

**COMMITTEE ON JUDICIAL ACCOUNTABILITY**

**66 Lawyers Chambers  
Supreme Court of India, New Delhi**

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To,  
Justice Y.K. Sabharwal  
Chief Justice of India  
Supreme Court of India  
New Delhi

12/7/06

**Subject: Information regarding improper and illegal acquisition of property by Justice Jagdish Bhalla, Presiding judge of the High Court at Lucknow, and his close relatives**

Dear Chief Justice,

We are in receipt of information and documents which suggest that Justice Jagdish Bhalla, the senior judge of the Lucknow bench of the Allahabad High Court and his close relatives have acquired large amounts of immovable property in Lucknow and Noida by questionable means. The information and documents available with us show the following:

That in 2003 Mrs. Renu Bhalla, the wife of Justice Bhalla, has purchased a plot of 7,200 sq Metres near the Noida/Greater Noida expressway from persons who are described by the ADM as the land Mafia who had purportedly illegally acquired these properties which were owned by the government/Gaon Sabhas. This plot is said by the ADM to have been worth 7.2 Crores and has been purchased by Mrs. Bhalla from the land Mafia for a consideration of merely 5 lacs!. The officials say that the land Mafia persons who illegally grabbed this land and against whom various criminal cases are pending sold part of this land to Mrs. Bhalla and other influential persons to use their influence to escape the consequences of their illegal acts. Copies of the letters of the ADM to the DM Noida dated 21/6/05 and the letter of the Upper Ziladhikary to the DM Noida, dated 30/9/05 which explain the above facts are enclosed with this letter.

It is inconceivable that Mrs. Bhalla could have entered into such a transaction innocently and without the knowledge of Justice Bhalla. The facts enumerated in the enclosed letters are very serious and they need an urgent investigation by investigators who are under the control of the Supreme Court. If the facts as mentioned are borne out, they cast very

serious aspersions on the integrity of Justice Bhalla, and would also amount to serious offences for which appropriate action would need to be taken.

We have also been given details of a large number of allotment of plots in Lucknow to Justice Bhalla and his close relatives, in very unusual circumstances, by canceling the allotment to other persons and by changing the plot sizes contrary to rules. Some of these cases were the subject matter of proceedings before the Lok Ayukta. A note mentioning the details of such allotments which has come to us, along with some supporting documents are also annexed. The allotment of such a large number of plots to Justice Bhalla's close relatives in such an unusual manner also gives rise to a strong suspicion that his influence has been used for such allotments. This is also a matter which needs to be investigated, particularly since we understand that Justice Bhalla is also being considered for appointment as Chief Justice in some High Court.

Some of our senior members would be happy to meet you in person to discuss this serious matter and what needs to be done about this. We are also sending copies of this letter to other members of the collegium for their information as well.

Sincerely,

SIGNED BY: SHANTI BHUSHAN  
RAN JETHMALANI  
ANIL B DIVAN  
PRAKASH BHUSHAN  
KAMINI JAISWAL  
ARVIND NIGAM  
ARDEV SINGH