

SUPREME COURT OF INDIA

The Collegium of the Supreme Court has recommended the names of the following two Advocates for appointment as Judges of the Madras High Court:

1. Shri N Senthilkumar, and
2. Shri G Arul Murugan.

The recommendation for appointment of the two Advocates as Judges of the Madras High Court was made by the Collegium of the Madras High Court on 3 August 2022.

The Chief Minister and the Governor of Tamil Nadu concurred in the recommendation for the elevation of the two candidates.

On 17 January 2023, the Supreme Court Collegium considered the proposal pertaining to the above candidates. Having taken note of the observations of the Department of Justice in the file, the Collegium decided to seek specific material, if any, from the government. Pending receipt of the response, consideration of the above proposal was deferred. The file was received back at the Supreme Court with the remark that government does not have any additional inputs in addition to the earlier inputs.

The Supreme Court Collegium considered the above recommendation on 9 May 2023 and deferred its decision in order to seek the report of two members of the Collegium of the High Court (as a recommendation for transfer of the then Acting Chief Justice was under process) on the suitability of the two candidates in view of the issues flagged by the government in the file.

Since in the meantime Justice Sanjay V Gangapurwala assumed charge as Chief Justice of the Madras High Court, he was requested to send the views of the newly formed High Court Collegium on the suitability of the two candidates.

By a communication dated 27 June 2023, the Chief Justice of the Madras High Court has forwarded the Minutes of the High Court Collegium in regard to the suitability of the two candidates.

In terms of the Memorandum of Procedure, the Judges of the Supreme Court conversant with the affairs of the Madras High Court were consulted to ascertain the fitness and suitability of the two candidates.

For the purpose of assessing the merit and suitability of the above-named candidates for elevation to the High Court, we have scrutinized and evaluated the material which has been placed on record. We have perused the observations made by the Department of Justice in the file.

1. Shri N Senthilkumar, Advocate

We have considered the inputs provided by the Government in the file in conjunction with the report of the present Collegium of the High

Court and the opinion of the consultee-Judges in the Supreme Court who have opined that the candidate is suitable for elevation. The candidate has a standing of over twenty eight years at the Bar. He has experience of appearing before the Sessions Court and the Madras High Court. He has been practising in constitutional, criminal, service and civil cases. His field of specialisation is criminal and constitutional law. He has been on the panel of government in various positions on different occasions. He is fifty-two years of age and has a good practice which is reflected in his average professional income and the thirty reported judgments in cases in which he has appeared. The candidate belongs to a Scheduled Caste. His appointment as a judge of the High Court will enhance the representation on the Bench to marginalised communities. Having regard to the above factors, the Collegium is of the considered opinion that Shri N Senthilkumar is suitable for elevation to the Madras High Court.

2. Shri G Arul Murugan, Advocate

We have considered the inputs provided by the government in the file in conjunction with the report of the present Collegium of the High Court and the opinion of the consultee-Judges who have concurrently found that the candidate is suitable for appointment as a judge of the High Court. The candidate has experience of over twenty four years at the Bar. He has appeared before the Madras High Court and various Tribunals. He has specialised in civil, criminal and writ cases. He has a good practice at the Bar and has appeared in cases resulting in seventy

five reported judgments. The candidate belongs to the OBC category. His appointment as a judge will facilitate greater representation to the OBCs in appointment to the higher judiciary. Having regard to the above aspects, the Collegium is of the considered opinion that Shri G Arul Murugan is suitable for the elevation to the Madras High Court.

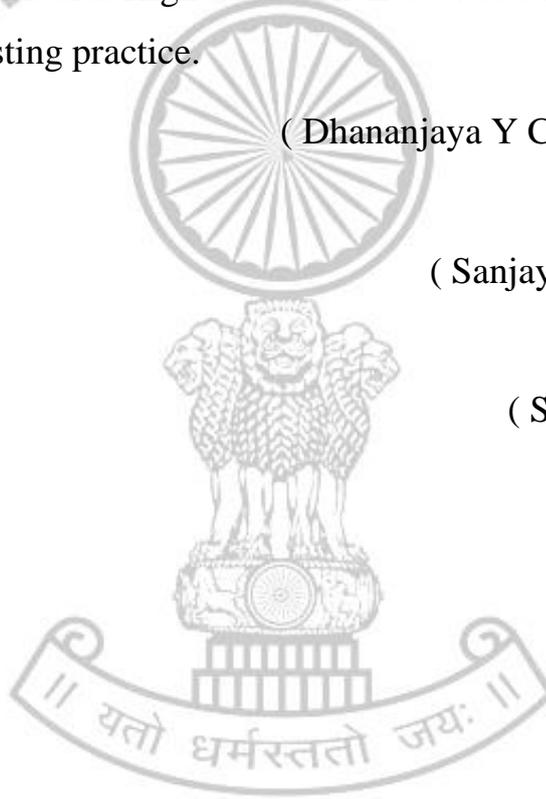
In view of the above, the Collegium resolves to recommend that (i) Shri N Senthilkumar and (ii) Shri G Arul Murugan, Advocates, be appointed as Judges of the Madras High Court. Their *inter se* seniority be fixed in terms of the existing practice.

(Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud), CJI

(Sanjay Kishan Kaul), J

(Sanjiv Khanna), J

18 July 2023.



SUPREME COURT OF INDIA

The Collegium of the Supreme Court recommended the name of Shri Kurubarahalli Venkataramareddy Aravind, Advocate, for appointment as a Judge of the High Court of Karnataka in the following terms:

The recommendation for the elevation of Shri Kurubarahalli Venkataramareddy Aravind was made by the Collegium of the High Court of Karnataka on 16 August 2022.

The Chief Minister and the Governor of Karnataka concurred in the recommendation for elevation of Shri K V Aravind.

On 17 January 2023, the Supreme Court Collegium deferred its decision.

In terms of the Memorandum of Procedure, the Judges of the Supreme Court conversant with the affairs of the Karnataka High Court were consulted to ascertain the fitness and suitability of Shri K V Aravind for elevation to the High Court.

For the purpose of assessing the merit and suitability of the above-named candidate for elevation to the High Court, we have scrutinized and evaluated the material placed on record. We have considered the observations of the Department of Justice in the file.

The inputs in the file indicate that nothing adverse to the integrity or character of Shri K V Aravind has been noticed.

We have considered the opinion of the consultee-Judges.

The candidate has a standing of nearly twenty-three years at the Bar. He has appeared before the High Court as Standing Counsel for various departments of the State government. He has appeared in cases resulting in 567 reported judgments. This, coupled with his average professional income is an indicator of his experience. There is a considerable amount of tax litigation before the Karnataka High Court. There is a need for specialized judges having domain experience in this branch of law. Tax law is integrally connected with various other branches of law including commercial, corporate and personal law.

Keeping in view the above aspects and on considering the proposal for his elevation, the Collegium is of the considered opinion that Shri Kurubarahalli Venkataramareddy Aravind is fit and suitable for appointment as a Judge of the High Court of Karnataka.

In view of the above, the Collegium resolves to recommend that Shri Kurubarahalli Venkataramareddy Aravind be appointed as a Judge of the High Court of Karnataka.

(Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud), CJI

(Sanjay Kishan Kaul), J

(Sanjiv Khanna), J

18 July 2023

SUPREME COURT OF INDIA

The Collegium of the Supreme Court recommended the name of Smt Manjusha Ajay Deshpande, Advocate, for appointment as a Judge of the High Court of Bombay in the following terms:

The Collegium of the High Court presided over by the then Chief Justice of the High Court made the recommendation for the elevation of Smt Manjusha Ajay Deshpande on 26 September 2022.

The Chief Ministers and the Governors of the States of Maharashtra and Goa have concurred in the recommendation.

On 2 May 2023, the Supreme Court Collegium deferred its decision on the recommendation and decided to seek a report of the Acting Chief Justice of the High Court of Bombay in view of the issues which were flagged by the Government in the file.

In terms of the Memorandum of Procedure, Judges of the Supreme Court conversant with the affairs of the High Court of Bombay were consulted to ascertain the fitness and suitability of the candidate proposed for elevation to the High Court.

We have scrutinized and evaluated the material which has been placed on record for the purpose of assessing the merit and suitability of Smt Manjusha Ajay Deshpande for elevation to the High Court. We have perused the observations of the Department of Justice in the file.

By a communication dated 10 May 2023 the Acting Chief Justice submitted a report. The report indicates that before doing so, the Acting

Chief Justice has discussed the matter with his colleagues at the Aurangabad Bench of the High Court.

We have considered the inputs provided by the Government in the file. These inputs have been evaluated by us in conjunction with the report of the then Acting Chief Justice of the High Court of Bombay (who has since assumed office as Chief Justice of the Madras High Court). Three consultee-judges of the Supreme Court have opined that Smt. Manjusha Ajay Deshpande is suitable for elevation. The Collegium of the High Court is well-positioned to ascertain her professional competence. Their assessment is affirmed by the consultee judges of the Supreme Court who have served in that High Court and are conversant with the performance of the Bar.

In our assessment, the candidate is a competent lawyer. She has been in practice, since 1991, for over thirty two years. The candidate is well versed in several branches of law particularly in constitutional and service matters. She has been on the panel of the government since 2013. The elevation of the candidate would add to the representation of women on the Bench of the High Court of Bombay particularly amongst women lawyers practicing before the Bench at Aurangabad. Keeping in view the above aspects and on considering the proposal for her elevation, the Collegium is of the considered opinion that Smt. Manjusha Ajay Deshpande is fit and suitable for appointment as a Judge of the High Court of Bombay.

In view of the above, the Collegium resolves to recommend that Smt. Manjusha Ajay Deshpande be appointed as a Judge of the High Court of Bombay.

(Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud), CJI

(Sanjay Kishan Kaul), J

(Sanjiv Khanna), J

18 July 2023

