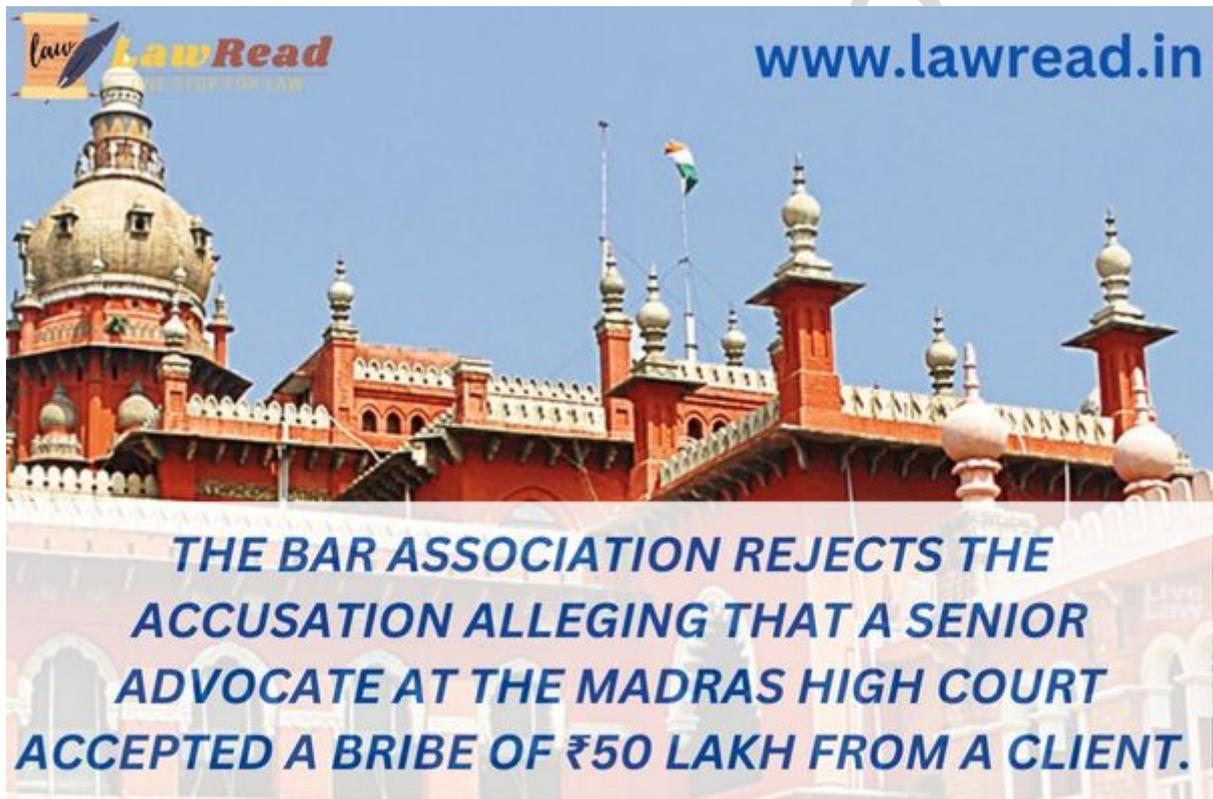


News

The bar association rejects the accusation alleging that a senior advocate at the Madras High Court accepted a bribe of ₹50 lakh from a client.



The lawyers' organization has filed a criminal complaint against people who are abusing its name.

Following claims that a prominent attorney who appeared before a Madras High Court judge had embezzled ₹50 lakh from a client on false pretenses of bribing the court, the All India Lawyers Association for Justice (AILAJ) has denied sending the representation that resulted in the judge's recusal. [N Ganesh Agarwal v. Police Inspector]

The lawyers' organization has now filed a criminal complaint against people who are abusing its name.

After the Registry got a notification from the Union Ministry of Law and Justice including a submission allegedly provided by AILAJ, Justice M Nirmal Kumar recently recused himself from hearing a criminal revision and related quashing appeal.

According to the representation, a senior advocate allegedly took ₹50 lakh from a client, saying the funds were intended for the judge, and that despite the payment, no order had been issued. The court ordered that the High Court Vigilance Cell look into the case and that it be brought to the Chief Justice.

The allegations were refuted by Senior Advocate N Murali Kumaran, who stated that he was willing to assist with any investigation. Additionally, Special Public Prosecutor K Srinivasan urged the Court to take strong action, arguing that such statements undermine the judiciary's dignity.

AILAJ stated in a press release dated February 16 that it was "shocked" to discover through media reports that a complaint had been filed in its name. The organization said that it had nothing to do with the alleged complaint and had not sent any such letter to the judge or any other body. Additionally, it made it clear that none of its members work from the address listed in the letter, which was not its workplace.

According to AILAJ, its office bearers met with the Madras High Court's Registrar General on February 16 and presented a statement elucidating the misuse of its name. Additionally, a complaint has been filed at the B-4 High Court Police Station, requesting that a criminal prosecution be registered against the offending parties.

The organization described the incident as a "malafide attempt to defame and malign," and promised to hold individuals responsible for the alleged misuse accountable.

In a different letter to the police, AILAJ stated that newspaper articles and the High Court's ruling were how it learned of the alleged misuse. It restated that neither the judge nor any other authority had received any such communication from it.

Additionally, the organization emphasized that its Chennai operational address is in Vandalur and that the address provided in the fictitious complaint was inaccurate. It further noted that the alleged complaint made reference to a "Secretary," a position that does not exist inside the State Coordinator-led organization.

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