

anthology

A COMPENDIUM OF INDIA'S LEADING LAWYERS



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An Indian Corporate Counsel Association Endeavour

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Published by



**This book is dedicated to the Indian legal community;
the past, present, and future lawyers who have served the country
and its citizens over the years.**

Defending civil liberties, securing justice, and advancing the economy – our lawyers do it all.





We would like to thank everyone who made this book possible. From conceptualisation, ideation and translating our vision into the book that is now in your hands; it would not have been possible without the tireless efforts of a dedicated team.

We would like to acknowledge the advice, hard work and constant support of:

(In no particular order)

Chandni Chauhan

Kopal Garg

Shubho De

The Editorial Team



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93.	VASANTHARAO SATYA VENKATARAO	EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, IFCI LTD.
94.	OUR GLOBAL PARTNERS	



At the Indian Corporate Counsel Association (ICCA), our endeavour has always been to find new and innovative ways for engaging corporate counsel and facilitating constructive dialogues between them and external counsel.

This year, we have decided to focus our attention towards helping bring out the personalities of our members by releasing our fourth coffee table book titled 'Anthology: A compendium of India's leading lawyers'. As the title suggests, in this book we have tried to explore the often-unspoken aspects from the lives of corporate counsel that reveal their true personalities beyond their professional lives.

While some of our friends are avid travellers, others enjoy gardening, cycling and golf amongst their other passions. Some of them could have been engineers or doctors and in fact some could have even been professional hockey players had things turned out differently. We are extremely glad that life had other plans for them, and they became lawyers. If they had not, we may not have had the pleasure of knowing them and calling them our friends.

The legal community in India is comparatively small and we hope that our various endeavours help in bringing all of us together, step by step.

We would like to express our gratitude to all our members who have been a part of our journey as we continue to be at the forefront of placing the concerns and suggestions of Indian corporate counsel before the Government of India. It is a matter of pride that the Centre of Trade and Investment Law, which has been formed under the auspices of the Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry has also recently acknowledged our contribution towards providing suggestions for legal reforms in the country.

We also continue to be members of the Asia Pacific Corporate Counsel Alliance as well as the In-house Counsel Worldwide, where we play an active role in global discussions concerning corporate counsel.

I hope that in the coming years, our strength in numbers continues to grow and that we can collectively play a part in the growth and progress of not just India's in-house community, but that of the world. Both in my personal capacity and as the Founder President of ICCA, I am committed to doing my part in ensuring that we continue to receive support from both the private and public sectors, within India and globally.

Dr Ashok Sharma

Founder President, ICCA

Fellow, Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (London)



It is a privilege and an honour to be able to present you with 'Anthology – A Compendium of India's best lawyers'. This book seeks to highlight our admiration for those who work tirelessly for our justice system as well as for the advancement of our economy. We strive to shine a light on their achievements through this book, which is our way of honouring their contributions.

This effort has been made possible due to the Indian Corporate Counsel Association and the platform it has provided. The ICCA was established in 2011 with the objective of providing in-house counsel with a platform to gather together as a community of professionals, to interact and consult with one another on issues of strategic relevance and economic importance. It was also meant to be a stage where corporate counsel could connect with like-minded individuals from across the globe, and organically learn about best practices from across the world.

Over the last six years, ICCA has taken on larger initiatives and singular measures to increase interaction between corporate counsels, law firm lawyers and the larger business community. Of course, none of our achievements could have been possible without the support we receive from our Advisory Committee, senior members, as well as well-wishers from the larger legal community. They assist us innumerable ways, continually nurturing this organization, and truly have made us what we are today.

I reserve my last vote of thanks and deepest gratitude for Dr. Ashok Sharma, our Founder President, who has taken on the mantle of this responsibility with enthusiasm, and who was the one who first inspired the trust the Ministry of Law & Justice and Ministry of Commerce and Industry reposed in us, in recognizing us as the representative body of corporate counsels in the country.

The Indian Corporate Counsel sincerely hopes to continue to live up to the trust that has been reposed in us, by giving both a voice and recognition to the corporate counsel of this country.

Bhargav B. Bhuyan
Secretary General, ICCA









AB KIRAN

ADDITIONAL GENERAL MANAGER (LAW)
INDIAN RENEWABLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT
AGENCY LIMITED (IREDA)

Passionate about exploring and experiencing different cultures, AB Kiran has wanderlust and has travelled extensively both in India and abroad. When he is not travelling, AB Kiran likes to relax by listening to music or watching cricket at home.

A commerce and law graduate, AB Kiran heads the Legal department of the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited (IREDA); a Govt. of India Company. He is also the Central Public Information officer of IREDA. As Additional General Manager (Law), he leads a team of 10 lawyers and other supporting staff, advising the organization on litigation and corporate finance as also on Corporate Compliances, Risk Management, Service matters and Government Schemes.

Kiran lives by the philosophy that success is no accident. It is the sheer result of hard work and determination.

For all those aspiring to head in-house legal departments, Kiran advises that it is important for one to learn to strike the right balance between the 'business' and 'legal' needs of the firm. He also cautions against being pushed into signing off on anything that one believes is in contravention of certain provisions of the law.

ABHAI PANDEY

PARTNER
LEXORBIS

With over 27 years of experience in Corporate, IP & TMT and competition laws, Abhai is presently serving as Partner at LexOrbis, a specialist Intellectual Property law firm. He works at the Firm's dispute resolution Practice and advises clients in contentious matters for all IP rights, including patents, trademarks and passing off, designs, copyright and databases, trade secrets and confidential information, anti-counterfeiting and domain name disputes.

Abhai works with a team of litigators and investigators for enforcing, protecting or defending IP rights and represents clients at all stages of litigation and dispute resolution including devising pre-litigation strategies. He regularly appears in pre- and post-grant opposition cases at IP Offices, revocation and appeal cases at IPAB, infringement and passing off litigations at courts and for anti-piracy and anti-counterfeiting actions with enforcement agencies.

Abhai represents a wide range of businesses and industries including pharmaceutical, biotechnology, electronics, mechanical, ICT, publishing, media & entertainment etc.





IN-HOUSE ■

DR. AKHIL PRASAD

DIRECTOR, COUNTRY COUNSEL INDIA AND
COMPANY SECRETARY
BOEING INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED

A biker, a singer, a musician and a sportsperson, there is nothing that Akhil hasn't excelled at. Presently serving as the Director, Country Counsel – India, and Company Secretary of Boeing India Private Limited, Akhil became a member of the Institute of Company Secretaries in 1994 and graduated with an LLB in 1996. Besides these, Akhil also has two Doctoral qualifications in Commerce and Law; Company Secretary

qualifications from India and UK; Master of Law from India and USA; and a Certificate of Business Administration from Spain. Akhil has over 25 years of corporate experience and has worked as General Counsel in India for many well-known companies like Xerox, Electrolux, GM, Disney and Fidelity.

Akhil's philosophy for work or life is very simple. "It is your work that makes your life better" he remarks. He believes that to attain a better life, one needs to focus and bring excellence to one's work. It is work that one does to earn a living. For him, everything that you do in your daily life is work; be it pursuing a hobby or spending quality time with family and friends. He feels that it is important to devote and excel at all facets of work so that life becomes better and enjoyable.

TESTIMONIAL

I very much appreciate the recognition you are providing to Boeing's India Country Counsel, Dr. Akhil Prasad. As it happens, I have just spent the last week in India – Delhi, Bangalore and Chennai—with Dr. Prasad and our local leadership teams. Boeing is strategically committed to growth in India and has in fact grown sharply over the past three years. Dr. Prasad is a critical player in this growth for the Global Law Affairs team I head and for the Boeing Law Department.

Terrence (Terry) Adamson,

Vice President, Assistant General Counsel, Global Law Affairs,
General Counsel, Boeing International

Your favourite vacation spot?

Alberta, Canada

Your favourite movie of all time?

Sholay

Your favourite book of all time?

My Experiments With Truth: Mahatma Gandhi

Your favourite hobby?

Music

Your favourite car?

Hindustan Ambassador

The celebrity you'd like to meet someday?

Amitabh Bachchan

The best gift you got yourself?

Education

Your most treasured possession?

My family

Favourite thing to do on a Saturday night?

Spend time with family watching movies

What is always on your work desk?

Ganesha

■ IN-HOUSE

AMIT DESHPANDE

COMPANY SECRETARY & CORPORATE GENERAL COUNSEL
STERLITE TECHNOLOGIES LIMITED

Known for his wit and good sense of humour, Amit ensures that he creates a cheerful work environment for his colleagues even on the most mundane days of the week. A graduate in Commerce and Law from Symbiosis and ILS Law Colleges, Pune, Amit is also an associate member of the Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ACS). Serving as Company Secretary & Corporate General Counsel at Sterlite Technologies Limited, Amit plays an active role in the company's Secretarial, Corporate Legal, Ethics & Compliances and In-Organic initiatives.

A firm believer in simplicity, Amit feels that there is no point in unnecessarily complicating life. In his words, it is important to keep in mind a few things when it comes to being good at work and managing your life the way you want. "Try to be the best version of yourself; create value in whatever you do", he says.

For aspiring leaders looking to lead in-house legal teams, Amit's advice is to dream big, keep learning and build business acumen with a particular focus on taking new initiatives by challenging the 'status-quo'.

TESTIMONIAL

Amit has been working with Sterlite Tech for over 9 years. During these years, not only has he successfully taken over the responsibility as a Company Secretary but also has played significant roles in various corporate initiatives and matters. He has steered the demerger of Power Transmission Business from Sterlite Tech in 2015, which was a very complex and unprecedented structure. Amit could drive the entire transaction in a time bound project manner with no surprises. Apart from this, Amit has been an integral part of various M&A initiatives that the Company has completed both within India and outside India. Amit has also successfully driven the substantial legal matters of the Company driving towards favourable outcomes. Amit also continues to play a major role in upholding the Corporate Governance structure and Ethics & Code of Conduct standards of the Company.

Anupam Jindal,
Group CFO,
Sterlite Technologies



Your favourite vacation spot?

Lakshadweep & Goa

Your favourite movie of all time?

Andaz Apna Apna & Chhoti Si Baat (Hindi)

Your favourite hobby?

Playing Badminton, Table Tennis & Chess

Your favourite car?

BMW

The celebrity you'd like to meet someday?

MS Dhoni

The best gift you got yourself?

All of my vacations

Your most treasured possession?

My Family

Favourite thing to do on a Saturday night?

Spend quality time with family & friends

What is always on your work desk?

To Do List

AMIT KUMAR MISHRA

PARTNER
P&A LAW OFFICES

Amit heads the Dispute Resolution Practice at P&A Law Offices. His practice focuses on corporate litigation and arbitration. Amit has represented several Indian, U.S., European and Asia-Pacific corporations in cases before the Supreme Court of India, the High Court of Delhi, NCLT and other tribunals including the Securities Appellate Tribunal. Amit focuses on commercial arbitration and insolvency laws and is currently advising Government of India in some of the most important arbitration and litigation matters.

Amit is also currently representing Daiichi Sankyo, in its legal proceedings against Singh Brothers and Fortis Hospital, after having successfully secured a foreign award in favour of Daiichi Sankyo.

Lawyers at P&A have substantial Indian and international legal practice experience. They are admitted to practice in India, with some also being qualified to practice in other jurisdictions, such as the United States of America and England, where they have spent substantial time practicing law. Several of P&A's lawyers have extensive experience with US and European Union matters and with the laws of the European Union and East Asian countries. As a result, they combine Indian business, legal, and cultural expertise with North American, European and Asian legal experience, as well as the responsiveness and creativity demanded by their multi-national, blue-chip clientele. This distinctive and unique combination of skills enables P&A's lawyers to become trusted advisors and offer clients a complete solution to their India-related and international legal requirements.



AMIT MOGHAY

GENERAL COUNSEL

THE HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION LIMITED INDIA

As the story goes, a boy with an Air Force background applied for the entrance of NLS Bangalore from Delhi. When the result came out, it was the boy's name that was missing from the list of shortlisted candidates. Disheartened, he moved to Agra with his family and started applying for courses in Delhi. About to join the college in Delhi, the boy's family got a phone call from their previous neighbour in New Delhi informing them about a telegram from NLS Bangalore. The contents of the telegram mentioned that the boy was shortlisted in the subsequent list and had to join the college the very next day. The boy was none other than Amit Moghay, General Counsel, The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited. Clearly the stars aligned for him!

Presently serving as the senior-most legal professional for HSBC Group of Companies in India, Amit also oversees legal work in Sri Lanka and Mauritius.

Amit's personal philosophy towards both work and life is to decide two to three things in life that are most important for any person. Once identified, the person needs to ensure that he/she does not compromise on that in any way. These two to three things may change at different stages of a person's life; but while juggling the various things that life throws at us, we need to ensure that the most important things are never dropped. This philosophy has worked pretty effectively for him so far!

TESTIMONIAL

I have known Amit for over 15 years. Throughout our interaction, he has always been thoughtful, nuanced and developed a deep domain in his space. As an in-house counsel, one of your key strengths is how to manage the expectations and requirements of your business team, whilst protecting the franchise and de-risking the Company. Amit's gravamen in this space has helped him do this. His interaction with outside counsel also demonstrates his capability and maturity.

Mrs. Zia Mody,
Founder and Managing Partner,
AZB & Partners



Your favourite vacation spot?

Switzerland

Your favourite movie of all time?

Gladiator

Your favourite book of all time?

Shall We Tell the President

Your favourite hobby?

Watching movies and cycling

Your favourite car?

Lamborghini Urus

The celebrity you'd like to meet someday?

Barack Obama

The best gift you got yourself?

A cycle

Your most treasured possession?

My tattoo

Favourite thing to do on a Saturday night?

Relax with friends and family

What is always on your work desk?

Small gifts given by my family and friends

AMIT THUKRAL

VICE PRESIDENT & HEAD LEGAL
LUPIN LIMITED

Amit is a specialist IP, Regulatory and corporate commercial lawyer with over 18 years of work experience in assisting large Indian and Multinational organisations, operating in the Life Sciences, Technology and Broadcasting sectors, navigating issues that operate on the intersection of law and policy and impact business certainty and continuity. Amit holds an LLM degree in International Economic Law from the University of Warwick and is admitted to the Rolls of Solicitors of England & Wales and as an Advocate of the Bar Council of India. Amit has been recognized by industry peers with 'Outstanding Leadership Excellence- Inhouse' and as 'Rising Star- 40 under 40' awards.

Amit currently leads the law function at Lupin Ltd which is a publicly listed Indian transnational pharmaceuticals business with USD 4 billion in revenues. Amit leads a team of 15 legal professionals that supports the Indian and APAC business teams on all legal issues ranging from M&A, IP, regulatory, compliance, policy, corporate commercial and disputes. Amit works closely and partners with the leadership team at Lupin to proactively address business risks, support strategic growth initiatives while adhering to a robust compliance and governance framework.

Before joining Lupin, Amit has worked at UFO Movies (I) Ltd., Monsanto and Tata Sky. Throughout his span with these companies, Amit focused on supporting business growth by providing strategic advice on business related legal issues, managing corporate communications and structuring the DTH industry association. For his efforts with the respective companies, Amit was conferred with various individual awards.

