association and the Board of Revenue and cited him as an example worthy of emulation in my interactions with District Bard Associations. Discipline, honesty, cordiality, punctuality and knowledge were his hall-marks. He was always on time, in the Court room by 1045 am, always fully prepared for arguments, never sought adjournments, intellectually honest, unbiased, fair and argued cogently & coherently and based on adequate legal references. The few occasions when he had to appear before another bench, I felt his absence. He was a towering presence in the Court room. His knowledge of Revenue laws, Ceiling laws, Jagir laws and Tenancy laws dated back to the inception years and he could narrate a number of amendments and citations from memory. A few days ago, he had argued a case regarding Jagir lands of Karuali district that dated back to 1961 when he had joined the Revenue Bar as a young advocate.

Shri Bhavani Singh ji Shaktawat represents the highest meritocracy in the Rajasthan Revenue Bar Association. He has trained a number of Advocates in his chamber and his memory lives-on through his younger colleagues. His sudden demise has deeply saddened me and I am in a state shock and anguish. I hear his resounding voice in this very court room where he won so many legal battles. His memory will live for long and the legendary figure that he has emerged will continue to inspire us.

On this deeply sad occasion, I pray his soul rests in peace. I pray that the almighty gives strength to his family to cope with this enormous tragedy.

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