

By Fax/Speed post/Email (Most Immediate)

F. No.278A/07/2019-Legal
Government of India
Ministry of Finance
Department of Revenue
Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs
(Legal Cell)

5th Floor, C Wing, Hudco Vishala Building,
Bhikaji Cama Place, R. K. Puram,
New Delhi-14.01.2021

To,
All Principal Chief Commissioners/ Chief Commissioners of Central Tax & Customs
All Principal Director Generals/ Director Generals of Central Tax & Customs
webmaster.cbec@icegate.gov.in

Sub: Constitution of regular panel of Senior/Junior Standing Counsels for handling cases of Indirect taxation of CBIC before the Hon'ble High Courts and other fora; Renewal/Fresh appointment of Counsels – reg.


Sir/Madam,

This is with reference to Board's earlier letter dated 18.02.2019 vide F. No.278A/07/2019-Legal (copy available on CBIC website), in response of which fresh panel of Sr./Jr. Standing Counsels of CBIC for handling litigation of Indirect taxes before various High Courts (other than Delhi High Court) and other fora was issued vide Order dated 07.12.2020. Similarly, fresh panel of Sr./Jr. Standing Counsels of CBIC for handling DRI/DGGI cases was issued vide Order dated 01.10.2020 through F.No. 278A/07/2019-Legal (Pt.III). Both the orders are available on CBIC website

2. In this regard, it has been deliberated that an increasing number of petitions related to GST and other taxation as well as policy matters are being filed before Hon'ble High Courts. Further, there is a growing trend of approaching Hon'ble High Courts directly, sometimes even against issue of summons, thereby bypassing the statutory appellate mechanism. Accordingly, for efficacious representation and defence, it was deliberated that Revenue should have larger pool of resources in terms of a greater number of Counsels before Hon'ble High Court.

3. Hence, the undersigned has been directed to request you to recommend more Senior and Junior Standing Counsels for handling cases of Indirect taxation pertaining to CBIC before Hon'ble High Courts and other fora, in terms of the Board's letter dated 18.02.2019 vide F. No.278A/07/2019-Legal. Already recommended counsels may not be considered again for this exercise. The recommendations, after due process, may be forwarded to Board latest by **31.03.2021**.

Yours faithfully,


(Anish Gupta)
OSD (Legal)
Tel: 011-26162152