In the past, Amit also managed the Mumbai office of a leading IP law firm where he worked with various Hollywood Studios to implement copyright enforcement solutions in India. Amit has also worked with Reliance Broadcast Network which was working towards launching the biggest Radio FM network in India at the time and successfully closed all music license agreements with various copyright societies and studios for 45 FM radio stations in 45 cities across India.

In his free time, Amit enjoys running, reading and spending time with his family.



■ IN-HOUSE

ANJALI GHOSH

INDIA LEGAL LEAD, PUBLIC SECTOR
AMAZON WEB SERVICES

A backpacker who loves to travel the world and interact with people from diverse cultures, Anjali is presently serving as the India Legal Lead, Public Sector for Amazon Web Services in the Asia Pacific region. A Law graduate, which she completed as early as 2009, speaks volumes about her quick growth in the industry. Anjali believes in taking smart risks both professionally or personally. She feels that caution may seem like a wise choice, but it is taking risks that drives one to achieve new heights. When leaders cultivate a culture of understanding and getting comfortable with smart risks, it automatically creates an innovative work environment that is eager to push the limits of possibility. In the lawyer community it is the work of Mr Rajshekhar Rao, one of India's leading litigation lawyers that she looks up to and with whom she worked with as well. She feels that Mr. Rao is one trial attorney who you don't want to see across the aisle. With unparalleled charm, humility and the ability to make complex matters simple without being condescending, he has an inherent likeability beneath the seemingly sombre legal garb.



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"Within the changing corporate paradigm, GCs are no longer relegated to simply running the legal department. Today's GCs often find themselves with a seat at the executive table, in a unique position to make a real contribution to the direction of the company. While legal expertise is the stepping stone, once in the role the most crucial step a GC can take is to know the business inside out by donning the hat of the business owner. In addition, today's GCs need to have a "great relationship" with the top management and be a respected adviser to the board of directors, so that they rely on the guidance to pre-empt problems as decisions are being made." Such is the advice that Anjali gives for someone looking to lead an in-house team.

TESTIMONIAL

Anjali is easily one of the finest professionals I have had the privilege of working with. Her analytical skills and commitment to excellence are outstanding. Anjali constantly brings her keen understanding of the various aspects of the legal framework to provide sharp insights to the teams to navigate and remove roadblocks. She believes that a Corporate Counsel is not merely an adviser or a trouble shooter to an organization, but also a business partner who adds value to the organization, an asset immensely valued at Amazon. I truly value her support and her partnership and more importantly her infectious enthusiasm.

Yolynd Lobo,
Amazon Web Services, India Public Policy Head

Your favourite vacation spot?

Florence, Italy

Your favourite movie of all time?

It's a wonderful life

Your favourite book of all time?

Crime and Punishment

Your favourite hobby?

Making short films

Your favourite car?

Beetle Convertible

The celebrity you'd like to meet someday?

Clint Eastwood

The best gift you got yourself?

Bose Headphones

Your most treasured possession?

An original 1942 film poster of Casablanca

Favourite thing to do on a Saturday night?

Watching a Hollywood classic

What is always on your work desk?

Family pictures

ANUMEHA SONI

SR. LEGAL AND COMPLIANCE COUNSEL
BOSTON SCIENTIFIC INDIA

A former science student whose parents harboured the dream for her to become a doctor, Anumeha developed a penchant for corporate law and decided to pursue a Company Secretary and a law degree. However, her taste for sciences never left her and therefore she chartered a major part of her working life in healthcare and science companies such as DuPont, Becton Dickinson, Alere and Boston Scientific Corporation. She feels this is a perfect blend for her desires to work in legal and health care industry thus also giving her parents the satisfaction of seeing her make a difference in human health and patient lives, while applying her legal skill sets. Presently serving as a Senior Legal and Compliance Counsel for Boston Scientific overseeing India and the SAARC countries, Anumeha completed her graduation in Law in the year 2003.

Having worked in the capacity of a legal and compliance head of three previous organizations that she worked with, she has different approaches to both. As a legal professional, her philosophy has always centred on business enablement and facilitating the organisation to find resolutions that ensure revenue contribution to the Organization's business. As a Compliance professional, her focus has always been on risk identification, aversion and mitigation. In this path at certain times actions are perceived to be business roadblocks and depending on the severity of the compliance risk, actions need to be taken that maybe business disruptive. However much a legal role is facilitative, for the larger interest of the organisation, the Compliance role is equally important and central to the organisation's success. Her personal philosophy for work is that 'The Organizational Interest is Supreme'.

TESTIMONIAL

Anumeha Soni is associated for more than two years with Boston Scientific India. She has been collaborating with the business in strategic and tactical business discussions and bringing in her expertise of commercial legal knowledge and the niche subject of healthcare industry compliances. She works with a strong foundation of legal and compliance knowledge but with an equally strong focus on interdependent partnering with other business and commercial functions bringing in customer centric, out of box legal advisories which has been very beneficial to the organization. Legal has responsibility for partnering, protecting and promoting business and she has delivered in all respects.

Prabal Chakraborty, Vice President & Managing Director, Boston Scientific India



Your favourite vacation spot?

Bali

Your favourite movie of all time?

Zindagi Na Milegi Dobara

Your favourite book of all time?

Pride and Prejudice

Your favourite hobby?

Travelling

Your favourite car?

Audi Q7

The celebrity you'd like to meet someday?

Michelle Obama

The best gift you got yourself?

My trip to Egypt

Your most treasured possession?

My Amazon Kindle

Favourite thing to do on a Saturday night?

Binge watching my favourite TV shows

What is always on your work desk?

My child's smiling picture and my travel diary.



ARJUN KRISHNAN

PARTNER | ADVOCATE ON RECORD
SAMVĀD: PARTNERS | SUPREME COURT OF INDIA

Arjun Krishnan is a senior disputes lawyer based in New Delhi and leads the disputes practice in New Delhi for the firm. He has acted for clients across various sectors, including competition law, electricity, arbitration and corporate law. He regularly appears before the Supreme Court of India, High Court of Delhi and various Tribunals and Commissions, including the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal, Appellate Tribunal for Electricity, and the Telecom Disputes Settlement & Appellate Tribunal.

He has significant experience in both domestic and international commercial arbitration and has represented a variety of clients in court proceedings for interim measures, setting aside arbitral awards, and appointment of arbitrators. Arjun has also advised the Government of India in arbitrations arising out of bilateral investment treaties. Arjun is currently acting for the commercial arm of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), in a high profile, multi-million-dollar dispute spanning a number of jurisdictions.

Arjun also specializes in various aspects of competition law. He has been involved in a number of seminal cases in what is a rapidly evolving area of law in India. He has represented parties in a number of landmark cases before the Supreme Court

under the Competition Act 2002, including Excel Crop Care v. CCI (2017), CCI v Bharti Airtel (2018) and CCI v Thomas Cook (2018).

He is also retained as counsel by the Competition Commission of India, and regularly represents them before the Supreme Court, Delhi High Court and the NCLAT.

Arjun has advised the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy and contributed to the Report of the Working Group of Foreign Investment (2010) under the Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance.

Arjun is an Inlaks Scholar, an alumnus of the National Law School of India University and New College, University of Oxford. He is an Advocate-on-Record in the Supreme Court of India, and was awarded a silver medal and the Mukesh Goswami Memorial Prize for obtaining the 2nd rank in the Supreme Court's AOR examination.

ASHUTOSH DAS

DIRECTOR LEGAL,
COMPLIANCE & CORPORATE AFFAIRS
MOLSON COORS INDIA

The rough and tumble of university level hockey has trained Ashutosh Das to understand group dynamics, the importance of strategy and the need to always listen to the team if you want to have them on board. Hockey and almost two decades of professional legal experience have honed him into the go-to person for all the companies he has worked in, especially during times of critical need. In his current role in Molson Coors, this has meant complying as quickly and peacefully as possible with the Bihar Prohibition and the recent Supreme Court Order banning liquor vends on highways.

A law graduate from Delhi University with a Master's in commercial law, Ashutosh has been instrumental in representing industry during the formulation and implementation of

the Food Safety and Standards Act. He has also represented industry at various forums of the CII, FICCI and ASSOCHAM and was part of the task force that represented Industry to the ministry. He was a key member of the team responsible for the transition after Miller's acquisition by Molson Coors. Ashutosh has previously worked with Wrigley, Pernod Ricard and Xerox, in different capacities in their legal and compliance functions.

Nothing relaxes Ashutosh more than catching up on sleep or reading Tintin or watching a rerun of his favourite movie, Satte pe Satta, with his family. His work mantra is very simple - Understand the issue and context before reacting. Active listening always helps.

To all those aspiring to lead in-house teams, Ashutosh advises that patience & a never say die approach is the key to success. He stands by the old saying, which is still relevant in today's world that 'there is no short cut to success'.



Your favourite vacation spot?

Denver/Bokaro

Your favourite movie of all time?

Satte Pe Satta

Your favourite book of all time?

Tintin

Your favourite hobby?

Reading

Your favourite car?

Toyota

The best gift you got yourself?

Time to sleep

Your most treasured possession?

Internal Peace

Favourite thing to do on a Saturday night?

Spending time with family

What is always on your work desk?

Notepad & Pen



DR. ATUL SUD

DIRECTOR – LEGAL & REGULATORY AFFAIRS
PERFETTI VAN MELLE INDIA PVT. LTD.

A professional with over two decades of experience in advising and supporting businesses in India, Asia & Emerging Markets, Atul began his career at Luthra & Luthra, Law Offices; before moving to the chambers of Senior Advocate Shri K. K. Sud. From there he moved to Dua Associates and spent about 5 years honing his skills on corporate, secretarial and regulatory matters. In 2005, he changed track to take up an in-house role with CitiFinancial Consumer Finance India Ltd as VP- Legal. Thereafter, he joined Metro Cash and Carry as Head, Legal & Compliance- Asia region. After a successful stint of six years with Metro, he joined Mylan Laboratories Ltd. in Hyderabad as their General Counsel for India and Emerging Markets.

Since August 2017, Atul has been working as Director Legal & Regulatory Affairs with M/s. Perfetti Van Melle India Pvt. Ltd., a leading confectionery brand in India. Atul specializes in managing complex litigation, corporate advisory, implementing compliance & ethics culture and in helping devise risk mitigation and management strategy.

Your favourite vacation spot?

Goa

Your favourite movie of all time?

Jaaney bhi do Yaaron

Your favourite book of all time?

Madhushala by Shri Bacchhan

Your favourite hobby?

Leisure walks

Your favourite car?

One that takes me where I want to go

The best gift you got yourself?

My wife

Your most treasured possession?

Family

Favourite thing to do on a Saturday night?

Cooking

What is always on your work desk?

Commitment & determination



BRIJESH LAMBA

GENERAL MANAGER – CORPORATE LAW
ESCORTS LIMITED

Born on 31st May, Brijesh graduated with a degree in law from CLC, Delhi University in 2004. He is currently the General Manager – Corporate Law at Escorts Group, where in the last ten years he has handled their entire legal portfolio. Brijesh has previously worked with Carrier Air-conditioning & Refrigeration Ltd and prior to that was a litigating counsel appearing before various Delhi courts. Brijesh focusses on the business first and understands that the legal aspects of any deal, regulatory requirement or dispute must be viewed from the lens of the business goals. He has gained a reputation for making the right calls and connecting the dots with limited information to help his team make it to the finish line by the deadline and without any snags. He prioritizes and communicates the key business points, knowing how to signal and address potential legal issues without dragging business leaders into the fray or wasting their time on concerns that the lawyers need to work out among themselves. At the same time, he also knows how to gently reign in business folks who get ahead of

themselves by ignoring those legal risks with which they actually should concern themselves, including business risks that are masquerading as legal risks.

Brijesh follows three philosophies that he has identified for himself:

1. Observe and listen
2. Don't try getting through the day. Get from the day.
3. Be alert. Be awake. Often the most extraordinary opportunities are hidden among seemingly insignificant events.

Brijesh feels that the role of a Corporate Counsel is that of a business enabler, while at the same time ensuring that the company is acting within the realms of the law. Instead of simply and often somewhat reactively analysing an issue from a legal perspective, a Corporate Counsel will help remove obstacles and foster business objectives in a proactive manner. "A Corporate Counsel will ensure that the company maintains the highest standards of legal and ethical behaviour, adroitly balancing the dual imperatives of company performance and corporate integrity.

Your favourite vacation spot?

London

Your favourite movie of all time?

The Godfather

Your favourite book of all time?

War and Peace by Leo Tolstoy

Your favourite hobby?

Playing Cricket & Video games

Your favourite car?

Lamborghini

The celebrity you'd like to meet someday?

Julia Roberts

The best gift you got yourself?

Kindness

Your most treasured possession?

Memories

Favourite thing to do on a Saturday night?

Watching a movie with family

What is always on your work desk?

Files, papers and a diary



CYRIL ABROL

PARTNER
REMFRY & SAGAR

Spending his free time in the wilderness camping or playing golf and swimming when he is in the city, Cyril leads the foreign investment and corporate law practice as Partner at Remfry & Sagar.

Having completed his bachelor's degree in Commerce and graduating with an LL.B., Cyril was inducted in the bar in 2002. Over the years, he has built his expertise working across various industries including engineering, healthcare, pharmaceutical, apparel, manufacturing, software, automobile, mining and trading. Cyril's work encompasses corporate and intellectual property transactional matters. His current practice areas include managing corporate commercial law in Technology, Media and Telecom.

He has wide-ranging experience in drafting Shareholders' Agreement/s, Business/Share Transfer/Purchase Agreements,

IP Assignment/license agreements and Employee Transfer documentation as well as negotiating deals on behalf of clients and implementing investment protection and exit strategies. On the technology front, Cyril has expertise in drafting documentation pertaining to commercialisation and protection of technology, deal structuring, technology due-diligence, entering negotiations with prospective receivers of technology and approaching appropriate dispute redressal forums for enforcement of rights.

Cyril advises clients on doing business in India with an ability to provide tailor-made solutions to suit investor's long-term India centric interests. He is a EU-GDPR certified professional and regularly advises on data protection law, licensing, joint ventures, takeovers, commercial transactions, arbitration, exchange control, competition law, advertising laws and consumer protection laws.

Recently, Cyril was appointed a mediator on the 'Mediation and Conciliation Panel' by the Indian Ministry of Corporate Affairs.

Cyril channels the experience gained from advising large multi-nationals in hand holding start-ups and offering management advisory services to them. As he brings a well-rounded legal perspective to the table, Cyril is also on the Board of a few corporates.



DAMANDEEP KAUR

SR. VP AND HEAD LEGAL TEAM
TELEPERFORMANCE D.I.B.S

A staunch believer of the fact that irrespective of status and position, respect for people and recognition of their work should be duly given, was one of the key reasons why Damandeep switched her practice from litigation to an in-house counsel. Presently serving as the Sr. Vice President and Head of Legal with Teleperformance D.I.B.S and managing their Global outreach, Damandeep has 14 years of experience in the legal industry.

Her personal philosophy in life is to always inspire all and to treat people fairly and respectfully in the course of her life and profession. At the same time, always be flexible and remember 'change is the only constant'. The Botswana use the term "botho" to describe a person who is courteous, disciplined, and realizes his or her full potential both as an individual and as a part of the community to which he or she belongs. In a sense, it is a social contract by which one lives. And we should strive to be a Botho.

