

SUPREME COURT BAR ASSOCIATION (SCBA) ELECTION

Candidate KYC (Know Your Candidate) Questionnaire-cum-Declaration Form

To be filled, verified, and signed by the candidate. This form, once signed, will be published on Lawyers Association for Constitution (lafc.in) website.

This questionnaire is designed to help voters evaluate candidates contesting the SCBA elections by ensuring transparency regarding their personal background, professional record, legal ethics, and policy stances. The candidate must fill in every field truthfully and sign the verification line at the bottom of every page, in addition to the final Declaration on the last page.

Note to candidate: Type your answers directly into the blank lines below, Leave a field blank and write "NIL" where not applicable. Sign at the bottom of every page.

Please give the answers just below the questions (so that people can read properly in Mobile)

Section 1: Basic & Personal Information.

Practising since the year 1992, and a Senior Advocate designated by the Full Bench of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India on 23.04.2015.

Post - President

Full Name

Mahalakshmi Pavani

Age

57

Section 2: Educational & Professional Qualifications

Undergraduate & Legal Qualification

Degree(s) Obtained

B.A.L. LLB

College/University Attended

Dr. Ram Manohar Lohiya College of Law, Bangalore University, Karnataka

Year of Passing Out

1992

Additional / Master's Qualifications (e.g., LL.M., Ph.D.)

L.L.M (2010) in Labour & Administrative Law from Annamalai University, Tamil Nadu

M.A. (2013) in Human Rights from Periyar University, Tamil Nadu

Pursuing D. Phil since 2024 from Chanakya National Law University, Patna

Section 3: Enrolment & Membership in Bar Associations

Enrolment Details

Verification: I certify that the entries on this page are true. Candidate Signature:

Date: _____

Year of Enrolment as an Advocate -
1992 [21.08.1992]

Name of the State Bar Council
Karnataka Bar Council [KAR/855/1992]

1

Professional Status

Advocate , Advocate-on-Record (AoR) / Senior Advocate , (If applicable)

If Candidate is a Senior Advocate, the Court mention the Court which designated :

Advocate-on-Record on 12.01.2005

Designated as Senior Advocate by the Full Bench of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India on 23.04.2015

Bar Association Memberships (List all active and past memberships in SCBA, High Court Bar Associations, District Bar Associations, etc.)

1) SCBA/P-00100 – 12.07.1998

Membership in Other Professional/Academic Associations if any,

1) Honorary Professor in SV University, Andhra Pradesh

2) Honorary Professor in Parul University, Gujarat

If you are a member of any Political Party, please give details, if not, mention as " NO"

(Past or present membership, post held, or explicit non-affiliation)

No

Section 4: Electoral History in SCBA

Number of Times Contested in SCBA Elections

6 times

Details of Previous Contests (Posts contested, year, and results/outcome)

1) Contested for the post of Senior Member Executive, SCBA in 2015-16 – Won with the highest votes

2) Contested for the post of Senior Member Executive, SCBA in 2016-17 – Won with the highest votes

3) Contested for the post of Senior Member Executive, SCBA in 2020-21 – Achieved second-highest number of votes

4) Contested thrice for the post of Vice-President, SCBA – Negative outcome

Past Office-Bearer Positions Held (In SCBA or any other Bar/Legal organisation)

1) Senior Member Executive, SCBA in 2015-16

Verification: I certify that the entries on this page are true. Candidate Signature:

Date: _____

2) Senior Member Executive, SCBA in 2016-17

3) Senior Member Executive, SCBA in 2020-21

Section 5: Legal & Criminal Antecedents, if any :

Pending Criminal Cases (As Accused)

Case Number / FIR Details

None

Specific Offences Charged

N/A

Court Handling the Case

N/A

Disposed-Off Cases,

Outcome (Acquittal / Discharge / Quashed / Conviction)

N/A

Specific Offences Charged

N/A

Details/Summary of Court Order(s)

N/A

Section 6: Active Practice & Physical Presence

Physical Presence in Court *Total number of days physically present in the Supreme Court in preceding year from 1st August 2025 to 1st Aug 2026*

Present on all court working days

Key Areas of Practice (at least 5)

1) Criminal Laws

2) Service Laws

3) Land Acquisition Laws

4) Civil Laws

5) Matrimonial Laws

Section 8: Policy Views & Legal Vision

Verification: I certify that the entries on this page are true. Candidate Signature:

_____ Date: _____

Vision for SCBA Members (50 words each)*1)Key priorities regarding advocate welfare,*

I commit to strengthening welfare initiatives for members and their families; creating a more transparent and responsive welfare support system; establishing structured support for members facing professional or personal hardship.

