

From Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai

Death of Mr. Ashok Desai has made the legal profession poorer. He was a great lawyer who made immense contribution to the legal profession. But Mr. Ashok Desai was not admired only for his success in the legal profession. He wore his success in the profession with grace and dignity. He was kind hearted, unassuming and affable. In the Bombay High Court I briefed him only once in a grass merchant's matter. He asked me to get the petition drafted from Mr. Milind Sathe for whom he had great regard. He appeared for my clients and we won the matter. I was surprised when I received the bill. He had slashed the amount and charged my clients a very paltry sum. I was touched by the affection shown. Mr. Ashok Desai did not live for money. He lived for certain ideals like some of his peers, a class which is becoming rare. If someone undertakes to analyse the highs and lows of legal profession, I am sure Mr. Desai name would be mentioned as a contributory to its highs.