

By Regd. Post

Confidential

To  
The Hon'ble Chief Justice of India,  
Head of the Collegium,  
Supreme Court of India,  
New Delhi- 110001.

Date: 28<sup>th</sup> July 2025

*Jameswar Routray*

**Subject: PRAYER FOR CONSTITUTION OF AN IN-HOUSE  
INQUIRY COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE ALLEGATION  
OF POSSESSION OF A FAKE LLB DEGREE  
CERTIFICATE BY JUSTICE BIBHU PRASAD ROUTRAY,  
SITTING JUDGE OF ORISSA HIGH COURT –  
UPHOLDING JUDICIAL ETHICS, INTEGRITY, AND  
FAITH IN THE INDIAN JUDICIARY**

Respected Lordship,

I, the undersigned, a concerned citizen and stakeholder in the constitutional integrity of our judicial system, respectfully and humbly submit this petition invoking the Hon'ble Supreme Court's plenary powers under Articles 124(4), 217(1)(b), 235 and the In-House Procedure laid down by the Full Court of the Supreme Court of India to deal with complaints against sitting High Court Judges. This representation is made in the larger public interest guided by the foundational principles of judicial accountability, transparency, and constitutional morality.

**BACKGROUND FACTS:**

01. As per the records of the Odisha State Bar Council Advocate Enrollment Number O-1515-1994 pertains to SRI BIBHU PRASAD ROUTRAY, son of Jameswar Routray, resident of Village-Kanas,

District-Puri, Odisha- 752017, born on 01.02.1970. Copy of the enrolment details is filed herewith and marked as ANNEXURE -01.

02. Justice Bibhu Prasad Routray was enrolled as an advocate based on an LLB degree allegedly obtained from ST. MARY'S LAW COLLEGE, CANTONMENT ROAD, CUTTACK, which does not exist. This law college has no statutory approval from the Government of Odisha, Affiliation from any University or approval by the Bar Council of India.

03. Justice Bibhu Prasad Routray entered judicial service as an Additional District Judge on 08<sup>th</sup> Dec 2008, rose through the ranks.

04. Justice Bibhu Prasad Routray was appointed as a Permanent Judge of the Orissa High Court on 07.11.2019 and continues to serve in that capacity. A copy of the Supreme Court's recommendation Dated 03.10.2019 regarding his appointment and the Ministry of Law and Justice (Department of Justice) Notification No. K.13027/02/2019-US.II dated 07.11.2019 are filed herewith and marked as ANNEXURE-02 and ANNEXURE-03, respectively.

#### CORE ISSUE:

The LLB degree, the foundational legal qualification of Hon'ble Justice Bibhu Prasad Routray, appears to be invalid and unauthenticated, raising serious questions on the legitimacy of his judicial appointment and his entire legal career.

## **EVIDENCE RELIED UPON:**

1. The response of the Bar Council of India (BCI), conveyed through the Ministry of Law and Justice in reply to Unstarred Question No. 1018 raised by Shri Sukhbir Singh Jaunapuria and Shri Ramesh Bidhuri during the 11<sup>th</sup> Session of the 16<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha and answered on 08<sup>th</sup> Feb 2017, pertains to the list of government law colleges, private law colleges and Universities in the country approved by the Bar Council of India as of 21<sup>st</sup> May 2016. Copy of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1018 answered on 02.08.2017 (List of Affiliated Law College in India w.e.f 1947) is filed herewith and marked as ANNEXURE -04.

Pages 44 to 46 of Annexure A attached to the Minister's reply provide the complete list of BCI-approved law colleges in Odisha.

2. The response of the Bar Council of India (BCI), conveyed through the Ministry of Law and Justice in reply to Unstarred Question No. 2821 raised by Shri Alok Sanjar and Shri Sukhbir Singh Jaunapuria during the 11<sup>th</sup> Session of the 16<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha and answered on 02<sup>nd</sup> Aug 2017, pertains to the list of government and private law colleges and Universities in the country approved by the Bar Council of India as of 22<sup>nd</sup> Oct 2016. Copy of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2821 answered on 02.08.2017 (List of Affiliated Law College in India w.e.f 1947) is filed herewith and marked as ANNEXURE -05.

Pages 34 to 35 of the Answer attached to the Minister's reply provide the complete list of BCI-approved law colleges in Odisha.

ST. MARY'S LAW COLLEGE, CUTTACK, does not appear anywhere in this official list of approved college of legal education by Bar Council of India.



