Consolidated Till 06th November, 2026

The High Court of Orissa (Designation of Senior Advocate) Rules, 2025

[Consolidated with 1st Amendment 2026]

THE HIGH COURT OF ORISSA, CUTTACK

NOTIFICATION

No. 1084/R, Dated: the 08th September, 2025

In exercise of the power conferred by the sub-section (1) of Section 34 read with sub-section (2) of Section 16 of the Advocates Act, 1961 (Act No. 25 of 1961) and in pursuance of Judgment dated 13.05.2025 passed in Criminal Appeal No. 865 of 2025 (Jitender @ Kalla versus State (Govt. of NCT of Delhi) and Anr.) with Writ Petition (Civil) No. 454 of 2015 and I.A. No. 36111 of 2023 in M.A. No. 262 of 2023 in Writ Petition (Civil) 454 of 2015, I.A. No. 45959 of 2022 (in I.A. Diary No. 145730-31/2021 in M.A. No. 1502 of 2020 in WP(C) No. 454 of 2015) by the Supreme Court of India, the High Court of Orissa hereby makes following rules namely;

1. Short title and commencement. -

(1) These Rules shall be called “The High Court of Orissa (Designation of Senior Advocate) Rules, 2025”.

(2) These Rules shall come into force from the date of their publication in the Official Gazette.

2. Definitions. -

In these Rules, unless the context otherwise requires;

(a) "Advocate" means an Advocate entered in any roll under the provisions of the Advocates Act, 1961;

(b) "High Court" means the High Court defined in Section 2(g) of the Advocates Act, 1961;

(c) "Permanent Secretariat" means the Secretariat established by the Chief Justice of the High Court of Orissa under sub-rule (1) of Rule 3 of these Rules;

(d) “Specialized Tribunal” means National Company Law Tribunal, Appellate Tribunal for Electricity, Appellate Tribunal under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002, Telecom Disputes

Settlement and Appellate Tribunal, Consumer Dispute Redressal Commission etc.

(e) "Year" means a calendar year.

3. Permanent Secretariat for designation of Senior Advocates. -

(1) The process of designating Advocates as Senior Advocate shall be carried out by the Permanent Secretariat established as per the direction of the Chief Justice.

(2) The Chief Justice may issue such directions from time to time as deemed necessary regarding functioning of the Secretariat, including the manner in which, and the source(s) from which, the necessary data and information with regard to designation of Senior Advocates are to be collected, compiled and presented.

4. Designation of an Advocate as Senior Advocate. -

(1) The High Court may designate an Advocate as a Senior Advocate, if in its opinion, by virtue of his/her ability and standing at the Bar, the said Advocate is deserving of such distinction.

Explanation: The term "standing at the Bar" means position of eminence attained by an Advocate at the Bar by virtue of his/her seniority, legal acumen, and high ethical standards maintained by him, both inside and outside the Court.

(2) No person shall be eligible to be designated as Senior Advocate unless he/she:

(i) has a minimum ten years of practice as an Advocate in the High Court of Orissa or in the Courts subordinate to the High Court of Orissa.

(ii) has appeared and actually argued cases in High Court of Orissa or Courts Subordinate to it.

(iii) has a minimum ten years of practice as an Advocate in any Specialized Tribunal of the State and appeared and actually argued cases in the Specialized Tribunal or High Court of Orissa.

Provided that Applicant-Advocates having domain expertise of practicing before specialized Tribunals may be given concession with regard to the extent of the number of appearances.

(iv) has attained the age of 45 years, unless the age limit is relaxed by the Full Court to designate an exceptional Advocate below 45 years of age having extra bit of ability as Senior Advocate.

5. Motion for designation as Senior Advocate. -

(1) Designation of an Advocate as Senior Advocate by the High Court of Orissa may be considered on the written application of the Advocate concerned that shall be made, as far as possible, in Form No. 1 of Appendix-A appended to these Rules.