TESTIMONIAL

Daman is an epitome of

passion and commitment. Daman has the unique ability to provide solutions that meets business requirements and also adhering to organizational legal and risk requirements. With her vast experience of working across multiple geographies, Daman played a stellar role to support the Middle East region providing complex solutions to close contracts and set legal and risk framework for the region. She demonstrates creative thinking and has great vocabulary expression. She is fun to work with and is an indispensable asset to the organization. Daman is a perfect role model for passion and commitment, and I wish all the best in all that she does!

Piety Gonsalves, Managing Director – Middle East Teleperformance DIBS
(Digital Integrated Business Services)

Your favourite vacation spot?

Goa

Your favourite movie of all time?

Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge

Your favourite book of all time?

Himalayan Masters

Your favourite hobby?

Reading

Your favourite car?

Volkswagen

The celebrity you'd like to meet someday?

Bill Gates

The best gift you got yourself?

My Education

Your most treasured possession?

My family and friends

Favourite thing to do on a Saturday night?

Partying with my best friends

What is always on your work desk?

A book



DEBOLINA PARTAP

GENERAL COUNSEL AND VICE PRESIDENT LEGAL
WOCKHARDT LIMITED

When we are kids, we have very different aspirations in life. Same was the case with Debolina who wanted to become a nun while studying in school. But life had something else in store for her. Serving as the General Counsel and Vice President Legal at Wockhardt Legal, Debolina brings to the table a wealth of legal experience, having completed her graduation in law in the year 1993.

A person who cares for the society as a whole, Debolina's philosophy for both work and her personal life centres on living for the others.

As a corporate counsel, she believes that winning is not important but helping others not to lose is what one should achieve as in-house corporate lawyer. Only when the other side thinks that they have not lost, is the real success for one's organization, because this way both parties arrive at

a win-win situation. As an in-house counsel, it is very important to have a win all position at all times and under any circumstance.

Debolina believes that there is no shortcut to success and that it is very important for anyone who wants to get into a leadership role to comprehend the very nuances of working in the legal industry. 'Start your work from scratch, i.e. filing and running around in court registry and page numbering. Only then can you rise above the prism to become a good lawyer and an advocate. Be a good human being; that is the most important thing.'

Your favourite vacation spot?

Goa

Your favourite movie of all time?

Gone with the Wind, Casablanca and Pride and Prejudice

Your favourite book of all time?

Bhagvad Gita

Your favourite hobby?

Abstract sketching

Your favourite car?

My black Fluence

The celebrity you'd like to meet someday?

Tom Cruise

Your most treasured possession?

My best friend

Favourite thing to do on a Saturday night?

Surprises

What is always on your work desk?

The photo of Lord Ganesha



DEEPA KRISHNAMURTHY

SENIOR DIRECTOR LEGAL
NTT DATA SERVICES

An enthusiastic baker and an urban gardener who loves to grow vegetables organically in her own small yard, Deepa is a Senior Director, Legal at NTT DATA Services. She is passionate about giving back to society and has co-founded "A Thousand Cranes", a not for profit group that furthers causes related to women and children by way of volunteering and bringing together like-minded people to raise funds and awareness through baking and papercraft activities. Having discovered her love for Time Speed Distance (TSD) rallies and having completed one, she plans to do several more in the near future.

Deepa's philosophy for both work and life are governed by three principles:

1. Work hard and smart!
2. When your people succeed, you succeed. Hence hire the right people, continuously steer them in a direction and a positive environment that is beneficial to the organization and themselves
3. Never stop learning – learnings can come from the unlikeliest of people and places.

Deepa looks up to Menaka Guruswamy's work. "In a professional community that is largely dominated by men, Menaka has made her mark in constitutional law practice. She's an inspiration to women lawyers in general and specifically for women who want to litigate and have a place of their own in the courtroom. She has played a big part in bringing about the recent verdict on Art. 377."

TESTIMONIAL

It has been a pleasure working with Deepa over the last several years - Deepa is an outstanding commercial lawyer, having negotiated and guided us on several very complex deals in this region. I see her as a strong and mature legal leader who has developed the legal team for the APJ and India regions. Deepa comes across as unpretentious, straight-forward – and is well respected both personally and professionally. With her keen business acumen, she has been a strategic advisor and a trusted business partner to the board of directors of the company. Her ability to creatively resolve difficult issues makes her an asset to the organization.

Ashish Chitkara

Director NTT DATA IPS and Chief Operating Officer,
Application Services, NTT DATA.

Your favourite vacation spot?

Sri Lanka

Your favourite movie of all time?

My Fair Lady

Your favourite book of all time?

Tuesdays with Morrie, Mitch Albom

Your favourite hobby?

Baking

Your favourite car?

I love Skoda cars!

The celebrity you'd like to meet someday?

The Masterchef Australia judges, particularly George Calombaris.

The best gift you got yourself?

My dog Sparky

Your most treasured possession?

They're not exactly a possession, but I treasure my family above all.

Favourite thing to do on a Saturday night?

Movies and good company

What is always on your work desk?

A picture of my family



DEEPAK ACHARYA

SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT AND GENERAL COUNSEL
WIPRO LIMITED

A qualified trainer for various Management Training Programs, Deepak manages the Global practice of Wipro Limited in the capacity of Senior Vice President and General Counsel. Having graduated with a law degree in 1990, Deepak has over 25 years of experience in the legal sector.

Deepak believes that it is important to have the right character and to be competent to become a successful Corporate Counsel. Without being a good person first, one cannot become a good counsel. Leading an in-house team is a challenging role especially when you have a large team of lawyers. His advice to aspiring leaders of the in-house team is to be their 'Servant Leader' and take good care of the people and the people will then take care of the business.

Your favourite vacation spot?

Himalayas/Swiss Alps

Your favourite movie of all time?

Sholay/Black

Your favourite book of all time?

Long Walk to Freedom by Nelson Mandela

Your favourite hobby?

Playing Badminton

Your favourite car?

Jaguar Land Rover

The celebrity you'd like to meet someday?

Mr Kailash Satyarthi

The best gift you got yourself?

Kindle

Your most treasured possession?

My Health

Favourite thing to do on a Saturday night?

Watch a movie

What is always on your work desk?

Lord Ganesha

DEEPAK SABHARWAL

MANAGING PARTNER
DEEPAK SABHARWAL & ASSOCIATES

Deepak is the Managing Partner of DSA. Started by his father as a boutique law firm in Delhi in 1967, DSA is now a full-service firm with offices in Mumbai, Kolkata, Hyderabad, Chennai and Bangalore.

Deepak began his career in 1988 working on labour law matters. He then set up his independent civil litigation practice in 1993, before gradually shifting his focus to representing Indian business houses, public sector companies and multinational corporations in district courts, tribunals, various high courts, and the Supreme Court of India. Deepak also worked to establish a network of associates in over 400 district courts around the country.

Deepak's firm specializes in civil and corporate laws, including Arbitration, Consumer, Labour & Employment Laws, Banking & Finance, Litigation, Mergers & Acquisitions, Corporate Services, Intellectual Property Rights, Real Estate, Funds, Compliance & Due Diligence, Infrastructure & Resources, Cross-Border Ventures, Information Technology & Telecom, Capital Market Transactions, Drafting and Conveyancing.

The sectors his firm represents are Financial Services, Power, Telecom, Insurance, Aviation, Hospitality, Real Estate, Consumer Durables, Steel, Automobile, Entertainment, Engineering goods, Liquor, Packaging, Railways, Textiles, Education, IT, Media (Newspaper, Art and Theatre), Transport, Oil exploration, BPO, Pharmaceutical & Infrastructure, and Agricultural Sectors.

Deepak is also a Director on the Board of M/S Singer India Ltd. and BHARTI Axa insurance & BHARTI Axa Life Insurance's boards Committee. He plays a very active role in promoting trade relations between countries, and believes it to be a method of fostering world peace. He practices this method, and has been the President of the Youth Wings of the Indo-



Bhutan and Indo-Tunisia Friendship Associations. He is also a member of "the Indo-China group", "the Indo-Japan group", "Indo-Ethiopia group", "Indo-Algeria group", "Indo-Iraq Society" and the "Arab-Afro Club", all of which have Indian constitutional heads and diplomats as their chief patrons.

Deepak is inspired by the Senior Advocate Fali S. Nariman for his "unique ability to conceive new ideas and for the way he crafts an original argument or proposition and puts it across to the court". His advice to those thinking of leading a law firm is to develop and understand business and people management. He says "I have learnt that to manage a law firm, one needs to not only possess the attributes of a lawyer but also to have a reasonable understanding of other facets of management."

DEEPIKA CHAUDHRY

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR LEGAL APAC
XEROX

Deepika Chaudhry strongly believes that true success and happiness lies in balancing contributing and continuously working on all five pillars of one's life, which are family, work, health, spirituality, and community & friends.

Deepika has more than two decades of experience in leadership positions in market leading multinational companies. Currently the Asia Pacific Executive Director, Legal in Xerox, she has previously worked with, among others, Microsoft Corporation India, where she led the Legal, Compliance, Regulatory and Secretarial functions of all four legal entities of the company in India; IMIL as General Counsel and Vice President, Legal; and Aricent as its General Counsel and Legal Head. In her current role at Xerox she advises boards, manages stakeholder relations, services clients, ensures compliance – both internal and statutory, and represents the company in public policy and other regulatory matters. With such diverse experience, it comes then as no

surprise that she won an award of 'Female General Counsel of the Year' in 2014.

She treasures her personal time, for it is this that helps her manage the challenges that come with the position she holds in Xerox. She loves to holiday by the sea and spend time with her family and friends. She also loves going for self-realization discovery workshops & spiritual Yoga retreats. Besides that, reading a good book are some of the ways in which she likes to unwind. While her favourite book of all time is 7 Habits of Highly Effective People, Deepika - herself a highly effective counsel by any standard - has some sage advice for young lawyers aspiring to become in-house counsel. "There are no short cuts to success. Consistent performance, building healthy relationships and continuously re-inventing yourself is the key to success."

TESTIMONIAL

I had the pleasure of working closely with Deepika Chaudhary since I joined Xerox India Limited as the Managing Director and Regional VP more than 2 years back. Deepika has always provided the business in India and the region with invaluable and on-time consultative and executive support, her knowledge and expertise of the legal environment and regulatory requirements not only enabled the business to grow but also brought many of the long-standing cases to a satisfactory closure. I really appreciate her continued support and wish her every success, both personally and professionally.

Elarman Ashraf, Ex-Managing Director, Xerox



DHANRAJ MULKI

GENERAL COUNSEL & COMPANY SECRETARY
MAHINDRA HOLIDAYS & RESORTS INDIA LIMITED

Living by the philosophy that God and your parents have given a chance to live so make the most out of life and enjoy all the things which come in your daily life, Dhanraj is a humble and a kind-hearted person, often helping people in his team to reach to their full potential. He believes strongly in putting in the hard work, commitment and dedication towards work.

Serving as the General Counsel & Company Secretary at Mahindra Holidays & Resorts India Limited, Dhanraj completed his graduation in Law in 1991. Dhanraj is with Mahindra Holidays & Resorts India Ltd. since October 2018 and he is a Key Managerial Person in Mahindra Holidays & Resorts India Limited and designated as General Counsel & Company Secretary. He is part of the Leadership team and leads the Legal, Compliance and Company Secretarial functions of the Company and its subsidiaries.

Dhanraj has over 25 years of experience in the areas of Legal, Corporate Governance, Licensing and Company Secretarial functions. His experience is spread across diverse industries and sectors, including Steel, banking, travel and tourism, hospitality and multiplexes. Dhanraj has served for over 10 years in Roots Corporation Limited, a budget brand of the Tata Group between 2005 to 2015 and has also served in INOX Leisure Ltd between 2015 to 2018.

He loves spending time on helping underprivileged people of the society in whatever way he can help them and also loves to travel across the world with family. He also enjoys attending music concerts and following trends in the stock market.

Your favourite vacation spot?

Switzerland

Your favourite movie of all time?

Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge

Your favourite book of all time?

The Monk who sold his Ferrari

Your favourite hobby?

Travelling and attending Hindi Music concerts and listening to evergreen hits of Kishore Kumar

Your favourite car?

Maruti Ertiga

The celebrity you'd like to meet someday?

Amitabh Bachchan

The best gift you got yourself?

My family

Your most treasured possession?

My family and a few very close friends

Favourite thing to do on a Saturday night?

Relax at home or go to a restaurant to have dinner with family

What is always on your work desk?

My laptop and my phone

■ IN-HOUSE

DHIRAJ MISHRA

GENERAL MANAGER – LEGAL (SOUTH ASIA, MIDDLE EAST AND SUB SAHARAN AFRICA), KOHLER INDIAN CORPORATION PRIVATE LIMITED

A story teller gifted with a keen sense of observation who picks up his stories from daily personal and professional events and laces them with practical humour, Dhiraj has fostered many friendships and has garnered affection in the lawyer community. Dhiraj takes a keen interest in learning about other topics apart from law, especially psychology. Serving as General Manager – Legal for South Asia, Middle East and Sub Saharan Africa region for Kohler Indian Corporation Private Limited, Dhiraj lives by the philosophy that every day is a new day and that one should not take anything for granted. Dhiraj looks up to the work of Harish Salve in the industry. He admires Harish's humble nature and the fact that he provides free legal aid to distressed citizens. Two particular cases; getting a provisional stay for Kulbhushan Jadhav's execution and securing bail for Lt. Colonel Shrikant Purohit have impressed Dhiraj the most. Dhiraj believes that while it is important to be well-rounded in legal concepts, an in-house counsel should have a wider repertoire of knowledge in other subject matters, be it Chemistry or Finance as they will be required to work with various teams in a company on diverse issues facing the business. An in-house counsel should also be well-versed with impending or ongoing changes in the world that may impact the business of the Company or the legal fraternity. This not only readies the counsel for challenges/ crisis situations but also paves the path for his/ her growth in the organization.

TESTIMONIAL

Dhiraj Mishra has embraced what it means to be a valued strategic business partner. Having fully immersed himself in the needs of the varied business units he supports, he is able to provide practical and strategic advice that enables the business to achieve its goals. He leads our legal team to be responsive and efficient, navigating one of the greatest and most complex markets in the world. Dhiraj is precisely the kind of in-house lawyer that a multinational company like Kohler Co. needs as it continues to grow.

Natalie Maciolek, Vice President - General Counsel & Corporate Secretary, Kohler Co.

In today's increasingly complex corporate world it's important for business leaders to get timely and proactive advice from their in-house legal resource to ensure that aggressive business results are delivered while meeting and exceeding all legal and regulatory standards and compliances. Dhiraj has a sound knowledge of the legal landscape in the country but equally importantly he understands business needs and has a keen insight into the company's strategic plans. He is thus able to provide sagacious inputs to ensure that business leaders are operating in a legally compliant and empowered ecosystem. This is business partnership at its best.

Salil Sadanandan, President Kohler brand, South Asia, Middle East and SSA



Your favourite vacation spot?

Goa

Your favourite movie of all time?

Zanjeer

Your favourite book of all time?

Mahabharata

Your favourite hobby?

Reading books, magazines and newspapers

Your favourite car?

Mercedes Benz S-Class

The celebrity you'd like to meet someday?

Julia Roberts

The best gift you got yourself?

My iPhone XS Max

Your most treasured possession?

