

Mr. Attorney, President of the Bar Association

I take this opportunity to thank the Attorney General and the President of the Bar for ceremoniously welcoming me today and to all the sentiments expressed about me by both of you. I also thank all those who are present here today to grace this occasion.

Today all of us have gathered here under very unusual circumstances due to the Covid 19 pandemic which is plaguing the whole world and not only Sri Lanka. We all know the impact it has had on our lives. We as members of the legal fraternity is trying our level best to function the court system as normal as possible.

Upon such demanding situation we have gathered here today and I take this opportunity to remind me of the onerous duty that is cast upon me by being appointed to this bench and I, pledge to uphold the rule of law and weigh the scales of justice accordingly.

If I may reflect upon myself a little, I who received my school education at Visakha Vidyalaya Colombo hailing from a legal back ground was not initially interested in a carrier of law but wanted to pursue the carrier of a writer. But faith cut a cross my path and although having gained entrance to the University of Peradeniya the situation in the country made me enter the field of law in addition to my university education.

Upon enrolling as an attorney at law I joined the public service as a junior state counsel to the Attorney Generals Department in 1994. In the Attorney Generals Department as state counsel and senior state counsel I ventured through all forums of law from magistrates court to the Supreme Court. After serving the Attorney Generals Department for 15 long years I joined the judiciary as a High Court Judge in 2009.

As a High Court Judge I served in many provinces in the country and I observed the cultural and social differences varying from province to province. This variation influenced the nature of cases pending in the courts I presided. Having served in the High Court for 11 and half years today I am being welcomed here by all of you to adjudicate in the CA.

I take this opportunity to fondly remember my parents , my family my friends and of course my husband Ashoka ,and I say a word of thank you to all of them.

Once again I thank the Attorney General the President of the Bar and everybody else for being here today to welcome me and May the Noble Triple Gem bless all of you and may you be bestowed with good health.

Thank you and stay safe.