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* **IN THE HIGH COURT OF DELHI AT NEW DELHI**

+ **W.P.(C) 9138/2025, CM APPL. 38810/2025**

KAPIL GUPTA

.....Petitioner

Through: Mr. Aditya Laroiya, Mr. Payal Gupta,
Mr. Kustubh Singh and Mr. Rony
John, Advocates.

versus

GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI

.....Respondent

Through: Mr. Sameer Vashisht, Standing
Counsel for GNCTD.

CORAM:

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SACHIN DATTA

ORDER

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07.07.2025

CM APPL. 38811/2025 (Exemption)

1. Allowed, subject to all just exceptions.
2. The application stands disposed of.

W.P.(C) 9138/2025

1. The present petition has been filed by the petitioner seeking the following prayer:

“a. Issue an appropriate writ, order or direction directing the Respondent to extend the last date for submission of applications pursuant to Notice/Circular dated 23.05.2025 and 19.06.2025 for empanelment as Counsel for Govt. of NCT of Delhi.”

2. The present petition has been filed in the backdrop of a notice dated 23.05.2025, issued by the Department of Law, Justice and Legislative Affairs, Government of NCT of Delhi inviting applications for ‘Empanelment as Government Counsel in Delhi High Court (Civil), District Courts, NGT and AT VAT/GSTAT & High Court of Delhi (for tax related matters) for GNCT of Delhi’. The last day for desirous and eligible



candidates to apply for the said empanelment was 10.06.2025 at 6:00 pm. Subsequently, by way of a further notice dated 19.06.2025, the deadline was extended till 27.06.2025. The notice dated 19.06.2025 reads as under:

**GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL CAPITAL TERRITORY OF DELHI
DEPARTMENT OF LAW, JUSTICE & LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS
8TH LEVEL, C-WING, DELHI SECRETARIAT, NEW DELHI**

PH: 011-23392023, email: slaw@nic.in

No. F.5(765)/LJ&LA/Lit/2025/ 6015

Dated:- 19/06/2025

NOTICE

SUB: EMPANELMENT AS GOVERNMENT COUNSEL IN DELHI HIGH COURT (CIVIL), DISTRICT COURTS, NGT AND AT/VAT /GSTAT & HIGH COURT OF DELHI (FOR TAX RELATED MATTERS) FOR GNCT OF DELHI.

In continuation of the earlier Notice dated 23.05.2025, published in newspapers on 26.05.2025, it is hereby informed that the online portal for empanelment as government counsels is opened afresh, to enable fresh registration and submission of applications by only those eligible advocates, who could not apply earlier.

Department of Law, Justice and Legislative Affairs, Govt. of NCT of Delhi proposes to empanel advocates as Standing Counsel (Civil)-High Court of Delhi, Additional Standing Counsel (Civil)-High Court of Delhi, Standing Counsel (NGT), Panel Counsel (Civil)-High Court of Delhi, Panel Counsel (NGT), Panel Counsel (District courts) and Panel Counsel (VAT/GST) in AT/VAT /GSTAT & High Court of Delhi (for tax related matters) for Government of NCT of Delhi. Eligible and desirous advocates having required qualification and experience may apply through online portal <https://gnctdlaw.delhi.gov.in/>

Qualification & Experience:

Sl. No.	Empanelment as	Professional Experience	Educational Qualification	Desirable Skills/Qualifications
1	Standing Counsel (Civil)-High Court of Delhi	Not less than 7 years in Hon'ble Supreme Court/High Court.	Bachelor degree in Law from a recognized university and registration with Bar Council of Delhi (BCD).	Having good communication skills and knowledge of legal practice acquired over a considerable period as mentioned above and should be able to present standards of excellence. It is desirable, without being exhaustive, that the advocacy practice will demonstrate experience in arguing on appeal, a position of leadership in a specialist area of the law and experience in conducting major cases.
2	Additional Standing Counsel (Civil)-High Court of Delhi			
3	Standing Counsel (NGT)	Not less than 7 years in Hon'ble Supreme Court/High Court/NGT.		
4	Panel Counsel (Civil)-High Court of Delhi	Not less than 4 years in the High Court.		
5	Panel Counsel (NGT)	Not less than 4 years in the High Court/NGT		
6	Panel Counsel (District courts)	Not less than 4 years in the High Court/District Courts		
7	Panel Counsel (VAT/GST)	Not less than 4 years in the High Court/AT/VAT/GSTAT		



