

SUPREME COURT WOMEN LAWYERS ASSOCIATION (SCWLA)

Registered Under Society Registration Act XXI of 1860
Chamber No. 82, Old Lawyers Chambers, Supreme Court Compound,
Supreme Court of India, New Delhi-110001
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Date – 22.08.2025

PRESS RELEASE

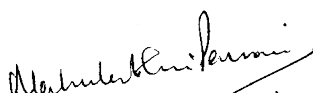
The Supreme Court Women Lawyers Association unequivocally condemns the misogynistic remarks made by retired Justice Markandey Katju, who suggested that women lawyers could secure favorable judicial orders by “winking” at the judge. Such comments are not merely offensive but an assault on the dignity, credibility, competence, integrity and professional standing of every woman in the legal fraternity.


It is deeply disturbing that a former judge of the Supreme Court, who once entrusted with the responsibility of upholding constitutional values, would trivialize the hard work and merit of women lawyers through casual sexism. His words not only demean women advocates but also erode public confidence in the impartiality of the justice system and perpetuate harmful stereotypes that have no place in a democratic society. Coming from a former Judge of the Supreme Court, they are particularly shocking and unbecoming of the dignity associated with constitutional office.

The Association demands an unconditional public apology from Mr. Katju. Further, we call upon the legal community at large to reject and censure such regressive attitudes which undermine both gender equality and the integrity of our judicial institutions.

We remind all members of the legal fraternity past and present, that words carry immense power. Those who have held constitutional office bear a continuing responsibility to uphold the dignity of the judiciary and advance the cause of equality.

To all women in law: Let these remarks never shake your confidence. We will not be silenced, demeaned or reduced to caricatures. Our worth is defined by our intellect, integrity and commitment to justice and not by outdated sexist notions. The Association stands firmly by its commitment to equality, respect and justice for ourselves, for the legal profession and for the society at large, today and always.


Mahalakshmi Pavani
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