My books

Favourite thing to do on a Saturday night?

Spend time with friends and family

What is always on your work desk?

Water bottle to keep myself hydrated, a daily planner and photographs



DINESH MITTAL

GROUP GENERAL COUNSEL & COMPANY SECRETARY
HT MEDIA LIMITED

Dinesh has worked with Whirlpool India, DCM Group, JK Synthetics and Hindustan Times in his professional career spanning over 32 years. Immediately prior to joining HT, he was the Executive Director at Whirlpool India handling Legal, Tax and Secretarial matters for India and South East Asia where he worked for 10 years. At HT, his responsibilities including Legal, Tax (both direct & indirect), Secretarial and Government Relations for the entire group consisting of 2 listed and about 11 unlisted entities. These entities are engaged primarily in media business consisting of Print media, Digital Media, Electronic Media (FM Radio) and Education. Dinesh was on the Board of Directors of the Company for few years and currently is the Group General Counsel & Company Secretary of HT Media Ltd. (a listed entity). He holds a Bachelors' Degree in Law from Delhi University and a Masters' Degree in Law (IPR) from Queensland University, Australia. He is a qualified Company Secretary and also has a Post Graduate Diploma in Business Administration. Dinesh is a staunch believer of the fact that - Life is not all about rules, regulations & rigidity but about happiness. One should enjoy what he/she does. It is important to accept and learn from defeat/bad days gracefully, as we look back to think ahead and plan for better results next time.

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Your favourite vacation spot?

Iceland

Your favourite movie of all time?

Gol Maal (1979)

Your favourite book of all time?

Deception Point

Your favourite hobby?

Cooking & Gardening

Your favourite car?

Camry Hybrid

The celebrity you'd like to meet someday?

Ratan Tata

The best gift you got yourself?

Foreign Education-LLM from Queensland University, Australia

Your most treasured possession?

Old photographs of my parents

Favourite thing to do on a Saturday night?

Time spent with family is worth every second

What is always on your work desk?

Positive Attitude

TESTIMONIAL

I have known Dinesh Mittal for almost 20 years as a colleague in two different organisations. I have seen him add tremendous value to both these organisations with invaluable legal advice. He has very good business acumen, and his foresight has led to identification of opportunities which have created organisational value. He has demonstrated the highest level of personal and professional integrity.

Rajeev Beotra, Chief Executive Officer, HMVL

Dinesh Mittal is a dear colleague for over seven years and has been a valuable business partner. I have had the opportunity to work with him on many initiatives such as business acquisitions, investments decisions and critical business issues. Dinesh has guided us in many business negotiations and his contribution to business growth has been immense. Apart from being a professional with highest work ethics, he is an endearing person who always helps and supports business.

Harshad Jain, Chief Executive Officer, Radio and Entertainment, HT Media Ltd

DIVYAKANT LAHOTI

ADVOCATE ON RECORD
LAHOTI ADVOCATES

Divyakant Lahoti graduated from University School of Law and Legal Studies (GGS Indraprastha University, Delhi) in the year 2008. He is a third-generation lawyer, an Advocate on Record, a dedicated and driven lawyer with an LL.M. qualification in International Commercial Law earned at King's College, London and has experience within a wide range of legal disputes. He has also secured a specialization in Intellectual Property Rights from the University of South Africa and WIPO in 2011 with 100% scholarship. Divyakant is one of the leading Advocates on Record in the Supreme Court. In his early phase of the career, Divyakant trained and fine-tuned under the able guidance of Justice R. C. Lahoti, Former Chief Justice of India. Luthra and Luthra Law Offices had provided him with an action-packed litigation experience, including 2G or Defence Scam, from heavy stake commercial arbitrations to high profile telecom litigation.

Divyakant is also an activist lawyer and has consecutively convened National Experts' Workshop on Criminal Prosecution with the assistance of Haryana Police in the year 2016 and 2017 for the training and development of Police and other law enforcement agencies. Divyakant is a Member of Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (MCiArb) and Young ICCA Advisory Member "Buddy". He has authored several articles which have been published in recognized legal journals. He was featured as a Super Lawyer in 2016 and acknowledged as a young legal professional in the recent book "On the Rise". He has also contributed a chapter on Impartiality and Independence of Arbitral Tribunal in a wide acclaimed Book on ADR-Indian Perspective, published by Oxford University Press, in 2018.

Divyakant's personal philosophy when it comes to both work and life is to maintain a perfect balance between the two. He indeed recommends to put in the required time and effort in



the formative years of a lawyer's career however also suggests to keep a check on one's health. In his opinion, legal professionals ought to devote their time in augmenting knowledge and legal skills, honing their language and interpersonal skills. Divyakant admires the work of Fali S. Nariman and Dr. Rajeev Dhavan. He believes that both are legal stalwarts who have revolutionised the legal industry and are the perfect example for any young lawyer to emulate.

Divyakant feels that experience is the key to becoming a successful lawyer provided the learning curve is not compromised on any stage of the journey. "With every case, a lawyer learns, evolves and gets experienced. Experience is the most valuable tool in the lawyer's briefcase. Initially, the role of a young lawyer is confined to research, case preparation and assisting the senior counsel for case presentation. Gradually with experience, the lawyer matures and presents the case himself with all the court-crafts in his kitty. As the responsibility increases, the lawyer uses his experience, extensive preparation and legal acumen for better delivery of the case".

Over the years Divyakant has worked for a wide range of clients including All Saints College, Nainital, Bansal Infratech Synergies, Canara Bank, Dainik Bhaskar, Emkay Global Financial Services, Hare Krishna Movement Vrindavan, Laxmibai National Institute for Physical Education, Rajiv Gandhi Educational Society, Rashmi Metaliks, River Engineering and Vectus Industries.

EKTA BAHL

PARTNER

SAMVĀD: PARTNERS

Ekta has significant experience in corporate and commercial laws, with specific focus on corporate restructuring, project finance, private equity and M&A. She has substantial industry specific experience in the areas of information technology, infrastructure (with special emphasis on road and power sectors), banking & finance, private equity and M&A, venture capital, education, healthcare, biotechnology and pharma, real estate and capital markets (i.e. with respect to initial public offers and rights issues).

Ekta has also provided legal assistance to various social sector enterprises and start-ups.

Ekta has provided legal assistance to various social sector enterprises and start-ups. She has also been a speaker at various forums with respect to legal issues on several subjects.

Ekta is also a qualified mediator having completed the requisite 40 (forty) hours mediation training from both the Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs and the International Centre for Alternative Dispute Resolution, Hyderabad.

Ekta Bahl is a recognised practitioner for Life Sciences. (Chambers Asia-Pacific 2019 and 2018) and is a recommended practitioner for Projects and Energy. (Legal500 2018).





EUROF LLOYD-LEWIS

PARTNER
CLYDE & CO LLP

Fascinated by military history and using his free time to enjoy mountain biking, Eurof is a qualified solicitor with Clyde & Co since 1993. Specialising in dry shipping, commodities, international trade, offshore and commercial litigation, Eurof regularly advises a broad range of commercial entities including ship owners, charterers, cargo interests, ship managers, brokers, insurers, banks and trading houses with regard to issues arising out of commercial agreements, including charter parties, bills of lading, contracts for the sale of goods both physicals and futures, documentary credits, financial and debt instruments including guarantees and bonds, insurance, trade finance, shareholder agreements and joint venture agreements.

He has considerable experience in handling disputes before the Commercial and Chancery courts in England and arbitrations in London and overseas including before, the LMAA, GAFTA, FOSFA, LCIA and other arbitral bodies.

Eurof lives by the philosophy that whenever he is presented with a new project, he is always looking to identify the apt commercial solution, keeping the legal implications in mind. He tends to enjoy his work as it gives him the opportunity to be innovative and exercise his brain's muscles to provide solutions.

Eurof points out a particular case that helped shape his career over the last 10 years. Even though as an associate and partner, Eurof has run a number of high value dispute trials, it was the highly complex litigation case in 2006 involving Elektrim, Citibank and Law Debenture Trust Corporation that was a turning point in his career. The trial gave him a lot of confidence and helped him establish as one of the strongest litigators in the country. His successful work in the marine and International sale of goods sector has boosted his profile over the years and has built a strong reputation for him amongst his clients and within the firm.

For any lawyer aspiring to lead a law firm, Eurof recommends that they should continue to work at learning the law and its application and work at becoming their clients' trusted advisor, as in the long-run this will help them gain instructions and provide them with more work satisfaction. He also advises freshers to make as many contacts as they can and spread their network far and wide, as one never knows who can become useful in the future. He also suggests that when advising clients, it is important to be straightforward yet down to earth.



GOPAL R MENGHANI

PRESIDENT LEGAL
LODHA DEVELOPERS PRIVATE LIMITED

Gopal has over 18 years of experience as a lawyer; eight of these have been with Lodha Developers Private Limited, where as President – Legal he has not only overseen the legal and regulatory issues relating to land purchase, complex financing, consumer documentation and strategic partnerships with international brands, but also represented the company in international negotiations and transactions. Gopal was previously at Reliance Industries Limited where he served as Vice President – Legal.

He holds a Bachelors' Degree in Law from Delhi University and a Masters' Degree in Law (IPR) from Queensland University, Australia. He is a qualified Company Secretary and also has a Post Graduate Diploma in Business Administration.

Gopal lives by the philosophy that one should always strive to do good and be good to others. It is also important to be open to learning and adapting to new challenges. He goes on to add that if there is someone who is better than you and who brings immense value to the table, then do not hesitate to employ that person.

Gopal believes that a Corporate Counsel is not merely an adviser or a trouble shooter to an organization, but also a business partner who adds value to the organization. His understanding of the law not only benefits the organization financially but also helps prevent or mitigate any loss.

TESTIMONIAL

Gopal Menghani provides exemplary leadership to a critical function – the legal team plays a vital role in all aspects of our business. He has developed a strong ability to adapt to different circumstances and ensure that the organization's interests are judiciously protected. He is a key asset to our organization and a critical member of our leadership.

Abhishek Lodha

Managing Director, Lodha Developers Private Limited



GURURAJA RAGHVAN RAO

LEGAL COUNSEL, SONY PICTURES NETWORKS INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED

Some people are born to excel at what they do and the same is the case with Gururaja who was always passionate about pursuing law. In his Master of Law from Mumbai University, he scored the highest grades in both the years. Recently, Gururaja cleared the examination of the Compliance of Ethics Professional course conducted by CEA and secured the highest marks. Gururaja lives by a philosophy which involves six key elements that define the success of a person in any field. These include Honesty & Integrity, Motivation, Focus, Teamwork, Effort (200%) and Leadership. However, he is also an advocate of “work hard and party harder”. This allows him and his team to strike a proper work life balance.

Gururaja believes that the role of a corporate counsel is not confined to just managing the legal risks associated with the business of the company in which they work. As a corporate legal counsel, he sees his role as a partner to the business team, understanding their issues and proactively

producing viable and tangible solutions and demonstrating the ability to be a business ‘enabler’ which would help contribute to the profits of the company. The role also requires an understanding of the pressure points, strategy and objectives of the business and effectively communicating the risks and legal issues involved in any decision making processes to the top management to enable them to make informed strategic decisions.

TESTIMONIAL

Gururaja, or Guru as he is more popularly known, is a passionate and dedicated lawyer and a senior member of the Sony Pictures Network India in-house legal team. He has excellent communication and drafting skills plus in-depth domain knowledge in the area of media and distribution. Guru's focus and determination are great assets and so is his dependability in crisis management. Despite the complexities of managing legal matters, Guru retains his poise and zest for life.

Mr. Ashok Nambissan,

General Counsel of Sony Pictures Networks India Private Limited

Your favourite vacation spot?

Switzerland

Your favourite movie of all time?

Munnabhai M.B.B.S

Your favourite book of all time?

Corporate Guru – Dhirubhai Ambani

Your favourite hobby?

Watching movies

Your favourite car?

Audi

The celebrity you'd like to meet someday?

Akshay Kumar

The best gift you got yourself?

My wife

Your most treasured possession?

My two lovely daughters

Favourite thing to do on a Saturday night?

Watching a movie with my family

What is always on your work desk?

Laptop

HIMAVAT CHAUDHURI

CHIEF LEGAL AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS OFFICER
TATA SKY LTD

Taking his mind off work by cycling long distances, sometimes even at 3 PM in the hot summer sun, current Chief Legal and Regulatory Affairs Officer at Tata Sky Ltd. Himavat de-stresses by playing with stray dogs on his 160-acre office campus or watching peacocks and Nilgai right outside his work area.

Having graduated with an LLB in 1996 from Delhi University and qualified thereafter as a Solicitor of the Supreme Court of England and Wales, Himavat has worked for British Airways while studying for his law degree. This opened the opportunity for him to understand the commercial mindset that is required of an in-house counsel. After a stint with AZB &

Partners and Arthur Andersen, Himavat worked for Turner Broadcasting (a Time Warner company), NDTV Imagine, Star TV and Discovery Channel. Himavat was ranked amongst the top 25 In-House Counsels across Asia by a reputable legal organization dealing with both law and business.

Himavat lives by philosophy based on Dalai Lama's famous quote - 'Be kind whenever possible. It is always possible.' He applies this philosophy in his daily life when interacting with the less fortunate, minority communities, alternate life style communities and most importantly, with all animals.

Himavat believes the role of a Corporate Counsel is to be the sounding board for business executives; to manage risk and yet look at the world of opportunities; to help businesses grow.

Your favourite vacation spot?

Wish I could pick one, too many to list -
Life is a vacation.

Your favourite movie of all time?

The Great Gatsby

Your favourite book of all time?

The Glass Palace by Amitav Ghosh
The Alchemist by Paulo Coelho

Your favourite hobby?

Cycling and playing with Animals

Your favourite car?

Prefer my cycle

The celebrity you'd like to meet someday?

Rabindranath Tagore

Your most treasured possession?

Birthday card from my Grand Father asking
me to do good for the poor people of this
country

Favourite thing to do on a Saturday night?

Sleep or party through the night

What is always on your work desk?

Gifts from my team members and a bottle
of water.





Your favourite vacation spot?

Goa

Your favourite movie of all time?

Andaz Apna Apna, Saving Private Ryan

Your favourite book of all time?

The Monk Who Sold His Ferrari

Your favourite hobby?

Reading about technology, Spending time with my family & friends

Your favourite car?

BMW

The celebrity you'd like to meet someday?

Amitabh Bachchan

The best gift you got yourself?

Got Married

Your most treasured possession?

Baby Girl

Favourite thing to do on a Saturday night?

Partying with family and friends

What is always on your work desk?

A notepad cum planner

JAY PRAKASH PANDEY

DIRECTOR LEGAL & CORPORATE AFFAIRS
hCENTIVE

Born on 9th December, Jay completed his law in 2006 from the Faculty of Law, Lucknow University. He also holds a degree in Master of Business Administration along with diplomas in Employment Law and Intellectual Property laws and has more than 12 years of experience in Law Firms and Multinational Companies. A tenacious and an eager learner, Jay follows the philosophy that there is always room to learn and that mistakes are teaching opportunities rather than failures.

Jay looks up to the work of Harish Salve, who is known to pick up cases which may not be popular but challenge him intellectually. He also feels that if Salve is convinced of a person's innocence, he may fight his/her case for free.

