

GROOMING AS A JUDGE

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Introduction

Learning. The word *ipse dixit* depicting as a present continuous, emphasize that as long as we are in a particular field, the learning process should be continued to stay in the field. After enrolling as an Advocate, it gives the authority to practice law and plead for the client and it is always presenting one's case, coupled with finding flaws in the opponent, with the aim of succeeding in the case. As such, there is much possibility for the other side of the coin going unnoticed in the career. Even while practising, it cannot be expected to have a decent practice in all aspects, as it is not always possible to have active practice in all quarters. To say, a well versed practitioner in the civil side, might not have [much] exposure in the criminal side and vice versa, leaving apart the knowledge of law in that field. But, at the same time, having adorned the sacrosanct position as a judge, the layman, as a litigant would have the reasonable expectation that the judicial officer should discharge his duties in a flawless manner in all aspects and the ignorance in any aspect cannot be exposed. As the duty cast on the judicial officer is to look at the two sides of the coin and test its veracity and decide the case at the earliest, the transformation from an Advocate as a Judge assumes importance and for the same grooming gains significance.

Attire

At the outset, the transformation is to be from the attire. Though the judicial officer is a common man and would have been in outfits of his own choice, it would be appropriate to give importance to the dressing, as it is needless to say that a good dressing would certainly give a decent look and being in an adorable and sacrosanct position, it is duty bound to take care that the image is not tarnished, to any extent, by the attire.

Be on time/Punctuality

Being punctual is our duty. It is to be always borne in mind that the litigants at large would be storming the court rooms much earlier in the morning on the fond hope that their case would get some progress on that day towards the destiny and they have the fullest confidence in the system. As such, holding a responsible post, it should be always ringing in the mind that we should be on time to the office and dais, at any cost and there should be no compromise in this aspect.

Charm/Coolness

In all litigations, the case bundles are not mere papers, rather the expression of their feelings of some sort and it is quite natural that in all such cases, one party would be aggressive in nature than the opponent for some reason or other. The burden is on the shoulders of the judicial officer to take care of the issue in a balanced manner and to see that the proceedings are not hampered. As the litigant appeals to the court for justice, it is to be always taken note that the judicial officer never loses his charm or coolness in the conduct of the case. There would be occasions of heated exchange of words for some reason with the litigant/counsel in the just adjourned case. Even then, it is duty bound to take the very next case of the same litigant/counsel as a fresh one to the mind and at no point of time, the previous tussle should never find a place in the mind.

Decorum/Discipline

Having adorned a sacred position, the self-discipline in all aspects plays vital role. It is the need to maintain the decorum at all times. The character or the attitude of the judicial officer would always be testified and it has to pass the litmus test, at all times and there can't be any waiver whatsoever in this regard.

Effervescent/Effectiveness

Efficiency is not the destiny, rather the ladder to reach heights. There need the brisk effervescence to bubble the ideas to transform as an ideology and set the platform at the higher level and for the same it is needed to be more effective in every approach.

Fairness

Fairness is the expectation in all areas. But, it is the spine in judiciary, as even if there is slightest tumble, everything would be futile. Fairness is to be imparted without any reservation and there can no substitute for the same and the oath taken in this aspect should always ring in our mind.

Grip in the proceedings

Presenting one's case might not be of much difficult. But, at the same time, conducting the court proceedings where the parties are at logger heads, is not an easy job. As such, it is the need to have the grip or control over the proceedings and see that there is no flaw in it. To which, much care to be taken to see that we improvise ourselves in the related area, to fasten the grip.

Hesitation

Hesitation is the natural human conduct. Hesitating to seek for one's own need might receive accolade. But, being involved in the process of administration of justice, the very valuable rights of the litigants, who had reposed confidence in the system is involved. As such, the hesitation to seek clarification on any point, how simple or absurd it be, is to be unhesitatingly buried.

Ignite

Everyone would be having the intention to bring laurels to the system and unless such thoughts are ignited the dreams may not come true. If one has any such executable thoughts sparkling in their mind, in any area of the system, it be expressed for consideration, as there is no tool to read the mind of everyone for every aspect.

Judge by the evidence on record

The role of a judicial officer is at high pedestal and it is the need to take care that judging the case is done, only on the basis of the evidence available on record. No amount of assumption or self assessment, apart from the evidence on record, should have any say in deciding the case.