(2) Along with the application, the Advocate concerned shall append his certificate that he has not applied to any other High Court for being designated as Senior Advocate and that his application has not been rejected by this Court or any other High Court within a period of one year prior to the date of application. If the application of the applicant Advocate is rejected by any High Court within one year prior to the date of Application, then he shall apply after the expiry of one year from the date of previous application.

(3) Along with the application, the Advocate concerned shall submit five of their best *synopses*.

6. Procedure for Designation. -

(1) All applications for designation of an Advocate as a Senior Advocate shall be submitted to the Permanent Secretariat.

(2) On receipt of an application of an Advocate, the Permanent Secretariat shall process and compile all the data and the information provided by the Advocate in the application and in the other relevant documents.

(3) The Permanent Secretariat will notify the applicant Advocates to be designated as Senior Advocates on the official website of the High

Court of Orissa, inviting suggestions and views within such time as the case maybe fixed by the Chief Justice. The High Court can call for suggestions/views of the District Judge or head of the tribunal on the applicant Advocates who are practicing in the Court Subordinate to this Court.

(4) After the material in terms of the above is compiled and all such information has been obtained and the suggestions and views have been received, the Permanent Secretariat shall put up the valid applications before the Full Court.

(5) The decision to designate an Advocate as Senior Advocate shall be arrived at consensus, failing which, the decision-making must be by a democratic method of voting. Whether in a given case there should be voting by secret ballot, is a decision to be taken by the Full Court considering facts and circumstances of the given case. In the event of voting by secret ballot, the views of the majority of the Judges present and voting shall constitute the decision of the Full Court. However, the Chief Justice or in his absence the Senior Most Judge, as the case may be, present in Full Court shall not cast his/her vote. In case the Judges present are equally divided, the Chief Justice or in his absence the Senior Most Judge present shall cast his/her vote.

(6) The cases that have not been favorably considered by the Full Court may be reviewed/reconsidered after the expiry of a period of one year, following the same procedure as prescribed above as if the proposal is being considered afresh.

(7) Notwithstanding the above noted procedure for designation of an Advocate as Senior Advocate, the Full Court *suo-motu* may designate an exceptional and eminent Advocate as Senior Advocate through consensus, if it is of the opinion that by virtue of his/her ability or standing at the Bar, the said Advocate deserves such designation.

(8) The process of designation of Advocate as Senior Advocate shall be carried out at least once in a year.

7. Designation of Advocates as Senior Advocates by the Chief Justice. -

(1) On the approval of the name of the Advocate by the Full Court, the Chief Justice shall designate such an Advocate as a Senior Advocate under section16 of the Advocate's Act, 1961.

(2) The Registrar General shall notify the designation to the Secretary General of the Supreme Court of India, Registrar General of other High Courts, the Bar Council of Odisha, Bar Council of India, Specialized Tribunals and also to all the District & Sessions Judges subordinate to the High Court of Orissa.

(3) The record received from the Full Court in this regard shall be maintained by the Permanent Secretariat for further reference.

[1]7-A. Preservation and Destruction of Applications and Records –

(i) The applications, supporting documents, evaluation records, suggestions/views received, and all other records relating to the process of designation of Senior Advocates, whether in physical or electronic form, shall be preserved by the Permanent Secretariat until completion of the designation process and expiry of the period prescribed under these Rules for review or reconsideration, as the case may be.

(ii) Subject to the provisions contained in clause (iii), upon expiry of three years from the date of the decision of the Full Court, every application submitted in the designation process, together with all annexures and supporting documents forming part of the record, shall be liable to be destroyed:

Provided that no such physical record shall be destroyed unless the same has first been duly digitised and the corresponding electronic record has been securely preserved.

Provided that the scanned copies and other electronic copies of such applications, annexures and supporting documents may be

[1] Inserted vide Gazette Notification No. 5000 dated 06.11.2026.

retained in electronic form:

Provided that notwithstanding anything contained in this Rule, no record, including any application, annexure, order, decision or other document forming part of the record, which is the subject matter of, or is required in connection with, any appeal, revision, review, writ petition or any other proceeding before any Court or other competent forum, shall be destroyed until the final disposal of such proceeding.