The advice that he gives for aspiring leaders who wish to lead in-house team include:

1. Must have a vision and objective for the team,
2. Get the team together on a professional and personal front,
3. Be available, transparent and treat your team's time as your own,
4. Empower your team members to take ownership and make decisions,
5. Be a teacher for your team, and
6. Create opportunities for development and growth.

TESTIMONIAL

Jay has been a great addition to our team, he has a global role to support legal function for our US as well as India office. His strategic orientation coupled with an eye for detail and in-depth knowledge of the law has been a great asset. Jay can always be relied upon to get the job done and I have greatly enjoyed working with him.

Ankur Verma, CFO
hCentive



JAYA GULIANI

DIRECTOR LEGAL, CMS INFO SYSTEMS LIMITED

An alumnus of Government Law College Mumbai, Jaya started her career with the esteemed Law Firm Mulla and Mulla in 1996 and worked for over a decade under late Mr. D M Popat, Mr. Yazdi Dandiwala and Mr. Shardul Thacker gaining experience in litigation, arbitrations, admiralty matters and contracts. Making a move to the Corporate sector, she briefly worked with MIAL (Mumbai International Airport) and then joined the Wadia Group reporting to the Promoters for 5 years, addressing critical legal matters and potential issues while protecting the interest of the Group and various Trusts. She had a short stint with Tata Housing in 2015- 2016 handling real estate work, primarily litigations and arbitrations.

Jaya joined CMS Info Systems Ltd in 2016, looking into the ATM and Cash management sector, handling all the litigations, arbitrations and advisory work. All Contracts with Banks and other Customers/Vendors are handled in house by her. She also manages all criminal matters relating to theft, misappropriations etc. on a pan-India basis. Jaya has also been member of the POSH Committee in Wadia Group and Chairperson of POSH for CMS until recently. Jaya likes to work on child rights issues and filed a PIL in Bombay High Court to ban Child begging. While taking each day as it comes with a dash of positivity is something she stands by, Jaya also advocates to let go of inconsequential things daily and declutter your mind for working effectively and in peaceful existence. She looks up to the work of Justice Srikrishna and Justice Chandrachud for their fearless and straight forward approach in dealing with critical legal cases that have a far-reaching impact on the lives of the masses.

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Your favourite vacation spot?

Amsterdam

Your favourite movie of all time?

City of Angels

Your favourite hobby?

Travelling

The celebrity you'd like to meet someday?

Justin Trudeau- Besides being handsome he has a very compassionate spirit. Loved the way he personally welcomed Syrian refugees in his country.

The best gift you got yourself?

3 trips to Tibet

Your most treasured possession?

I value my sons the most

Favourite thing to do on a Saturday night?

Party/ Plays/ Movies/ Dinners

What is always on your work desk?

Ganesh Murti and stones I picked up at banks of Mansarovar.

TESTIMONIAL

I am delighted to know that Jaya has been chosen to be a part of ICCA Compilation of India's finest In House Counsels. I have worked with Jaya since she was a young lawyer working with Mulla & Mulla and have seen her take on the role of In House Counsel with ease and a great deal of confidence and competence. She works hard, is a team player and has good work ethics. She is insightful and innovative in her thinking and litigation strategies. I wish her all the very best in her career.

Mr. Janak Dwarkadas,
Senior Counsel



JOEBIN DEVASSY

PARTNER
DESAI & DIWANJI

While the plan was to pursue a career in finance, it was the legal subjects that tickled the brain of Joebin who eventually opted to complete a bachelor in law from Delhi University. Currently, a Partner with Desai & Diwanji, Joebin shoulders the responsibility of jointly managing the Gurgaon and Delhi practice of the firm.

A fact that probably distinguishes him from most lawyers is that Joebin through law school and in the initial years of his work life was moonlighting as a radio jockey doing a primetime morning show. He says it would be touch and go many times considering that you had to be in court before 10.30 am every day.

Joebin started his career as a litigator spending the initial couple of years in the Chambers of Mr. Sanjay Jain (then, a Central Government Standing Counsel in the Delhi High Court and currently, an Additional Solicitor General). He emphasizes that his litigation days have played an extremely important role in his growth as a corporate lawyer since it helps him in looking at transactions and negotiations in a more practical manner.

Joebin's practice areas include Mergers and Acquisitions, Joint Ventures & Collaborations, Commercial Advisory and Real Estate. While the former three have been the bedrock of his practice, Real Estate is a practice area that he has grown significantly in the last few years. Joebin's philosophy for growing a practice is that "Difficult as it may be, always strive to over deliver on what you commit because that's what creates long-term relationships and builds trust."

Joebin feels that in today's changing times it is important for lawyers to be more aware about their client's commercial priorities. "It's not just about being the lawyer who knows the law and can implement it, that's a given, it is important to find practical solutions to help achieve the client's commercial expectation. Finding practical solutions is about thinking outside the box, not outside the law", says Joebin.

Joebin is on Lexis Nexis India's Editorial Board (M&A) for Practical Guidance and also sits on the board of Midrex Technologies India Private Limited (a Kobe Steel Group Company). Joebin loves travelling and believes in exploring off beat locations and off beat things in popular locations. He likes exploring a place rather than spending short periods on what he calls a 'check the box trip' to a city/country.

JOYJYOTI MISRA

DIRECTOR & HEAD LEGAL (INDIA AND SOUTH ASIA), UBER

An avid reader and a traveller who loves to explore other cultures especially through various culinary journeys, Joyjyoti is Director & Head Legal (India and South Asia) at Uber. Having completed his graduation in Law in the year 2005, Joyjyoti has over 14 years of experience in the legal sector. Joyjyoti lives by the philosophy that one should always be hungry to learn more and improve. It is important to value ideas above any hierarchy and have the humility to accept your own shortcomings.

Joyjyoti believes that the role of a Corporate Counsel is essentially that of a trusted advisor. It is no more enough to be only a lawyer; one needs to be alive to business realities and understand the business. While being the moral sentinel, a corporate counsel needs to be innovative and provide solutions to real life business problems.

For someone looking to lead an in-house team, Joyjyoti mentions "It's a very different world than that of private practice. It can be immensely rewarding if you are prepared to go beyond being only a lawyer. If you

love understanding businesses, making a real impact on the economy and people's lives, thrive on being challenged every single day, then this is the world for you."

Your favourite vacation spot?

Paris

Your favourite movie of all time?

Seven, Hirak Rajar Deshe

Your favourite book of all time?

Animal Farm, George Orwell

Your favourite hobby?

Reading

Your favourite car?

Look forward to a world without personal cars and clean air

The best gift you got yourself?

A Montblanc Meisterstruck

Your most treasured possession?

My sense of propriety

Favourite thing to do on a Saturday night?

Date night with the wife

What is always on your work desk?

A spare phone charger



KARAN SINGH CHANDHIOK

PRACTICE HEAD, COMPETITION AND DISPUTE RESOLUTION
CHANDHIOK & MAHAJAN

Karan Singh Chandhiok heads the dispute resolution and competition law practice at Chandhiok & Mahajan. He represents clients before various courts, arbitral tribunals, and regulators in India. He also has extensive experience in advising airlines and lessors on contentious and non-contentious matters; and on the financing and regulatory aspects of aviation in India.

Ranked amongst the Top 100 lawyers in India by the Indian Business Law Journal, Karan is recognised as one of the leaders of the Indian bar; and finds mention as leading lawyer by various international publications and directories such as Chambers & Partners, Global Competition Law Review, International Financial Law Review, Who's Who Legal and Asialaw Leading Lawyers. Chambers 2017 describes Karan as "he thinks outside the box, is imaginative, and has an unbelievable ability to get things done." While Chambers 2016 recommended him as "a strategic thinker who comes out with creative solutions that are not always obvious to others." Who's Who Legal recommends him for his "outstanding work" and "ability to stay very focused on what matters to the client".

Karan has acted for various corporations in the information technology, information technology enabled services, banking and finance, glass, steel, cement, tyres, automotive components, liquor, aviation, telecommunications, healthcare, bio-technology, pharma, retail, transport, infrastructure and media sectors.

Karan read for the bachelor of civil law degree at the University of Oxford. He is admitted as an advocate in India and as a solicitor in England & Wales. Karan is a non-governmental adviser to the International Competition Network (ICN). He is the co-chair of the ASSOCHAM – National Council on Competition Law, Chair of the Indian National Bar Association's Young Lawyer Division and treasurer of the Competition Law Bar Association.





LAKSHIKA JOSHI

LEAD IP COUNSEL, GLOBAL AND AVP LEGAL, ARICENT

A cheerful person, possessing a good sense of humour, Lakshika is Lead IP Counsel, Global and AVP – Legal at Aricent. Having completed her graduation in law in the year 2002, Lakshika worked extensively with The Times Group and its subsidiaries before heading content licensing, rights management and syndication for Bennett Coleman & Co. Ltd. Lakshika is a seasoned Media, Entertainment, Sports and digital professional. She is a qualified lawyer specializing in IPR. Having worked on transactions ranging from complex M&As to setting up Licensing & Rights Management division, she has a litigation and corporate practice background. Lakshika enjoys conducting workshops and training sessions for students and organizations on contracting, drafting and IPR strategies. She was recently awarded the IP Star Woman 2019 and felicitated at National Leadership Summit on Women and Education held at Vigyan Bhavan, Delhi. She has been awarded the Star Young Achievers Award for the year 2015-2016 and has been rated among the top GCs of the year 2016 by Thomas Reuters ILA. She is currently the Chair of Industry Advisory Board (IT & Software) for Licensing Executives Society International and co-Chair ASSOCHAM National IP Council in addition to being a member of the national committee on IP established by CII. Lakshika lives by the motto that work is her life and life's all work! Her life philosophy rolls over to her work too. She believes in being true to where she is placed and what she is supposed to do. She strives to give her best and move on without contemplating the results. She believes that it is the effort of an individual that counts, as putting sincere effort into something is a learning experience for the individual. In her opinion, from boardroom to the courtroom, a corporate counsel is a strategic advisor, compliance gateway and ethical keeper of any organization. In a lighter vein, she likes to think of a Corporate Counsel as the “man of the match”, contrary to the “naarad muni” image that has been conjured up for having scuttled many of those overly ambitious (technically, legally impossible!) sales plans at their peak!

TESTIMONIAL

Lakshika is a great professional who epitomizes the right combination of legal strength and business acumen. She has that unique capability of thinking out of the box and derive a legal solution for all kinds of complex business situations. In today's world, we are tasked with a continuous changing business environment with new challenges being faced on a daily basis. This calls for a leader who is constantly ready to learn new paradigms of technology and then apply it to derive positive business outcomes. Lakshika has perfected this art to the core. She is handling the organization's IP licensing globally and also key accounts. Most of these transactions are very diverse across different geographies, different languages, different cultures, different offerings and so on. She is always able to simplify and provide a solution for positive business outcome. There have been instances when she has been praised by the executive leadership teams of clients as well. She comes with an open mind and is always ready to experiment. She is a wonderful human being, a great team player and brings lot of positive energy. I wish her all the very best.

Mr. Ritesh Aggarwal

Asia Pacific and EMEA Business Head, Aricent

Your favourite vacation spot?

Jungle safari

Your favourite movie of all time?

Mr and Mrs 55

Your favourite book of all time?

It's a play. Antigone by Sophocles

Your favourite hobby?

Interior designing

Your favourite car?

Any 4WD, it's merely a mode of transportation

The celebrity you'd like to meet someday?

Mr. Narendra Modi

Your most treasured possession?

What I treasure most are not possessions, but people!

Favourite thing to do on a Saturday night?

Spending time with my daughter

What is always on your work desk?

Green plants



M VASUDEV RAO

GENERAL COUNSEL
NATIONAL STOCK EXCHANGE OF INDIA LTD

A legal professional with 25 years of experience in large institutions in Corporate legal Affairs, Litigation management, M&A transactions, Contract & Commercial management, Regulatory Affairs and IP management, Vasu is presently serving as Senior Vice President and General Counsel at National Stock Exchange of India.

Vasu's personal philosophy is based on the fact that one needs to be a visionary and a leader leading the right way without the fear of consequences. One should be unique and expressive. If you can't always oblige, you can at least speak obligingly.

In his opinion the role of a corporate counsel, in addition to demonstrating legal value across various forums in-house, managing legal risk, and providing value added legal advice, is also to act as a business enabler, understand the core business issues,

produce viable and tangible results and to successfully navigate the dynamic legal landscape in the best interests of the company.

TESTIMONIAL

Vasu is closely embedded with various business and operational functions of the group. His positive and candid interactions with team members across functions, understanding of business and operational needs, his solution-based approach, and taking proactive and legal risk mitigating steps have been very beneficial to the group.

Ravi Varanasi, Chief Business Development Officer, National Stock Exchange of India Ltd

Your favourite vacation spot?

Manali

Your favourite movie of all time?

Sholay

Your favourite book of all time?

Flash Boys

Your favourite hobby?

Working on large CSR projects

Your favourite car?

Honda City

The celebrity you'd like to meet someday?

Amitabh Bachchan

The best gift you got yourself?

Selfless Love

Your most treasured possession?

Truthfulness

Favourite thing to do on a Saturday night?

Watching movie with my family

What is always on your work desk?

My ideas on way forward



MANISH GUPTA

GENERAL COUNSEL & COMPANY SECRETARY
USHA INTERNATIONAL LIMITED

Starting out as a finance and tax professional and branching out into law as a full time profession, Manish completed his graduation in law in 1999. Manish lives by the mantra that in anything you do, strive for excellence (not necessarily perfection) and enjoy what you do. Lead from the front and take ownership and accountability for your work and actions. He feels that the role of Corporate Counsel has completely transformed over the last decade or so. In addition to traditional practice areas of law, technological advancements and social media have thrown up many challenges for which there is no ready solution. Thus, as in-house corporate counsel, not only are they expected to be business enablers and conscience keepers of the organization but are also expected to manage enterprise risk in this ever changing, complex and often abstract world.

Manish advises individuals looking to lead an in-house team to keep the legal lingo / jargon restricted to the legal

department only. When interacting with people from other departments, communication must be in business language and simple. A very senior industry veteran had once made a remark that he doesn't like two-handed lawyers as they always say that on one hand, you can do this and on the other hand, you can do that. Thus, the advice that you give must be practical and clear as business people just want to know whether they can do something or not and if not, why not. Strive to be a one-handed lawyer and not two-handed.

TESTIMONIAL

Manish is a thorough professional who has an eye for detailing with strong subject matter knowledge in both legal and taxation. His inherent leadership skills ensured that he built a competent team. Manish with his business acumen combined with a positive attitude is definitely an asset to any organisation.

Sanjay Mahajan

Chief Operating Officer at Carrier Midea India

Your favourite vacation spot?

Shimla and London

Your favourite movie of all time?

Lots of Bollywood movies

Your favourite book of all time?

"The World is Flat" and "Hot, Flat and Crowded" by Thomas Friedman

Your favourite hobby?

Playing cricket

Your favourite car?

Jaguar XJ

The celebrity you'd like to meet someday?

Deepika Padukone

The best gift you got yourself?

My car and cricket bats

Your most treasured possession?

My friends

Favourite thing to do on a Saturday night?

Watching a movie with a drink

What is always on your work desk?

