

To
The Secretary,
Committee of the Hon'ble Judges during Covid -19 assessment,
Supreme Court of India

Date: 13.08.2020

Sir,

Sub: Request to continue Hearings through Video Conferencing and defer the physical appearances

We take this opportunity to request you to kindly apprise Hon'ble Committee of our view on the Court hearings. We differ with the view expressed by SCBA and SCAORA on resumption of physical hearing of matters pending before Hon'ble Court, on the following grounds:

The number of persons getting infected with the Virus has increased to about 67,000 per day as on 12th August, 2020 with Delhi showing an increase by about 1100 persons. The number of infected persons is expected to increase every day and may reach 1,00,000 in next 10 days. This increases the risk of transmission of infection to Court Rooms by the time physical hearing is resumed. This will expose Hon'ble Judges, Court room staff and lawyers arguing matters to increased risk of contracting the infection. Further, Union of India has not relaxed social distancing norms for the reason of preventing community spread.

World Health Organization has also come out with warning that the Virus remains in air which is likely to infect more persons. Previously Medical Experts had opined against the resumption of physical hearing.

The infection has the potential of casting psychological, social and economic costs on the infected person in terms of depression, getting ostracized and financial over runs of treatment with additional fear of death looming large on the infected person.

We, the undersigned lawyers hereby place on record, our dissent to such a suggestion on the grounds taken above.

A letter communicating this dissent was sent to the President of the Supreme Court Bar Association as well as the Supreme Court Advocate on Record Association. A copy of the said letter dated 12.8.2030 is attached to this letter.

In sum and substance, we would request for continuation of video conferencing facility for some more time. It is our request that any decision to resume physical hearing must be taken after seeking the opinion of Medical Experts.

In our most humble view, the video conferencing is the only viable method for effecting efficient safe functioning of the Court until there is cure or vaccine against COVID-19. It is very clear that higher number of cases can be decided through video conferencing mode under the present circumstances. The Advocates and the undersigned Advocates-On-Record are undertaking to work extra hours than Court hours if the hearings are restricted to video Conferencing.

Respectfully,

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20. Gargi Khanna AOR CODE 2375	68. Ankur Kashyap , Code: 2768
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46. Konark Tyagi AOR Code 2527	94. Chiranjeev Chauhan Adv Enrol. 3590/C607
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98 .Kamlendra Mishra AOR 1367/2001	143. Dhananjai Jain AOR
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100. Athira G. Nair k/717/2014	145. Mohammed Sadique T. A. AOR code 2225
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103 Prashant Padmanabhan AOR 1821	147. Nishchal Kr Neeraj AOR Code 1927
104. Bobby Augustine SCBA No. 113/B/439	148. Siddarth R Murarka AOR Code 2151
105. Pinky Behera AOR Code 2108	149. Shekhar Kumar AOR Code 1549
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131. Nidhi Jaswal - D/999/2013	175. Anurag Singh – SCBA Member
132. Akhil Hasija- D/2970/2017	176. Saurabh Kumar – SCBA Member
133. Srishti Mishra- D/3829/2018	177. Chandan Ramamurti AOR code 146
134. Pronoy Chatterjee- D/2261/2018	178. Rishi K S Gautam- AOR code 2835
135. Aditi Tuteja- D/3794/2017	179. Anuj Prakash – SCBA Member-P/00478
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192. Dr. VK Tewari AOR C 1866
193. Avinash Sharma AOR C 2092
194. Samir Malik AOR Code 2534
195. Pankaj k Singh S- 680
196. V R Anumolu AOR Code 1358
197. Shantanu Sagar AOR C 2058
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200. Naghma Imtiaz A- 120
201. Shipra Mathur AOR Code 1611
202. Ahanthem Henry A- 503
- 203 Utkarsh Sharma AoR Code 2620
- 204 Aditi P. Deshpande D – 144
- 205 Joginder Tuli UP/7200/2007
- 206 Joshini Tuli E no. D/3712/2015
207. Ajit Pravin Wagh AOR C 2799
208. Kamakshi S Mehlwal AOR C 1263
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210. Archana Pathak Dave AOR Code 2049
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