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**FULL COURT REFERENCE IN HONOUR OF CHIEF
JUSTICE UMAR ATA BANDIAL ON HIS ELEVATION
TO HON'BLE SUPREME COURT**

LAHORE, JUNE 11, 2014:

Chief Justice of Lahore High Court, Mr. Justice Umar Ata Bandial has said that Lahore High Court has raised the graph of disposal of cases to the optimum level during the past couple of years. The judgments delivered are also more qualitative and unreviewable. Hon'ble Chief Justice was addressing the Full Court Reference held in honour of his Lordship. Hon'ble Chief Justice designate, Mr. Justice Khawaja Imtiaz Ahmad & other Hon'ble Judges of LHC and a large number of eminent lawyers as well as Bar leaders graced the occasion.

Hon'ble Chief Justice said that by the grace of Almighty Allah the judiciary of today is deciding more number of cases than its institution and fast heading towards diminishing the backlog of cases. Regarding quality of judgments, his Lordship elaborated that in the year-2013 Lahore High Court decided 58500 cases and out them 2500 were challenged before the Apex Court. It was a matter of solace that only five percent judgments were set aside. It means that parties to the 56000 cases were satisfied with out rulings. Again in 2014 till date, 35000 cases were decided by Lahore High Court and depicted even greater disposal rate than the previous year. Only 859 judgments were challenged before the Supreme Court of Pakistan out which just 2.9 percent were set aside. Hon'ble Chief Justice said that this remarkable performance was result of the categorization and adverting towards specialization as well as hands on information technology. This landmark disposal also owes the better cooperation and assistance extended by the Bar. Every Court deserves dignity, respect and independence for better adjudication of cases. Chief Justice Umar Ata Bandial called upon the lawyers community to pay their due role for alleviating the miseries of the masses.

Comparing his educational and professional learning in America and England, Justice Bandial found his thirty four years association with Lahore High Court and Bar the best period for gaining knowledge and honing professional expertise. Hon'ble Chief Justice said that equal patronage and development work was carried on in the Benches of Lahore High Court at Bahawalpur, Rawalpindi and Multan as well as in the sub divisional Courts of the remote areas. He further said

that name of Mr. Hafiz Nadeem Kahlun hailing from Bahawalpur was proposed for the elevation which was also recommended by the Judicial Commission of Pakistan, however, he was not approved by the Parliamentary Committee and finally pending adjudication in the Court of Law.

Speaking at the Full Court Reference, Chief Justice designate, Mr. Justice Khawaja Imtiaz Ahmad paid tribute to Justice Umar Ata Bandial and said that the honour and distinction achieved by him was not easy, it came after years long dedicated services to the cause of justice. He said administration of Justice in our times has become a highly complicated phenomenon and in order to be a good Judge one has to acquaint oneself with every growing body of law. Justice Imtiaz said that no counsel ever returned from the Court of Justice Umar Ata Bandial with the feeling of not having been accorded on adequate and patient hearing. He said Justice Bandial endeavored hard to modernize the courts and showed the shining face of Judiciary by dint of innovation and progressive approach. Justice Khawaja also highlighted the revolutionary steps taken by the Hon'ble Chief for Judiciary of the Province like laptop scheme, refresher & capacity building courses at the Punjab Judicial Academy, encouraged Judicial Officers with the mechanism of rapid promotions, construction of new Court buildings and Judicial Complexes and implementation of National Judicial Policy etc. "Parting is never free from ting of sorrow, particularly when the association has been intimate and pleasant one. However, it is a matter of consolation to see Justice Bandial for many long years on the Apex Court, therefore, these feelings are mixed with grief for loss of his company and exhilaration of elevation", Hon'ble Justice concluded.

Registrar, Mr. Mahboob Qadir Shah conducted the proceedings of the Reference and the advocate community gave a standing ovation to Justice Umar Ata Bandial with a huge applause. Attorney General of Pakistan, Mr. Salman Aslam Butt, Advocate General of Punjab, Mr. Mustafa Ramday, Addl: Prosecutor General Punjab, Dr. Muhammad Anwar Gondal, President Lahore High Court Bar Association, Mr. Shafqat Mahmood Chohan, Presidents High Court Bar Associations Multan, Rawalpindi & Bahawalpur Benches, Syed Ather Hussain Shah Bukhari, Mr. Shafqat Ali Bhatti and Ch. Muhammad Riaz respectively also read the reference in honor of Mr. Justice Umar Ata Bandial. **(MEDIA CELL)**