Water Bottle

MANISHA SINGH

MANAGING PARTNER
LEXORBIS

Manisha is one of the co-founders and Partner at LexOrbis. Known and respected for her deep expertise on prosecution and enforcement of all forms of IP rights, she oversees and supervises all practice groups at the Firm. She has been recognized as an IP Star (Litigation and Strategy & Counselling) 2018 by Managing Intellectual Property, recognized as one of India's Top 100 Lawyers, The A-List 2018 by India Business Law Journal, Leading IP Lawyer by AsiaLaw in 2018, awarded the 2019 IP Star Women of the Year by Legal Era Group, and was given the 2019 GIPC Award for Excellence for invaluable services in the field of IP.



Starting her career at the time when Indian IP laws and practices were undergoing substantial changes pursuant to India's obligations to comply with the TRIPS agreement, Manisha played an important and crucial role in advising and apprising Indian policy and law makers on global standards associated with IP administrative and enforcement systems. Manisha is a prolific writer and speaker and has authored over 500 articles and papers on contemporary IP and Legal issues in India. She works closely with IP administrative authorities and has been instrumental in bringing transparency, speed and efficiency in the Indian IP administration.

Manisha is also known for her sharp litigation skills for both IP and non-IP litigations. She represents the Reserve Bank of India, India's central banking institution before the High Court of Delhi and the Supreme Court of India in cases related to banking and non-banking financial companies. At the same time, she also specializes in intellectual property litigations with a focus on patent litigations covering all technical fields – particularly pharmaceuticals, telecommunications and mechanics. In addition, she has been involved in various trademarks, copyright and design infringement and passing off cases. She also advises on licensing and employee inventions.

DR. MANOJ KUMAR

FOUNDER & MANAGING PARTNER
HAMMURABI & SOLOMON PARTNERS

A recipient of the prestigious Mahatma Gandhi Samman 2017, awarded at the House of Lords, London, included in the A- List Lawyers rankings 2017 & 2018 by India Business Law Journal (IBLJ) recognising him as one of the top 100 private practice lawyers in India and as one of 100 Legal Luminaries of India by Lexis Nexis, Manoj is the founder and managing partner at Hammurabi & Solomon Partners, ranked amongst the top 20 Indian Firms by the Asian Legal Business (ALB). He is also the Vice-Chair of the Energy & Natural Resources Committee of the Inter-Pacific Bar Association, Vice-President of the Society of Construction Law UK – India, visiting fellow at Asia's Top ranking think tank – Observer Research Foundation, an expert with the UNESCO Inclusive Policy Lab, visiting professor at the Indian Institute of Management (IIM), editorial board member of Thinkers 50 India and independent director on Corporate Boards. An alum of the prestigious Harvard Business School & National Law School of India, Manoj received his professional and leadership skills from distinguished & globally renowned Professors such as Padma Shri (Dr.) NR Madhava Menon and Prof. Nitin Nohria, presently the Dean of the Harvard Business School.



Manoj is a distinguished author, strategist, columnist, thought leader and called upon by top-of-the-line Indian and international institutions. An ace lawyer, Manoj is well acknowledged for his outstanding leadership, strategy and the ability to find alternate solutions to most critical and complex challenges related to strategic support, policy & regulation, corporate governance, corporate and M&A, cross-border transactions, crisis, risk & reputation management & risk mitigation strategies, real estate & infra projects, project finance, business re-structuring and legal & regulatory compliance across geographies.

Manoj has been Involved in the drafting of several regulatory and policy documents as well as legislation, notably in Resources Sector, Infrastructure & public private participation, Civil Nuclear Liability, Illicit Trade Control, Media Regulation, Fast Track Commercial Courts, Land Acquisition Bill, India as a hub of International Arbitration and Opening-up of the legal services Sector in India. Apart from spearheading the support by legal fraternity in India to the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (UNMDGs) and then the implementation of UN'S Sustainable Goals in India, Manoj has also been mentoring 'Doctor for You' as its Patron to provide critical medical care during disaster management and natural calamities and to prevent Neo-natal deaths in rural and tribal areas.

MEENAKSHI IYER

PARTNER, ADVAYA LEGAL

Meenakshi is a litigation partner with Advaya Legal with a work experience spanning 22 years. She has handled a wide variety of complex litigation and alternative dispute resolution matters in diverse areas of commercial and corporate law, real estate, infrastructure, oil & gas and intellectual property rights. Meenakshi advises clients on formulating effective strategies for dispute resolution including enforcement/execution of foreign decrees and arbitral awards.



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She appears before various legal fora including the Supreme Court of India, various High Courts, District Courts, National Company Law Tribunal, Arbitral Tribunals, Consumer Courts and the Charity Commissioner. She also handles real estate transactions such as conveyancing, mortgage, leasing, tenancy, licensing, building and engineering contracts for re-development of societies, stamp duty and registration issues and structuring of such transactions. She regularly advises companies on various laws, regulations and policies related to environment and use of plastic. She has represented clients such as HCC, Jindal Steel Works, Afcons, Crown Worldwide and Yes Bank on their various dispute resolution and real estate matters.

Meenakshi started her career in litigation in 1997 with a respected real estate practice based in Mumbai and joined a leading litigation firm in Mumbai shortly afterwards specializing in various kinds of dispute resolution matters. She is a member of the International Bar Association, the Bar Council of Maharashtra and Goa and the Bombay Bar Association. She also writes and speaks regularly on aspects related to intellectual property and dispute resolution and some of her articles and comments have been published in the Economic Times and VCCircle.

Meenakshi enjoys mentoring young lawyers. For Meenakshi, the secret for success in the field of law can be summed up in one line – “Dedication, sincerity and teamwork are the mantras to achieving the impossible”. She looks up to Senior Counsel Mr. Shyam Mehta as a role model and finds his dedication towards work as well as maintenance of work-life balance as something she would like to emulate. Her advice to people who want to head a practice area is “be responsive and sensitive to the client’s needs”. She enjoys pro bono work and is passionate about legal aid in any form. She is also a director of Advaya Charitable Foundation that works with various organisations creating awareness on legal education and in supporting them to access quality legal education. Meenakshi is passionate about cooking and uses her free time to prepare new dishes. She is also an avid traveller.

MOHIT SHUKLA

MANAGING DIRECTOR, LEGAL AND COMPLIANCE
BARCLAYS BANK PLC

Completing his graduation in law in 1989, Mohit is the Managing Director, Legal and Compliance for Barclays Banks PLC India. He is responsible for the general oversight of legal and compliance services to all the Indian businesses and Barclays entities, and for general legal and compliance risk management in India. Prior to joining Barclays in 2010, he was with Citibank for nine years as Citi's Country General Counsel for South Asia, covering India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Nepal for all of Citi's commercial businesses and its right-shoring and technology support arms.

He has over 20 years of work experience with a diverse background, including the metals manufacturing, tobacco and hospitality industries, prior to moving into financial services.

Mohit also serves on the executive board of Foundation of Mother & Child Health India. Mohit lives by the philosophy that empathy and respect should take centre stage in all thought and action. He also feels that it is important to forgive yourself and others, let go of your ego and maintain a sense of humour and perspective. In Mohit's words, the essential qualities that an aspiring leader looking to lead an in-house team should possess include commitment, patience and the need to step out of your comfort zone.

TESTIMONIAL

Mohit brings a strong commercial orientation along with a problem-solving approach to his role for Barclays India. Not only does he deliver sound, logically consistent, commercially sensitive and practical solutions to the legal challenges that the firm faces, like any exceptional legal counsel, he also acts as an advisor to the management of the business in areas outside his direct responsibility.

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Your favourite vacation spot?

Kasauli

Your favourite movie of all time?

So many, for small vignettes from each, poignant moments, beautiful visuals, an exchange of looks, powerful screen play, an impactful background score, lighting, settings. I cannot settle on one in particular

Your favourite hobby?

Sketching

Your favourite car?

The MG Magnette

The best gift you got yourself?

A day in the mountains

Favourite thing to do on a Saturday night?

Listening to Jazz in a quiet space

What is always on your work desk?

Tea

MUNEESH SUD

SR. VICE PRESIDENT-CHIEF LEGAL &
COMPLIANCE OFFICER
RELIANCE NIPPON LIFE ASSET
MANAGEMENT LIMITED

A Golfer, who makes it a point to fully indulge himself in his hobbies and live his life king size, Muneesh is presently serving as Chief Legal & Compliance Officer [Sr. Vice President], Asia Pacific at Reliance Nippon Life Asset Management Limited, which is India's first Asset Management Company to get listed. Muneesh has over 27 years of experience in Legal, Compliance, Risk Management, Capital Markets, Private Equity & Secretarial functions across sectors such as Financial Services, Telecom, Real Estate, IT & ITES, Hospitality, Oil & Gas and Manufacturing.

Being an avid golfer, he believes in the famous quote of former golfer and lawyer Bobby Jones - "You get bad breaks from good shots; you get good breaks from bad shots- but one thing is certain and that is you have to play the ball where it lies."

Muneesh views his role as a Corporate Counsel as challenging yet interesting and exciting. In his current role, he is responsible for multiple functional areas, across entities & jurisdictions (domestic & international). His role requires him to collaborate, learn & unlearn, guide, counsel, advise & opine and thus helps him to evolve & intellectually grow on an almost continuous basis.

His advice to young lawyers who aspire to lead in-house teams in the future is to stay honest to the job & conscience; not to look out for short cuts as means to succeed, stay grounded, humble & compassionate.



Your favourite vacation spot?

A Golfing Destination

Your favourite movie of all time?

Godfather

Your favourite book of all time?

Bhagavad Gita

Your favourite hobby?

Playing Golf

Your favourite car?

Mini Cooper

The celebrity you'd like to meet someday?

Kevin Spacey

The best gift you got yourself?

Mont Blanc pen

Your most treasured possession?

My Dreams & Passions

Favourite thing to do on a Saturday night?

Spending time with my family

What is always on your work desk?

Family photo

NABIK SYAM

PARTNER
P&A LAW OFFICES

Nabik joined P&A as Partner in the Banking, Finance and Insolvency team in February 2019. He has over 20 years of experience as a legal professional, both as an in-house and external legal counsel in the corporate/legal service industry, with significant international exposure. He was earlier working with ICICI Bank as in house counsel in Corporate transactions and Litigations. Before joining ICIC, Nabik was a Partner at PKA Law Firm (erstwhile Paras Kuhad & Associates).

He was involved in conducting due diligence, general corporate lending spanning from Indian Mega corporates, MNCs, medium and small enterprises, including micro financing and rural banking. He has also extensively advised on viable security structures and conducted due diligence.

He has rendered legal advisory service to Corporate Banking Lending group and to various groups of the ICICI Bank including Compliance, Risk, Audit and the HR, while conducting varied complex litigations, spanning Insolvency, Restructuring and Recovery of Stressed Assets, Infrastructure Projects, Civil Suits, Writs, Trade Mark, Copyright, Land Acquisition etc. in various Indian courts including International Jurisdictions.

Nabik has represented SAIL (India) in international arbitration against KRUPP Germany.

Lawyers at P&A have substantial Indian and international legal practice experience. They are admitted to practice in India, with some also being qualified to practice in other jurisdictions, such as the United States of America and England, where they have spent substantial time practicing law. Several of P&A's lawyers have extensive experience with US and European Union matters and with the laws of the European Union and East Asian countries. As a result, they combine Indian business, legal, and cultural expertise with North American, European and Asian legal experience, as well as the responsiveness and creativity demanded by our multi-national, blue-chip clientele. This distinctive and unique combination of skills enables P&A's lawyers to become trusted advisors and offer clients a complete solution to their India-related and international legal requirements.



NARESH ARORA

VICE PRESIDENT-LEGAL OPERATIONS
ATC TELECOM INFRASTRUCTURE PRIVATE LIMITED

A seasoned legal professional who has worked across several industries including Consumer Durables, Automobile, Real Estate, Hospitality, Telecommunication and Service Industry, Naresh currently serves as Vice President – Legal Operations at ATC Telecom Infrastructure Private Limited. Naresh brings a plethora of experience in areas such as M&A, IP, Contracts, Litigation, Audit, Compliances, Service Laws, Alternate Dispute Resolution and Due Diligence. At ATC, Naresh is looking after the entire legal operation including Litigation, Contracts and Compliance verticals with the support of a highly competent in-house team.

Naresh believes that it is always important to put your best foot forward so that just in case the results don't go your way, there will be no room for any regret. Furthermore, he stands by the fact that it is essential to maintain unquestionable ethical values. He also stresses on the fact that it is important to keep reading and remain updated as increased knowledge gives one the upper hand in the industry.

To Naresh, being a corporate counsel involves a constant endeavor to strike a balance between the aspiration of business and the law of the land. This dual role of being a counsel and a business partner is critical for the company's performance with utmost integrity. Continuous risk identification, its analysis and possible impact on the company and its business, advising steps on mitigating such risks, setting an example of the best ethical and corporate governance for the organization and continuous training and development of self and the team are the key elements.



Your favourite vacation spot?

Deserts

Your favourite movie of all time?

Mughal-e-Azam

Your favourite book of all time?

Namak Ka Daroga

Your favourite hobby?

Reading

Your favourite car?

Renault

The celebrity you'd like to meet someday?

MS Dhoni

The best gift you got yourself?

The satisfaction of "putting the best foot forward"

Your most treasured possession?

Montblanc pen gifted by my father

Favourite thing to do on a Saturday night?

Spending time with friends

What is always on your work desk?

My work

MN NASSER KABIR

FOUNDER & ADVOCATE, INCOUNSEL

Nasser is one of the few lawyers in the country who has transitioned seamlessly into private practice after spending close to 15 years as an in-house counsel in three companies. In November 2015, Nasser founded his firm, InCounsel Advocates. Based out of Gurgaon, his firm has handled a wide array of work for its clients ranging from issues relating to mergers & acquisitions, FIPB filing & approvals, due diligence, contracts, intellectual property rights, disputes, land acquisitions and criminal as well as civil litigation. His clientele ranges from multinational companies, large media houses and government agencies to start-up companies.



InCounsel successfully closed a 500-crore investment to a start-up Pharmaceutical Company with limited resource pitted against larger and accomplished legal firm in that space. InCounsel also obtained ex-parte injunction orders from the Delhi High Court for IP infringement in a design violation case among many other orders. The Firm though small in size took on major diligence exercise for infrastructure projects as well as strategic land acquisition. In time initiative by the firm helped clients save huge expenses and penalties for inadvertent non-compliance which is an area Nasser takes pride in handling to ensure best possible advice for their Clients. While InCounsel has been reclusive and performs quietly for its clients it never shied away to take an aggressive stand to protect its client's interest. As a Firm focused on corporate commercial practice it prides itself with the diverse clientele who have stuck with the Firm and seeks advice and execution of strategy in a wide array of work. Though the Firm is based out of the NCR it has now tied up with other law firms to help with mandates in Assam, Karnataka, Telengana, Maharashtra and the whole of North India. Nasser completed his Law from the University of Delhi in 1999, and started his practice assisting Meenakshi Arora, who has since been designated a Senior Advocate. At her chambers, he was her sole junior then and thus had the opportunity to learn litigation directly from her. He counts her as one lawyer he admires the most and acknowledges that she was the most patient teacher and a role model for many lawyers. Nasser played a key role in the restructuring and transfer of the media business from The Hindustan Times Ltd. to HT Media Ltd during his stint with the organization. This was at a time when the Finance and Legal Department was seeing unprecedented activity, and his contribution was acknowledged by the company in the form of an award. His time at HT helped him develop the philosophy that has kept him going. He says, "Truth, trust and transparency served me well in my early days at HT and has been my philosophy ever since. Why change something that has never let me down?"

