

"Advocates have the dual responsibility of upholding the interests of the client fearlessly while conducting themselves as officers of the court. Accordingly, they are expected to adhere to the highest standards of probity and honour. An advocate's conduct should reflect their privileged position in society which derives from the nobility of this profession. In a nut shell, if you are an advocate your service to the common man should be compassionate, moral and lawful."

Professional Standards – Bar Council of India

For those who had watched the dastardly scenes in the TV in 2008, wherein there was a spine-chilling attack on few students of the Law College at Chennai, by a gang of alleged co - students, that too, in front of the State Police standing as hapless witnesses, it would take years to come out of the mental nausea! The future pillars of this NOBLE (!) profession were indulged in such a nasty and cold- blooded brawl, provoked by caste and other political agendas, which instantly made me, among many, feel like hanging in shame!

In February 2009, we all witnessed another brutal encounter between the State Police and the Advocates, inside the premises of the Madras High Court, triggered by a political issue. Precincts of the Madras High Court, which is a heritage edifice, went ablaze. Another black day to this Noble profession adding one more souvenir to the Hall of Shame!

When I got enrolled in the Bar in 2001, the enrolment procedure was a very low-key but yet an elite affair. The whole process of enrolment was over in an hour or so, where all of us got solemnised en-masse. Recently when I attended the enrolment of my colleague, it was totally different. The road leading to the auditorium slated for the enrolment was flooded with huge flex banners portraying the candidate's photos in various attires and fancy dresses. If one was Alexander the Great the other one was Julius Caesar. If one was Neil Armstrong the other one was Tensing

Norgay. If one was Netaji the other one was Bhagat Singh. Some of the candidates even marched in decorated horses preceded by deafening live bands and demonstration of variety of folklore. Wondering as to why a serene ritual has become such a raucous carnival, I asked one of the candidates, why so much of fanfare and expenditure. He immediately replied in local vernacular, "It's not expenditure bro, but an investment".

Are we still noble?