(iii) The records relating to Advocates who have been designated as Senior Advocates, including the order of designation and other relevant proceedings, together with the scanned copies and electronic records thereof, shall be preserved permanently.

(iv) The physical records/documents liable to be destroyed under this Rule shall be shredded by the staff of the Permanent Secretariat in the presence of the Registrar General or such other officer as may be authorised by him.

8. Restrictions on Designated Senior Advocates. -

A Senior Advocate shall be subject to such restrictions as the Supreme Court, High Court, the Bar Council of India or the Bar Council of the State may prescribe from time to time.

9. Canvassing. -

Canvassing in any manner by a nominee/ applicant for designation as a Senior Advocate shall disqualify him/her from being so considered or designated for the next five years.

10. Interpretation. -

All questions relating to the interpretation of these Rules shall be referred to the Chief Justice, whose decision thereon shall be final.

11. Review and Recall. -

If, after being designated as a Senior Advocate, it is reported by a Judge of the Court, that by virtue of his/her conduct or behavior either inside

or outside the Court he/she has forfeited his/her privilege to the distinction conferred upon him/her by the Court, the matter may be placed by the Chief Justice before the Full Court for consideration of withdrawal of designation as Senior Advocate. If the Full Court is of the view that Senior Advocate by virtue of his/her conduct or behavior either inside or outside the Court has disentitled himself/herself to be worthy of the designation, the Full Court may review its decision to designate the concerned person as Senior Advocate and recall the same. The Registrar General shall notify the decision in the same manner as provided in sub-rule (2) of Rule 7 of these Rules.

12. Repeal and Saving. -

(1) The High Court of Orissa (Designation of Senior Advocate) Rules, 2019 are hereby repealed.

(2) Notwithstanding repeal of the Rules, 2019 referred to in sub-rule (1), it shall not affect —

(a) Any action taken, notification published, designation conferred under the rules so repealed.

(b) Any inquiry, legal proceedings or remedy in respect of any such rights, privilege, obligation & forfeiture conferred under the rules so repealed.

BY ORDER OF THE HIGH COURT

(Satya Ranjan Pradhan)

REGISTRAR (JUDICIAL)

APPENDIX - A

Form No. 1

Application-Cum-Consent Letter for Designation as Senior Advocate

[Rule- 5(1)]

<table>
<tr><td colspan="11"></td><td>Recent Passport size color photograph (original) to be pasted here</td></tr>
<tr><td>1.</td><td colspan="2">Name of the Applicant-Advocate</td><td colspan="9"></td></tr>
<tr><td>2.</td><td colspan="2">Date of birth</td><td colspan="9"></td></tr>
<tr><td>3.</td><td colspan="2">Age</td><td>D</td><td>D</td><td>M</td><td>M</td><td>Y</td><td>E</td><td>A</td><td>R</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="2">4.</td><td rowspan="2">Address in full:</td><td>(i) Office-</td><td colspan="9" rowspan="2"></td></tr>
<tr><td>(ii) Residence-</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="3">5.</td><td rowspan="3">Contact Details:</td><td>(i) Landline-</td><td colspan="9" rowspan="3"></td></tr>
<tr><td>(ii) Cell Phone -</td></tr>
<tr><td>(iii) Email-</td></tr>
<tr><td>6.</td><td colspan="2">Educational/Professional Qualifications:</td><td colspan="9"></td></tr>
<tr><td>7.</td><td colspan="2">(i) Date, Month and Year of Enrolment as an Advocate
(ii) Enrolment Number (copy of enrolment certificate to be attached)
(iii) Number of years of practice from the Date of enrolment</td><td colspan="9"></td></tr>
<tr><td>8.</td><td colspan="2">(i) Bar council, where registered;
(ii) Whether registered as an Advocate. If so, date , month and year of registration; and
(iii) Advocate code Number</td><td colspan="9"></td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="2">9.</td><td rowspan="2">Number of reported judgments (excluding orders that do not lay down any principle of law) in the last five years in cases in which the applicant has appeared as –
(i) Lead arguing counsel; and
(ii) Assisting counsel;</td><td colspan="5">Lead Arguing Counsel (Number of judgments only)</td><td colspan="5">Assisting Counsel (Number of judgments only)</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="5"></td><td colspan="5"></td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="2">10.</td><td rowspan="2">Number of unreported judgments (excluding orders that do not lay down any principle of law) in the last five years in cases in which the applicant has appeared as –</td><td colspan="5">Lead Arguing Counsel (Number of judgments only)</td><td colspan="5">Assisting Counsel (Number of judgments only)</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="5"></td><td colspan="5"></td></tr>
</table>

