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## Alleged abuse of discretionary powers of high court CJs challenged

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[9:35 pm, 19/04/2024] Mohammad Shafiq: LAHORE:

A petition was submitted to the Supreme Court Lahore Registry on Friday, challenging the discretionary powers wielded by the chief justices of the country's five high courts. These powers, it is alleged, have been exploited to benefit individuals close to the justices near their retirement, resulting in significant losses to the national exchequer. The petitioner, advocate Mian Dawood, has urged the highest court in the land to ensure that the same principles and legal standards applied to other institutions are enforced within the judiciary. The petition names the chief secretaries of the four provinces and the registrars of the five high courts – Lahore, Peshawar, Sindh, Balochistan, and Islamabad – as respondents. Dawood highlighted a range of concerns,

including corrupt practices, nepotism, and unconstitutional actions allegedly taken by high court chief justices under the guise of exercising their discretionary powers before retirement.

Specifically, Dawood cited the case of former Lahore High Court Chief Justice Muhammad Ameer Bhatti, alleging that numerous notifications were issued during his tenure to benefit his associates. Dawood asserts that promotions, salary increases, transfers, extended leaves, and other perks were granted in contravention of established rules and administrative policies.

[9:35 pm, 19/04/2024] Mohammad Shafiq: \\\