Kempt

Being kempt is a must for all areas. It need not be restricted to the person or the place, and could even be extended to the profession we adore.

Lucid

Lucidness depicts simple, transparent and intelligible attitude. As the proceedings and the orders pronounced are with regard to the rights of the litigants who have immense confidence in the institution, it is to be always taken care to see that the same are lucid in nature and laudable.

Marshalling

The flawless performance of court proceeding needs the fullest efficient support of the staffs of all nature and they may not be so at times, for various reasons. But, the need is to marshal by organizing and discussing with them and give better inputs to them, to repose faith in them and thereby lead them for achieving the aim of flawless performance.

Nimble

A stitch in time saves nine is the proverb. Further, the delay would be disastrous. With the mounting backlogs, it is the need to be nimble, the quality that would be supporting a lot for the disposal of the cases at the earliest.

Optimism

The attitude towards the particular assignment would exhibit the character in a person. Self-belief would make one a perfect person. As such, it is always the need to be optimistic towards every assignment and take the challenges in the right spirit for the self improvement and for the institution to move forward towards its destiny.

Patience

The predominant character expected from the officer would be his patience in hearing, while the litigant/counsel addresses their case. Always have the patient hearing of the address, so far it moves with respect to the point involved in the case, as it would be life or death for him in that case and it would be reasonable to expect him to explore all possible legal attempts for success and to see that no stone remains unturned. The impatience would only lead to infer that he had lost his case even before the judgment is delivered.

Quintessential

The expectation of a litigant for a well reasoned order needs to be addressed. As such, it is the need to impart the ability to acquire immense potential in the particular arena that is dealt with and the same would serve well to deliver the quintessential qualitative pronouncements.

Resort to basics

One of the prime requirements is that for the kite to fly high, the string is to be attached to the base to have the safe and comfort flight. Likewise, to reach the great heights in the dispensation of justice, the care should be always taken to resort to the basics on every occasion to have the firm base, as the memory may sometimes be deceptive.

Self-assessment

Every growth needs self-assessment. Having assumed the role, the care should be taken that there is some sort of improvement in any of the field to which we are acquainted and see that such improvement is constant. For which, we need to have the self-assessment or self-evaluation of our knowledge or performance in that particular branch and it would be always better to have a performance comparison chart. Never to lose hope, as nothing is impossible.

Technical Knowhow

As there is drastic advancement in the technology from the yesteryears, it is the need to cope up with the raising technologies and embrace them with both hands and to improve the technical knowhow and utilize it in the day-to-day assignments for the better performance

Unbiased

The scale depicts the significance of the service rendered and bias of any kind has no place and of course there cannot be a second thought in this regard. Nothing projected or exhibited in the heat of arguments or otherwise, should ever have any impact in deciding the case and no personal vendetta should ever play any role.

Versatile

The branches of law are more in numbers and it would be suffice to stand by a few ones for practice. But, having adorned the significant position, it can't be expected to have the stereotype of assignments in the career and it may also not be good. It is the need to be versatile and improve the calibre in all related fields, for the better performance when it matters.

Workaholic

Considering the nature of the service being rendered to the society and the number of backlogs, it is a must to be a workaholic and never hesitate to discharge the duty, unless there is exigency. But, at the same time, care should also be taken to see that there is a smooth balance between the work and family atmosphere.

Xylograph

The term may relate to wood carving, but the relevancy is it would leave the permanent mark or impression, if unaltered. Likewise, every order or judgment rendered would have its sanctity, unless it is set aside. As such, much care is to be taken to see that any order or judgment passed is not palpably absurd, rather a reasoned one as it involves the rights of the parties who had imposed great confidence in the institution.

Yammer

Maintaining the decorum is paramount and being attentive and receptive is warranted. But at the same time, yammering would not be a good one.

Zeal

Every lawyer having ambition to serve the judiciary makes the attempt, but only a few get through and as such it is to be borne in mind that we are also carrying the passion of others for the institution and see that even their dreams are fulfilled. Having entered into the system with such passion, and a long way to go, it should be always taken care that the said zeal is never lost.

Continuation

The alphabets may conclude, but not the words or sentences. Likewise, the learning.