

Conduct of Judicial Officers

Recently in **Civil Appeal No. 5790 of 2012**, arising out of **SLP(C) No. 1884 of 2007, decided on 8.8.2012**, titled as **R.C. Chandel vs. High Court of M.P.**, the Hon'ble Supreme Court has held that the standard of conduct expected of a Judge is much higher than an ordinary man. It was held as under:

SUPREME COURT OF INDIA

Coram

Hon'ble Mr. Justice R.M. LODHA &
Hon'ble Mr. Justice ANIL R. DAVE,

Per R.M. Lodha, J.

“37. Judicial service is not an ordinary government service and the Judges are not employees as such. Judges hold the public office; their function is one of the essential functions of the State. In discharge of their functions and duties, the Judges represent the State. The office that a Judge holds is an office of public trust. A Judge must be a person of impeccable integrity and unimpeachable independence. He must be honest to the core with high moral values. When a litigant enters the courtroom, he must feel secured that the Judge before whom his matter has come, would deliver justice impartially and uninfluenced by any consideration. The standard of conduct expected of a Judge is much higher than an ordinary man. This is no excuse that since the standards in the society have fallen, the Judges who are drawn from the society cannot be expected to have high standards and ethical firmness required of a Judge. A Judge, like Caesar's wife, must be above suspicion. The credibility of the judicial system is dependent upon the Judges who man it. For a democracy to thrive and rule of law to survive, justice system and the judicial process have to be strong and every Judge must discharge his judicial functions with integrity, impartiality and intellectual honesty.”