Nasser has had past stints with Strides Arcolab Ltd., and Renew Power Ventures Ltd., leading their legal and secretarial teams. At Strides, he co-led the Strides team as the international and local counsel in the US, Canada, Brazil, Australia, Singapore, England and Poland in relation to a complex cross-border sale of the sterile injectibles business to Mylan Inc. for USD 1.75 billion. He counts his role in the acquisition of an Indian pharmaceutical company, Grandix as another defining transaction. This transaction was important, as it was aimed at giving Strides a foothold in the domestic pharmaceutical business in South India.

Nasser feels that his role as a lawyer has evolved significantly over the last 10 years. He believes that lawyers are expected to know business realities and appreciate commercial impact while analysing legal risks. He sees a lot of subject matter experts: the generalists have given way to the specialists. His advice to young lawyers looking to make something of themselves in the profession is simple. He says, "Be humble and work hard. Be prepared to reinvent yourself and enjoy the learning and sharing of knowledge. It helps if you have a few like-minded people to ensure the process is enjoyable."

NAVDEEP CHOUDHARY

DIRECTOR LEGAL, YUM RESTAURANTS INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED



Serving as the Director Legal at Yum Restaurants India Private limited, Navdeep has extensively worked in various sectors such as manufacturing, retail and life insurance. Navdeep is an expert when it comes to areas such as contract drafting & negotiation, JV, deal structuring, litigation management and strategy building, arbitration, labour laws, IPR management, property law, consumer cases, special acts like legal metrology, environment laws, FSSAI, as well as in Franchise governance, team management, legal budgeting & cost control, FCPA compliance and internal policy compliance.

Navdeep live by the philosophy that one should be eager to learn and always help others in need. He views his role as a Corporate Counsel in the current era as innovative and collaborative, partnering his skills with the top management to achieve the organization's goals. He feels that Corporate Counsel provide valuable insights to the management while formulating the top-level long-term business strategy by doing a proper risk assessment. Navdeep feels that a person who aspires to lead an in-house team first and foremost

needs to be business oriented and should be able to find creative solutions within specified timelines. The person needs to get a good grasp of the organization's culture and people dynamics and should be able to give right counsel and direction to the team as well as to peers & the senior management.

TESTIMONIAL

In the complexity of business today, it is imperative to have an experienced and knowledgeable in-house counsel to guide, coach and support the CEO in making informed decisions. Navdeep brings deep legal expertise, an intuitive sense of what to do with a lot of experience handling complex situations. His calm demeanor hides his deep experience and passion for the law. He is an asset to the company.

Samir Menon, Managing Director, Yum Restaurants India Private Limited

Your favourite vacation spot?

Coorg

Your favourite movie of all time?

Sholay

Your favourite book of all time?

The Monk who sold his Ferrari

Your favourite hobby?

Playing Cricket

Your favourite car?

Audi Q7

The celebrity you'd like to meet someday?

Vladimir Putin

Favourite thing to do on a Saturday night?

Going out with the family

What is always on your work desk?

Court Planner



NAVEEN SAMANT

LEGAL COUNSEL LEADER – INDIA & SAARC
INGERSOLL RAND

An individual who truly enjoys his work and exhibits extreme passion to deliver results,

Naveen has been applauded by his peers for his working style and the pattern in which he negotiates. Naveen is a voracious reader and his curiosity to be aware of worldly affairs outside his industry has enabled him to amass vast knowledge. A Legal Counsel Leader – India & SAARC practice at Ingersoll Rand, Naveen brings more than 15 years of experience with him in the legal sector. In his free time, Naveen enjoys cooking, travelling and reading. He is also a connoisseur of fine whiskey. Naveen's personal mantra is the more you learn – the more you are competent to give! Gaining knowledge is one thing but sharing the same amongst fellow colleagues or a team is an intangible asset. He personally feels that in the legal profession, the lawyer is a student forever. He enjoys being a student so that he can gain and impart knowledge. Naveen feels it is very important for him that genuine information is passed on so that when he gives an opinion, the receiving party can be assured that it's reliable. Naveen comes from a family of advocates and solicitors. It is his parents that he is inspired by the most. He has utmost respect for them because of their need to be relevant and in touch with the changing times. He draws strength from their passion to keep going, to keep reading and the urge to be relevant.

TESTIMONIAL

I was delighted to learn that Naveen has been shortlisted by the Advisory Committee of Indian Corporate Counsel Association as one of "India's Finest In-House Counsels". Naveen is a key member of the India Leadership Team of IR India and wears the hat of expert legal counsel, trusted ethics officer, noted business partner and a worthy friend to all the business and functional leaders in India & SAARC. He has also been consulted as a 'trusted advisor' due to his strategic orientation coupled with an eye for detail and in-depth knowledge of the law and policies, and he is a great asset. Naveen can always be relied upon to get the 'job done' in the most expedient yet effective manner and I enjoy working with him.

Evan Turtz, Vice President, Secretary
Deputy General Counsel-Industrial
General Counsel-Compression Technologies and Services, Ingersoll-Rand

Your favourite vacation spot?

Goa will never surpass the fascination for me. From time immemorial I always love vacations in Goa with family and friends!

Your favourite movie of all time?

God Father, Andaz Apna Apna

Your favourite book of all time?

Sidney Sheldon – 'Tell me your dreams',
Ravi Subramaniam – If God was a Banker,
Renée Mauborgne and W. Chan Kim – Blue
Ocean Strategy

Your favourite hobby?

I enjoy taking "Me Time" amidst my work and travels to get to play the Saxophone which has been very close to my heart since school days. I also enjoy a glass of Scotch now and then with jazz music in the background. I enjoy reading about whisky and hope to have acquired skilful knowledge and be called a 'whisky connoisseur' one day!

Your favourite car?

My choices are simple – "I simply like the Best" - this is a quote that I had read behind a Mercedes Benz car. From that day, Benz has been my favourite automobile brand. The celebrity you'd like to meet someday?
Alfredo James Pacino

The best gift you got yourself?

Moleskine diary. I find it a useful companion to stay organized. I've been a loyal customer for years

Your most treasured possession?

HMT watches – I love collecting them. Recently I gifted myself an HMT watch branded 'Naveen' – I didn't know that something like this was launched by HMT! Favourite thing to do on a Saturday night? Given a choice – movie marathon. I would like to watch back-to-back movies which I have missed for a while

What is always on your work desk?

Papers, my diary, my laptop, my charger and books



NEERA SHARMA

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
SISTEMA SHYAM TELESERVICES LTD

Born on 13th Nov, Neera graduated with a law degree in 1997. She also holds an MBA degree in Finance from Amity Business School. With a career spanning two decades, Neera has worked with DCM Limited, HCL, Idea Cellular Limited, Emaar MGF Land Private Limited, HFCL Infotel and Dishnet Wireless Limited (Aircel). She has been with Sistema Shyam Teleservices Limited since 2008 as its Chief Legal Officer and was promoted as Chief Executive Officer of Sistema Smart Technologies Limited in 2018. Neera was conferred the prestigious General Counsel of the Year Award in 2016 by Legal Era and the Famina Women Leadership Excellence Award by Time Ascent. She is also a founding Member of the Indian Corporate Counsel Association. Neera is a national table tennis champion and was certified by the Red Cross at the age of 12 to provide first aid. Neera believes that one shouldn't wait for things to happen; rather one should go out and make it happen. On a personal front, she feels that it is important to respect yourself enough to walk away from anything that no

longer serves you, helps in your growth or makes you happy.

TESTIMONIAL

SSTL business over last few years has faced significant various legal challenges ranging from license cancelation to complicated M&A deals. In fact, most questions of business survival and value creation for shareholders had very significant legal components which defines both boundaries and opportunities for the business. Since her promotion to GC role for the company Neera has built a successful track record of both developing legal strategies and executing them. She is brilliantly applying the law while clearly understanding pragmatic business sides of the issues. Not surprisingly Neera was quickly promoted to become a member of the Board of Directors for the company and widely recognized by all as one of the most important and talented individuals within the organization and recently promoted as Chief Executive Officer.

Alex Gorbunov

VP for telecom assets at Sistema, Chairman of SSTL BoD

Your favourite vacation spot?

Himalayas

Your favourite movie of all time?

This November

Your favourite book of all time?

Intimacy

Your favourite hobby?

Playing Piano

Your favourite car?

Rolls Royce

The celebrity you'd like to meet someday?

Dalai Lama

The best gift you got yourself?

My Values

Your most treasured possession?

My kids and husband

Favourite thing to do on a Saturday night?

Having five course dinner with my family

What is always on your work desk?

Positivity

NILANJAN SINHA

HEAD LEGAL – INDIA & SOUTH EAST ASIA
ICICI BANK LIMITED

A tennis enthusiast with a keenly interested in developments of law relating to sports. Nilanjan is presently serving as Head Legal – India & South East Asia at ICICI Bank Limited. Having completed his graduation in law in the year 1995, Nilanjan has worked with the likes of Exide Industries, Yes Bank and GE Capital. After earning Bachelors' degrees in Commerce as well as Law, Nilanjan studied to become a Fellow Member of the Institute of Company Secretaries of India. In 2006, he read for his Masters' Degree in Commercial Laws (LLM) from the University of Bristol (UK), with specializations in Comparative Corporate Governance, Banking, Intellectual Property and International Disputes.

At ICICI he is at the forefront of key initiatives like digitization of legal service delivery, improving engagement with law schools, continuing legal education for in-house lawyers and providing inputs for law relating to financial services. Nilanjan was named by Indian Corporate Counsel Association as one of "India's Finest In-house Counsels" and included in The Legal 500 GC Powerlist: India 2016 and 2018.



Your favourite vacation spot?

South of Italy

Your favourite movie of all time?

Love Story by Eric Segal

Your favourite hobby?

Tennis

Your favourite car?

Mercedes

The celebrity you'd like to meet someday?

Roger Federer

The best gift you got yourself?

One year sabbatical from work to pursue
LLM in UK

Your most treasured possession?

My dog (Kipo)

Favourite thing to do on a Saturday night?

Spending good time with friends with
some nice single malt

Nilanjan is a strong believer of 'business judgement rule' in commercial decision making which says that all decisions must satisfy the first principle of law.

Nilanjan feels that in today's era, the role of a corporate counsel is that of an enabler of pragmatic commercial decisions to facilitate business growth.

NITIN MITTAL

MARKET HEAD OF LEGAL, COMPLIANCE AND COMPANY SECRETARY
SIGNIFY INNOVATIONS INDIA LTD

A lawyer 'by accident' rather than a civil servant, which he wanted to be, Nitin has over the last 16 years handled functions covering Legal, Compliance, Insurance and Real Estate, while leading teams on mergers/demergers/ corporate restructuring, acquisitions and integration of acquired companies, civil and criminal litigations and high-stake arbitrations. He has set up new plants, established contract management processes, implemented compliance programs and managed complex projects with regional and global implications. A B.Com. (H) graduate from Delhi University, a Masters' Degree from NLSIU, Bangalore and a professionally qualified advocate, company secretary and a fellow member of the Institute of Company Secretaries of India, Nitin currently heads the Legal and Compliance team for Signify Innovations India Limited (also known as Philips Lighting Limited) in the Indian subcontinent. Nitin's work philosophy is based around certain core values that he follows with deep passion. These include integrity, empathy, commitment and focus.

TESTIMONIAL

In the current volatile business environment, uncertain external world and transforming organization like Philips Lighting India Ltd, it is indeed great to have Nitin as our general counsel and company secretary. He brings great balance to the role by being an amazing business partner working shoulder to shoulder with commercial teams navigating through complex contracts, difficult negotiations and helping business to win and at the same time being a conscience keeper ensuring strict adherence to the compliance and right way of doing business. He is highly active in our CSR initiatives and he and his team brings breath of fresh air in normally dull legal environment. We are a newly incorporated public limited company operating more than just 2 years, Nitin ensured that all board governance and compliance processes are up to date and are at benchmark level. Our board meetings are always very productive because of Nitin and his team's proactive approach. He is also strong proponent of new technology in various legal and the secretariat function. As a CEO, you will have 'peace of mind' if you have a strong and vigilant general counsel. I am lucky to have one in Nitin.

Mr. Sumit P. Joshi,

Vice Chairman & Managing Director, Philips Lighting India Limited



Your favourite vacation spot?

Mussoorie

Your favourite movie of all time?

The Godfather

Your favourite book of all time?

The day of the Jackal, by Frederick Forsyth

Your favourite hobby?

Reading books

Your favourite car?

Latest Tesla is cool
(dream to have it one day!)

The celebrity you'd like to meet someday?

Barack Obama

The best gift you got yourself?

Latest smart watch

Your most treasured possession?

My family

Favourite thing to do on a Saturday night?

Watching a movie

What is always on your work desk?

Laptop, books and notes



PARUL SABHARWAL

HEAD-LEGAL

TIMES INTERNET LTD. (TIMES GROUP VENTURE)

An early riser who likes to get the bigger tasks out of the way timely throughout the day, Parul is currently heading the legal practice across India and globally at Times Internet Ltd. She holds a Masters' degree in Law from London School of Economics having completed the same in 2005.

Parul lives by the philosophy that it is important to plan in advance for timely execution of deliverables. One should be well informed and respect all types of work. She is an advocate of experience based learnings and feels that there is no substitute for the same.

Parul looks up to the work of Mr. Amit Khansaheb, Partner at Shardul Amarchand Mangaldas & Co. She had the opportunity to work on various transactions with him. His readiness to help and closely hand hold his clients is something that Parul really appreciates. Having worked with Mr. Ganesh

Prasad, Partner at Khaitan & Co., Parul feels that Mr. Prasad possesses in-depth knowledge on various complex legal issues and has a very practical approach to legal issues.

TESTIMONIAL

Given the various business interests that we have in the company, Parul is someone who understands the businesses in detail and then breaks them down to see where risk lies. She likes her detailing and it helps us see things differently. Her ability to highlight a risk is well appreciated and often it helps us to be prudent. The transactional experience which she brings with her helps in transaction from start to finish. She has played a key role in spearheading important compliances. She is a good mix of legal and commercial acumen and that results in the trust she has earned for her knowledge and thorough professionalism.

Mr Gautam Sinha,

Chief Executive Officer, Times Internet Limited

Your favourite vacation spot?

Hong Kong

Your favourite movie of all time?

Forrest Gump

Your favourite book of all time?

To Kill a Mockingbird - Harper Lee

Your favourite hobby?

Experimenting and learning about teas

Your favourite car?

The first Maruti Suzuki Swift I bought

The celebrity you'd like to meet someday?

Mr. Narendra Modi

The best gift you got yourself?

iPhone X

Your most treasured possession?

My daughter

Favourite thing to do on a Saturday night?

Spending time with family

What is always on your work desk?