<table>
<tr><td></td><td>(i) Lead arguing counsel; and
(ii) Assisting counsel;</td><td colspan="3"></td><td colspan="2"></td></tr>
<tr><td>11.</td><td>Pro-bono/Amicus-curiae work during last five years.</td><td colspan="5"></td></tr>
<tr><td>12.</td><td>Five synopses
(Copies of synopses to be attached)</td><td colspan="5"></td></tr>
<tr><td>13.</td><td>Whether applicant is a first generation lawyer.</td><td colspan="5"></td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="2">14.</td><td rowspan="2">Articles/ books published/experience of teaching assignments in the field of law, guest lectures delivered in law schools or professional institutions connected with law.</td><td>Academic Article /Books</td><td colspan="2">Teaching Assignment(s)</td><td colspan="2">Guest lectures delivered in law school or professional institutions connected with law</td></tr>
<tr><td></td><td colspan="2"></td><td colspan="2"></td></tr>
<tr><td>15.</td><td>Whether the applicant is a member of the High Court Bar Association</td><td colspan="5"></td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="4">16.</td><td rowspan="4">Courts where the applicant is practicing: (Court wise period may be indicated)</td><td colspan="3" rowspan="2">Supreme Court of India/High Court (s)/District/Lower Court(s)/Tribunals</td><td colspan="2">Duration</td></tr>
<tr><td>From</td><td>To</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="3"></td><td></td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="3"></td><td></td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="3"></td><td></td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="3">17.</td><td rowspan="3">Tribunal(s) where the applicant has specialized practice (Applicable to those practicing before Tribunals)</td><td colspan="3" rowspan="2">Tribunal(s)</td><td colspan="2">Duration</td></tr>
<tr><td>From</td><td>To</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="3"></td><td></td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="3"></td><td></td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>18.</td><td>Nature of practice-
e.g. Civil, Criminal, Constitutional, Taxation, Labour, Company, Services, etc.</td><td colspan="5"></td></tr>
<tr><td>19.</td><td>Field of Law-domain expertise (such as, constitutional law, inter-state water disputes, Criminal law, Arbitration law, Corporate law, Family law, Human rights, Public Interest Litigation, International law, law relating to women) in which the applicant has specialization /expertise.</td><td colspan="5"></td></tr>
<tr><td>20.</td><td>Whether the applicant had applied earlier to the High Court of Orissa for</td><td colspan="5"></td></tr>
</table>

	designation; (if so, current status of application)			
21.	Whether the applicant has applied to any other High Court; (if so, current status of application)			
22.	Whether any FIR has ever been filed against the applicant; (if so, current status must be indicated)			
23.	Whether the applicant is a party to any civil, criminal or other litigation. If so, the nature of involvement.			
	(i)	Has the applicant at any point of time been:		
		(a)	Arrested?	
		(b)	Prosecuted?	
		(c)	Kept under detention?	
		(d)	Bound down?	
		(e)	Fined by a court of law?	
		(f)	Convicted by a court of law for any offence?	
		(g)	Debarred from any examination or Rusticated by any authority/ institution/council?	
		(h)	Debarred/disqualified by any public commission/ authority?	
	(ii)	Is any case pending against the applicant in any court of law at the time of submitting this application?		
	(iii)	If the answer to any of the above-mentioned questions is 'Yes', give full particulars of the case/ arrest/ detention/fine/conviction/sentence /punishment etc. and/or the nature of the case pending in the Court/Authority or Institution etc., at the time of submitting this application.		
24.	Whether any proceedings were initiated or are pending against the applicant before Bar Council of India, Bar Council of Odisha or any Other State Bar Council? (If so, particulars thereof)			
25.	General State of Health			
26.	Any other relevant information			

Declaration

I ……Advocate hereby gives consent for being designated as Senior Advocate.