Mode of selection:

1. The selection will be done through interaction conducted by the Selection Committee, constituted for this purpose.
2. After expiry of the last date of submission of the online application, the scrutiny of applications would be done and verification of Enrolment No. will also be done by Bar Council of Delhi. Only short-listed candidates will be called for interaction. Intimation regarding interaction schedule will be sent through email and candidates may also download the same, after logging-in in the online module by which applications are invited.

Pr. Secretary (Law), Govt. of NCT of Delhi reserves the right to accept or reject any application without assigning any reason. The application submitted will not bind this department to consider him/her for selection.

Desirous and eligible advocates/counsels may apply through online portal <https://gncldlaw.delhi.gov.in/> on or before **27.06.2025 (Friday) at 06:00 P.M.**

THE ADVOCATES/COUNSELS WHO HAVE ALREADY APPLIED IN RESPONSE TO THE EARLIER NOTICE PUBLISHED IN NEWSPAPERS ON 26.05.2025, NEED NOT APPLY AGAIN.

The terms and conditions of appointment are mentioned in Order No. F.5(4)/Lit/2010/DS2Law/578-580 dated 27-04-2010 and fee / remuneration payable to them are mentioned in Order dated 26.06.2008, 03-12-2015 which are available on the official website of this department i.e. <https://law.delhigovt.nic.in>.

The candidates are requested to go through **General Instructions for the candidates to fill the Online Application**, available on the Home page of the portal.

(Ravindra Singh)
DY. SECRETARY (LITIGATION)

3. The limited grievance canvassed by the petitioner in the present proceeding is that the notice dated 19.06.2025 was uploaded on the website of the High Court of Delhi only on 25.06.2025, thereby affording the prospective applicants merely two days to complete the application process.
4. The learned counsel for the petitioner submits that the petitioner, a practicing advocate with nearly two decades of standing at the Bar fulfils the eligibility criteria for empanelment and that the petitioner suffered prejudice due to the limited window between the publication of the extension notice on the website of High Court of Delhi and the revised deadline.
5. It is further submitted that the subsequent extension of deadline only came to the knowledge of the petitioner on 01.07.2025 and subsequent



thereto the petitioner on the very same day filed a representation to the respondent/ Govt. of NCT of Delhi, seeking further extension of time. However, the respondent failed to respond.

6. In the aforesaid circumstances, the petitioner has filed the present petition seeking to direct the respondent to extend the last date for submission of applications for Empanelment of Government Counsel in Delhi High Court (Civil), District Courts, NGT and AT VAT/GSTAT & High Court of Delhi (for tax related matters) for the GNCT of Delhi.

7. Learned counsel for the respondent vehemently opposes the submissions made on behalf of the petitioner, contending that the notice dated 19.06.2025 was published in the leading newspapers on 20.06.2025 and thus, widely circulated.

8. Be that as it may, it is noticed that the notice dated 19.06.2025 was uploaded on the official website of the High Court of Delhi only on 25.06.2025, as substantiated by Annexure P-3 appended to the present petition. Moreover, it would only be to the benefit of the Government of NCT of Delhi if it has a wider pool of experienced counsel, for the purpose of drawing a panel.

9. In the circumstances, considering the limited relief sought by the petitioner, and in interest of ensuring fairness and equal opportunity to all eligible applicants, the respondent/ Law Department, Govt. of NCT of Delhi is directed to grant a further extension upto 01.08.2025 for submission of online applications. The timeline for completion of the process of empanelment is directed to be correspondingly extended to accommodate the said extension of time for receiving applications from prospective applicants.



10. The Registrar General, Delhi High Court is also directed to ensure that the notice as regards the said extension is published without any delay on the website of High Court of Delhi.
11. The petition is disposed of in the above terms. All the related/ pending applications, if any, also stand disposed of.

SACHIN DATTA, J

JULY 7, 2025/ss, sl