I shall strive to strengthen the bar-and-bench relationship by fostering meaningful dialogue between the Bar and the Institution; addressing issues affecting members through consultation and collaboration; and upholding the dignity, independence, and traditions of the SCBA. In matters of importance which may require deliberation and opinions of the SCBA, I will not hesitate to call a General Body Meeting.

2)chamber allotment

I shall strive for improvement and optimisation of member facilities, such as increased chamber allotment, cubicles and lockers, with accountability and accessibility. For advocates who have put in over 15 years of experience, I shall strive to ensure that they are allotted cubicles.

3) medical insurance,

I commit to pursuing enhanced medical insurance, and emergency assistance mechanisms, including maternity insurance and neo-natal insurance for lady members.

4)court infrastructure,

I commit to enhanced working spaces and professional amenities; Strengthening library, research, and knowledge resources; and better member support services and administrative responsiveness; Better canteen facilities for members and ensure transparency through affixation of tender notifications on notice boards in court premises.

I shall strive for regular lectures and interactions with leading jurists, judges, and senior advocates; Continuing legal education initiatives across emerging areas of law and legal ethics; and Forums for academic engagement, research, and knowledge-sharing.

5) young lawyer support.

I propose a structured mentorship programme connecting young advocates with experienced members of the Bar, including minimum stipend; Regular advocacy, drafting, research, and professional development workshops and lectures by Advocates-on-Record and Senior Advocates, on subjects such as professional ethics and court etiquette; Greater participation of young lawyers in SCBA committees and initiatives; and Focused support for first-generation practitioners entering Supreme Court practice; Installation of a suggestion-box outside the SCBA office;

Your opinion on the Selection & Appointment of Judges *What is your stance on the current Collegium System versus alternative models (e.g., Judicial Appointments Commission with Bar representation)? What should be the correct, transparent method for selecting Supreme Court and High Court judges? (50 words)*

Verification: I certify that the entries on this page are true. Candidate Signature: _____

Date: _____

Merit should be the only consideration for appointment of judges, irrespective of their genealogy. Till the collegium system is scrapped, I believe that every judge of the Hon'ble Supreme Court should have a say in elevation/appointment of judges, and their respectful opinions should be made available in public domain.

Section 9: Message to Voters

In one paragraph (100 words or less), describe to voters what you stand for as a candidate

I stand for integrity, honesty, transparency, accountability, and most important of all – availability for members of the bar, irrespective of their status, gender or age. I believe in delivering results, an example of which is that I conducted the National Conference of Indian Women in Law (iWiL) on 8th March 2026 stressing on gender-parity on the bench, which was first-of-a-kind in past 76 years. The audience comprised of 12 sitting judges of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, 50 women judges of Hon'ble High Courts across the country, and over 100 district judges and about 400 esteemed lady advocates, who participated in the conference, which culminated into a resounding success. We had four panel discussions, comprising of Hon'ble Chief Justice of India, sitting judges of the Hon'ble Supreme Court and High Courts, retired Chief Justice(s), and women Senior Advocates as Moderators.

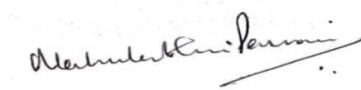
Declaration & Verification

I, the undersigned, being a candidate for the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) Election, do hereby solemnly declare and affirm as follows:

1. The information furnished by me in the foregoing Questionnaire is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief, and no material fact has been concealed, suppressed, or misrepresented therein.
2. I am aware that this Declaration, together with my answers to the Questionnaire, is being obtained for the purpose of the SCBA Election KYC and will be published on the website of Lawyers' Association for Constitution (lafc.in) website for the information of the electorate.
3. I undertake full responsibility for the accuracy of the information furnished above, and I understand that furnishing false or misleading information may render me liable to such consequences as may be prescribed under applicable law.

Name of Candidate (Block Letters): PAVANI MAHALAKSHMI
Enrolment / Membership No.: KAR/855/1992; SCBA-P-00100
Place: NEW DELHI – 110001
Date: 10.08.2026

Signature of Candidate:



(Signature to be affixed by the candidate; a scanned/typed signature or e-signature as accepted by SCBA for the purpose of this online form.)