

SC Bar takes up judges' kin practice case

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A day after *The Pioneer* reported the flourishing practice by the relatives of some Gujarat High Court judges, the Supreme Court Bar Association on Thursday took a serious note of the issue.

Members of the Bar moved a unanimous plea that the advocates must adhere to the moral code of conduct by desisting from appearing before their relative judges.

They also favoured that if judges are transferred on this account, a proper inquiry must be conducted prior to their shifting.

This was in apparent reference to the transfer of Justices BJ Shethna and PB Majmudar over the reported verbal duel, which, according to the former was triggered by his indictment of Majmudar's son for appearing in his father's court last year.

The forum for discussion was arranged by the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) which organised a discussion on the issue, titled "Mr Justice BJ Shethna Vs Mr Justice PB Majumdar" (Fight between two Judges - Who is guilty?).

Former Supreme Court judge Justice K Ramamurthi also took part in the discussions airing his resentment over the advocates breaching the code of conduct by practicing before their kin who are judges. Besides him, senior advocates Jagdeep Dhankar, Vijay Hansaria and Justice (Retd) Megh Raj Calla along with advocates A Subba Rao and Krishan Mahajan participated in the discussions.

Speaking to *The Pioneer*, SCBA president MN Krishnamani said, "We have taken cognisance of the news report published in *The Pioneer* and have proposed to pass a resolution on the issue."

On transfer of judges without any inquiry, many lawyers felt that such a practice must be condemned since in the present case, the fight seemed to have originated from a dispute between the two judges.

On Thursday, *The Pioneer* gave an exhaustive list of sons, daughters, brothers and fathers of serving HC judges who are getting cases disproportionate to the standards achieved by the top-billing lawyers in the Gujarat.