## REFERENCE:

<https://sansad.in/getFile/loksabhaquestions/annex/11/AU1018.pdf?source=pqals> (Answer to the Unstarred Question No. 1018)

<https://sansad.in/getFile/loksabhaquestions/annex/12/AU2821.pdf?source=pqals> (Answer to the Unstarred Question No. 2821)

## THIS IMPLIES:

- a) ST. MARY'S LAW COLLEGE, CANTONMENT ROAD, CUTTACK was neither affiliated by any university nor recognized by the Bar Council of India so also not permitted or recognized by the Government of Odisha.
- b) The law degree provided by ST. MARY'S LAW COLLEGE, CANTONMENT ROAD, CUTTACK hold no legal validity under the Advocates Act, 1961.
- c) Any enrolment, appointment or act based on such a degree is prima facie illegal.

## VIOLATION OF LAW AND JUDICIAL ETHICS:

1. Section 24 of the Advocates Act, 1961 mandates that only those with a degree in law from a recognized institution may be enrolled as advocates. If the degree is fake or from an unapproved institution, such enrollment is void ab initio.
2. In view of BAR COUNCIL OF INDIA Vs. RABI SAHU & ANR (CIVIL APPEAL NO. 8571 OF 2013), law colleges required to be

recognized by the Bar Council of India. Law Degree conferred by College of Legal Education without recognition from Bar Council of India is void.

3. Fraud vitiates everything. The Hon'ble Supreme Court in *A.P. State Financial Corp. v. GAR Re-Rolling Mills* (1994) and *United India Insurance Co. v. Rajendra Singh* (2000) held that fraud renders any appointment illegal.

4. The Restatement of Values of Judicial Life (1997), adopted by the Supreme Court, underscores that a Judge must not merely be above reproach but also appear to be so. Possession of forged educational qualifications is antithetical to this principle.

*Prasanna*

#### **FAITH IN THE JUDICIARY:**

The Hon'ble Supreme Court has time and again emphasized that the judiciary is the bedrock of the Constitution. Public trust in judicial institutions must be nurtured, not undermined. This representation is not a personal vendetta, but a public interest appeal to safeguard the sanctity of judicial appointments, ensure due process, and prevent erosion of public confidence in the rule of law.

#### **PRAYER**

In light of the above facts and submissions, I most respectfully pray before Your Lordship to kindly:

01. Constitute an In-House Inquiry Committee, comprising senior judges of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, to examine the authenticity and legality of the LLB degree held by Hon'ble Justice Bibhu Prasad Routray.

02. Debar Hon'ble Justice Bibhu Prasad Routray from being assigned any judicial or administrative work in the Orissa High Court pending the conclusion of the inquiry by the In-House Committee and the final decision thereon.

03. Direct an independent investigation by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) into the role and accountability of the following institutions/authorities:

- A) The Odisha State Bar Council, for enrolling him as an advocate despite possessing a degree from an unrecognized institution;
- B) The Government of Odisha, for failing to verify the authenticity of his educational qualifications during the judicial appointment process;
- C) The Higher Education Department and Law Department of Odisha, for their regulatory lapse and non-verification of institutional legitimacy;
- D) The Odisha Public Service Commission (OPSC), for failure to verify eligibility criteria while selecting him as an Additional District Judge through the Odisha Judicial Service Examination;
- E) The Orissa High Court Collegium and the Government of Odisha, for recommending and forwarding his name for elevation as a High Court Judge without proper scrutiny of his academic credentials.

*Periyar*

04. Pass such further orders or directions as may be deemed just, proper, and necessary in the interest of justice, to uphold the constitutional principles of judicial integrity, transparency, due process, and public accountability.

**CONCLUSION:**

It is in the interest of justice and judicial credibility that this serious allegation is investigated thoroughly and transparently. Silence or inaction in such matters will only set dangerous precedents and embolden future misuse of judicial positions obtained through fraudulent means.

With utmost faith in the independence, strength, and moral supremacy of the Indian Judiciary, I submit this representation with the hope and good faith that truth shall prevail and constitutional values shall be upheld.

Yours faithfully,



Sri Jayanta Kumar Das

20/7/2025

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**DOCUMENTS ENCLOSED:**

- **Annexure 01:** Copy of the Odisha State Bar Council Enrolment Number of Sri Bibhu Prasad Routray.
- **Annexure 02:** Copy of the Supreme Court Recommendation dated 03.10.2019.
- **Annexure 03:** Copy of the Department of Justice Notification dated. 07.11.2019.
- **Annexure 04:** Copy of the Lok Sabha Answer in response to Unstarred Question No. 1018 dated 08.02.2017.
- **Annexure 05:** Copy of the Lok Sabha Answer in response to Unstarred Question No. 2821 dated 02.08.2017.

*Jayanta Das*  
*28/7/2025*



भारतीय डाक

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