



Advocates of Supreme Court

Source: IE

Recently, concerns have been raised over the quality of newly designated **Senior Advocates**, with 116 joining the **Supreme Court (SC)** in 2024.

- **Senior Advocates:**
 - **Designation:** Awarded by the **SC** or **High Courts** based on legal acumen, standing at the Bar, and special knowledge after at least **10 years of experience**.
 - **Role:** They **argue legal propositions** but cannot take **direct instructions** from clients and are briefed by an **Advocate-on-Record (AoR)**.
 - Senior Advocates are key legal figures in the **Supreme Court**, handling **high-stakes cases** like **death penalties**, **company liquidations**, **child custody**, and **bail applications**.
 - **Restrictions:** Senior Advocates cannot directly take clients or engage in certain legal tasks like **drafting pleadings**, **drawing affidavits**, or advising on evidence.
 - **2017 Reforms:** The SC established objective criteria for designating Senior Advocates following a **public interest litigation** by Indira Jaising, the **first woman Senior Advocate of the Bombay High Court**.
 - These criteria include **judgments**, **academic contributions**, and **experience**, aiming to make the process more **transparent** and **inclusive**.
- **Advocates-on-Record:** They are the only advocates authorized to **file documents**, represent parties, and **file appearances** in the SC.
- **Other Advocates:** These advocates are listed on the **State Bar Council rolls** and can argue cases in the **SC** but cannot file documents (not involved in **formal filings**).

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