I hereby verify that the information furnished above is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief. Nothing material is concealed or suppressed therefrom. I understand that furnishing of false information or suppression of any factual information would render me unfit for being designated as Senior Advocate.

Date: [Signature of the Applicant]

Note: Applicants should read instructions attached herewith while filling the Form.

PRESCRIBED FORMATS

LEAD ARGUING COUNSEL

(List of Reported Judgments (excluding orders not laying down any principle of law) in the last five years)

Sl.No.	Court(s)	Citation / Case Number	Cause Title and Subject Matter	Decided on	Legal formulation advanced by the applicant

ASSISTING COUNSEL

(List of Reported Judgments (excluding orders not laying down any principle of law) in the last five years)

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ASSISTING COUNSEL

(List of Unreported Judgments (excluding orders not laying down any principle of law) in the last five years)

Sl. No.	Court(s)	Citation / Case Number	Cause Title and Subject Matter	Decided on	Legal formulation advanced by the applicant

List of matters in which you have appeared as Pro Bono/Amicus Curiae in the last five years

Sl. No.	Court(s)	Citation / Case Number	Cause Title and	Decided on	Reportable / Unreportable

Details of five Synopses

S. No.	Court(s)	Case Number	Cause Title	Details

Details of academic articles/books published, experience of teaching assignments in the field of law, guest lecturers delivered in law schools or professional institutions connected with law

Sl. No.	Topics of published academic articles/ Books/ Lecture/ Courses	Experience details of teaching assignment and guest lecturers delivered in law schools or professional institutions connected with law	Names of law schools or professional institutions connected with law.	Any other relevant details

General instructions to be followed for filling up Form to The High Court of Orissa (Designation of Senior Advocate) Rules, 2025

1. Every Application-cum-Consent Letter or the Application for providing additional information in the prescribed formats marked as Form shall be made in English, typed/printed with font size Arial-14 in double spacing on both sides of the white paper (A4 Size) with an inner margin of about four centimeters width on top and on the left side.

2. Documents accompanying the application should be numbered consecutively in the index, in all sets of the application.

3. All documents annexed to the application should be accompanied by an index containing the details thereof. (The Registry, at any stage, may ask for supportive documents for verification in light of the facts mentioned in the application.)

4. The name of the applicant should tally with his/her name as mentioned in the enrolment certificate. (Abbreviated names shall not be accepted.)

5. The application should be presented in the form of a paper book, duly tagged and indexed, and not in spiral binding or similar formats

6. (i) All photocopies of the accolades/testimonials should be legible and true copies of their respective originals.

   (ii) English translation of vernacular documents (if any) should be annexed thereto.

[2]7. One set of the application, duly compiled in the form of a paper book, shall be filed.

[3]8. One recent passport-size colour photograph (original) shall be pasted on the application. One additional recent passport-size colour photograph, with the name of the applicant clearly mentioned on the reverse side thereof, shall be enclosed in a separate envelope.

[2] Substituted vide Gazette Notification No. 5000 dated 06.11.2026.
[3] Substituted vide Gazette Notification No. 5000 dated 06.11.2026.

9. The soft copy of the application(s), in searchable mode, along with scanned copies of the supporting documents accompanying the form, should be submitted in a pen drive or through e-mail as notified from time to time, in addition to the hard copy thereof.

10. Information relating to reported judgments, unreported judgments, pro bono/amicus curiae work, five synopses, articles/books/teaching assignments/guest lectures may be provided in the prescribed formats, which are part of the Form.