My attention

■ IN-HOUSE

PARVEEN ARORA

DIRECTOR-LEGAL & GENERAL COUNSEL
VESTAS WIND TECHNOLOGY INDIA PVT. LTD

Coming from a family of farmers, Parveen worked in the banking sector and completed his company secretary degree before moving into the legal space. His tete-a-tete with the legal sector happened after he made the switch to the private sector. Currently serving as Director – Legal & General Counsel at Vestas India, part of a global leader in wind technology, Parveen brings with him over 20 years of experience in contracts particularly S & I, EPC, Turnkey, all legal matters, Secretarial and Corporate Affairs. He has worked across various sectors including Energy, Infrastructure and Banking.

Parveen lives by the philosophy that we should not consider work as our life but consider work as a source to enjoy life.

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Parveen feels that a role of a corporate counsel is much wider than a practicing lawyer. An in-house lawyer must give utmost importance to legal aspects in every transaction however at the same time cannot become an impediment in business. Corporate counsel must create a good balance between risk and business while not compromising on any of the above.

Parveen looks up to the works of Mr. V. Lakshmikumaran. He believes that Mr. Lakshmikumaran is an institution in himself who is humble in nature and is easily approachable. He admires Mr. Lakshmikumaran's work in that he played a key role in devising certain key tax policies of the Indian Government and the fact that he is considered as an authority in trade remedy laws and TRIPs.



Your favourite vacation spot?

A peaceful hilltop

Your favourite movie of all time?

The Shawshank Redemption

Your favourite book of all time?

Shiva Trilogy

Your favourite hobby?

Reading and Jogging

Your favourite car?

Hummer

The celebrity you'd like to meet someday?

Irfan Khan

The best gift you got yourself?

A long vacation with family in 2016

Your most treasured possession?

Collection of DVDs (movies)

Favourite thing to do on a Saturday night?

Sit back, relax and watch a movie while having late dinner with family

What is always on your work desk?

A small indoor plant

PARVEEN MAHTANI

HEAD LEGAL AND COMPLIANCE
TATA REALTY AND TATA HOUSING

A pianist and an accomplished artist, Parveen is presently Head Legal and Compliance with Tata Realty and Tata Housing. Parveen graduated with an LLB in 2001 from Government Law College, Mumbai where she won the MC Chagla Gold Medal from Mumbai University for securing the highest marks across all law colleges in Mumbai. Parveen began her career as a lawyer with Nishith Desai Associates, before moving to the IL&FS Trust Company Ltd as their Legal Head, Debt Recovery Department. She subsequently moved to the Lodha Group, where as their Vice President – Legal she spearheaded the largest private investment into London's prime residential market as well as one of India's largest FDI deals in real estate. Parveen lives by the mantra that we should focus on being significant and success shall follow.

A general counsel's role as originally viewed as a lifestyle friendly prelude to retirement is now being viewed as a trusted advisor and valued business partner. Repeatedly giving a negative response, can lead to conflict with the business teams and counsel's reputation as an obstacle to the business. The mindset should therefore be of mitigating risk rather than eliminating it i.e. Risk management (rather than risk avoidance). Suggest alternatives and if required to say "no", say it with credibility. Further, risk convergence has also impacted the GC's role. The speed and impact of reputational harm in an era of social media means that the general counsel needs to advise instantly. With respect to building teams, if you patiently and methodically build your legal team, and develop the skills that your lawyers will need to succeed, you will find yourself shaping the change rather than reacting to it. The aforementioned anecdote is Parveen's advice to fellow aspirants looking to lead in-house teams.

TESTIMONIAL

Parveen is a high-energy and adept legal professional, who has the capabilities of converting possibilities into accomplishments. Proficient at leading teams, she is an inspiration to work with.

Mr Sanjay Dutt, Managing Director
Tata Housing Development Co Ltd and Tata Realty and Infrastructure Ltd.

Your favourite vacation spot?

Malta

Your favourite movie of all time?

Godfather

Your favourite book of all time?

Thinking Fast and Slow

Your favourite hobby?

Playing the piano

Your favourite car?

Bentley

The celebrity you'd like to meet someday?

Barack Obama

The best gift you got yourself?

Jewellery

Your most treasured possession?

My books

Favourite thing to do on a Saturday night?

Dinner with Children

What is always on your work desk?

Colourful Stationery



PARVESH KHETERPAL

VICE PRESIDENT LEGAL
LANCO GROUP

Possessing an entrepreneurial zeal and striving forward in his career with the same passion, Parvesh is a seasoned Power and Infrastructure industry counsel with 18 years of experience in working with market leaders. Currently serving as VP – Legal at Lanco Group where he heads the legal division of their EPC, Roads and Solar verticals, Parvesh has spearheaded negotiations for various high value (Domestic & International) EPC & allied contracts for Power projects (including solar projects- one amongst the highest in the industry at the time). He has dealt with various M&A transactions (including transactions over a billion dollars) and has played an active role in the acquisition of land in various states in India. He has been instrumental in dealing with and getting favourable orders for high stake litigations, arbitrations in & outside India, and to strategize early resolution of disputes. He has also played a crucial role in the company's expansion in Europe, US and South Africa.

Parvesh lives by the philosophy that one should stay focused on one's real purpose for every action in life. The individual should be clear about his goal and not just doing things for the sake of doing or to blindly follow others.

Parvesh feels that the role of a Corporate Counsel has evolved from a Legal Advisor to a Strategy Advisor. The Corporate Counsel role is not restricted to routine legal affairs in an organization, but they are business partners now, where they have to understand business and produce viable and tangible solutions. A Corporate Counsel is in a unique position to appreciate both the organization's legal issues and its overarching mission. This role only enables management to make informed strategic decisions within an acceptable legal risk profile.

Parvesh advises fellow aspirants who wish to lead in-house teams to always take ownership and think like an entrepreneur. He feels it's essential to be a part of decision making where leaders are supposed to provide business solutions without compromising laws.



Your favourite vacation spot?

Bali

Your favourite movie of all time?

3 Idiots

Your favourite book of all time?

The Secret

Your favourite hobby?

Playing with kids

Your favourite car?

Mercedes 'S' class

Your most treasured possession?

My family

Favourite thing to do on a Saturday night?

Late night hangout with my friends

What is always on your work desk?

Positivity, solutions and a lot of work



PATHIK ARORA

DIRECTOR – LEGAL & GENERAL COUNSEL INDIA
SENVION WIND TECHNOLOGY PVT. LTD.

Having dreamt of becoming a doctor since childhood and directing all his efforts towards achieving that goal, Pathik was unfortunate for not being able to apply for his medical exam due to severe illness. As fate had it, in the same year, Pathik took up the Company Secretary course and excelled beyond his own expectations. Spotted by one of his professors, who saw the spark in him, Pathik was convinced by him to pursue a full-fledged career in law. The rest as they say is history!

Pathik presently serves as Director – Legal & General Counsel India at Senvion Wind Technology Pvt. Ltd. Pathik believes that one should never let the zeal or spirit take a hit in life, for it is the spirit only that guides you to find many beautiful ways to lead a life of your choice.

TESTIMONIAL

The role of General Counsels has evolved over time. They are no more corporate advisers simpliciter, however they are trusted business enablers and critical to every important decision of an organisation. In this breath, Senvion as a group has always respected the role of General Counsels and has given the authority and command that it deserves. Carrying this tradition forward, we hired Pathik as the General Counsel for Senvion group in India. Pathik provides strong guidance to our team and presents solutions to improve business outcomes. Through complex business deals and even in work discussions, Pathik has brought deep engagement, strategic insights, and helpful recommendations; he connects well with other business leaders, gives time to understand their problems and provides legal savvy commercial solutions. He has been a great colleague and his strong ethics, reliability, and dedication makes him popular in the organisation. He is a people's person which makes everyone in the organisation (across hierarchies) very comfortable to approach him with an assurance that they shall be provided the right advise. Pathik has put up a great team and it is very reassuring to see that a fast-growing company in India like ours has the legal expertise and talent to provide swift counsel for carrying out efficient business. He has lot of ideas to bring reforms in the legal department and he has my complete support to carry out the same. I wish Pathik and his team good luck and my support shall always be with him!!

Pathik has put up a great team and it is very reassuring to see that a fast-growing company in India like ours has the legal expertise and talent to provide swift counsel for carrying out efficient business. He has lot of ideas to bring reforms in the legal department and he has my complete support to carry out the same. I wish Pathik and his team good luck and my support shall always be with him!!

Amit Kansal,

CEO & MD, SENVION WIND TECHNOLOGY PVT. LTD.

P M DEVAIAH

PARTNER & GROUP GENERAL COUNSEL
EVERSTONE CAPITAL ADVISORS

Ranked one amongst the top GCs in India in 2016 and 2018 by Legal 500 and taking a keen interest in guiding & mentoring law students from tier 2 law colleges, PM Devaiah boasts over 27 years of experience as an in-house legal counsel with various blue-chip companies where he has handled a number of domestic and international legal and regulatory assignments and projects. Currently serving as Partner & Group General Counsel at Everstone Capital Advisors, PM Devaiah's current role includes corporate law, intellectual property management, dispute resolution management and strategy, food laws, private equity related laws, compliance, FCPA and anti-bribery compliance in India and the Asia Pacific Region. He also consults on FDI-related matters, high stake global acquisitions, joint ventures and technology transfer assignments.

An all-rounder, PM Devaiah attended an executive program at Harvard Business School, Boston, and is also an alumnus of the University of Mysore, where he secured first rank in Master's in Law (L.L.M). His experience includes compliance, multi-lateral legal assignments, cross-border transactions, complex shareholder litigation & arbitration, as well as legal and compliance matters related to the private equity, power, telecom, and manufacturing sectors.

He lives by the philosophy of 3Es i.e. Ethics, Efficiency and Endurance. As a corporate counsel, he views his role as a conscious keeper for the organization, a mentor and a solution provider. He advises aspiring in-house team leaders to shed the nostalgia of being a lawyer and transform into a mentor. To train youngsters and share experience and wisdom.



Your favourite vacation spot?

Europe

Your favourite movie of all time?

The Good, the Bad and the Ugly

Your favourite book of all time?

Any book on Mythology

Your favourite hobby?

Reading & Writing

Your favourite car?

Aston Martin

The best gift you got yourself?

Best is yet to come!

Favourite thing to do on a Saturday night?

Watch Netflix

What is always on your work desk?

Range of fountain pens

POOJA MAHAJAN

MANAGING PARTNER
CHANDHIOK & MAHAJAN

Pooja Mahajan is a Managing Partner at Chandhiok & Mahajan, Advocates & Solicitors, a full-service law firm in India. She completed her Bachelor in Law from the University of Delhi and received her Bachelor in Civil Law with distinction from the University of Oxford.

Pooja has extensive experience in advising clients on all aspects of corporate and commercial laws and leads the C&A's Corporate & Restructuring practice. Her practice includes advising clients on general corporate and company law issues; mergers and acquisitions; in-bound and out-bound investments; corporate re-organizations/ re-structuring; debt financing; debt restructuring and insolvency & bankruptcy related matters.

Before C&M, Pooja worked with Mr. Arun Jaitley and Amarchand & Mangaldas & Suresh A. Shroff & Co, where she was also a partner in the Corporate Practice Group.

Since joining C&M, Pooja has brought significant changes to the firm. She believes that the cost of litigation has soared through the years and this is mainly due to the reliance on senior advocates for corporate and regulatory disputes. While she understands that some matters demand the advocacy of skilled senior advocates, however she felt that there was a scope to get the cost down. In her attempt to do the same, she along with other partners in the firm started encouraging the lawyers in the firm to play the role of both 'advocate' and 'solicitor'. The clients have taken kindly to this approach and have put their faith in the firm. This has led to significant savings on litigious and regulatory matters, without compromising the best representation for their clients.

Pooja believes that in today's modern age it is essential to be abreast with technological advancements. In her opinion, the legal services industry is a people business and technology plays a big part in bridging distances. The mechanism with which legal service is delivered to the client is being given prime importance. Technology is changing the business models of clients, and hence Pooja's firm makes a conscious effort to invest in understanding such changes. For instance, C&M recently flew in an expert from Silicon Valley to discuss the latest trends on artificial intelligence.



■ LAW FIRM

PRATIBHA JAIN

FOUNDING PARTNER, DELHI OFFICE
NISHITH DESAI ASSOCIATES

Coming from a traditional Jain non-lawyer family, Pratibha is the first woman in her family to have pursued a masters and work formally. She is the Head of the New Delhi Office of Nishith Desai Associates, an Indian firm with a global outlook. Pratibha also heads the Funds and Regulatory practice at Nishith Desai Associates. Her areas of practice include banking and finance, mergers and acquisitions, private equity investments and structured finance.

She was previously Vice President and Counsel for Goldman Sachs in Mumbai, India. She has earlier worked with Sullivan & Cromwell, LLP in their New York, Tokyo and Hong Kong offices and with Skadden Arps Slate Meagher and Flom, LLP in their Hong Kong office.

Pratibha's educational qualifications are Bachelor of Economics (B.A.) and Bachelor of Law (LL.B.) degrees from the University of Delhi; a Bachelor of Civil Law (B.C.L.) degree from the University of Oxford, where she was a St. Catherine's College Bursary holder; and a Master of Law (LL.M.) degree from the Harvard Law School, where she was a Samuel Morse Lane Fellow. She is admitted to the Bar of the State of New York in the USA and the Bar Council of Delhi in India. She has keen academic interests and was a visiting lecturer at the Hong Kong Polytechnic University. Her research article on "Multiculturalism and its Impact on Women's Rights in India" was published in the Berkeley Journal of International Law.

Pratibha draws inspiration from the famous movie Kung Fu Panda and applies the philosophy of 'Master Oogway' to her daily life.

"Yesterday is history,
tomorrow is a mystery,
and today is a gift...



that's why they call it present"

"So live the fullest you can every day."

She feels that the role of a senior corporate lawyer is evolving from being just a super specialist to a trusted advisor to their client in any aspect of legal advice. Clients look for that extra value add in terms of personal commitment to finding them a solution to a complex matter rather than just pure execution of deals.

Pratibha admires the work of Justice Chandrachud for she feels he is a true liberal and his judgments reflect that.

RACHNA JAIN

PARTNER, JOINTLY MANAGING GURGAON &
DELHI OFFICES
DESAI & DIWANJI

Rachna is a senior partner at Desai & Diwanji. She is jointly managing the Gurgaon and Delhi offices of the firm. She specializes in Mergers & Acquisitions, Joint Ventures & Collaborations, Private Equity and Venture Capital, SEBI and foreign extant laws and Post-Acquisition Transitioning, of and in listed corporates.

She began her professional career as a litigator in the year 2001. During her tenure she worked extensively on wide array of constitutional matters. In 2003, she joined Desai & Diwanji and started evolving into a corporate and commercial lawyer. In last 15 years with Desai & Diwanji, she has advised both listed as well as privately held corporates, private equity investors and individuals across several industry sectors on all types of M&A and investment transactions. She advises on the full spectrum of such matters including transaction structuring, employment laws, corporate governance issues, FDI issues and SEBI guidelines (including listing regulations, takeover regulations, insider trading regulations, and ICDR regulations) and post-acquisition transition. Having worked on over 100 M&A and PE transactions, her in-depth understanding of cross-border mergers and acquisitions as well as SEBI governance laws is recognized by the clients as well as the opposite parties.

She has advised on transactions across various industry sectors ranging from credit rating agency, hospitality, dairy, hospital and healthcare, pharma, NBFC, infrastructure and logistics, auto-ancillary, media and entertainment, water, insurance, BPO, print

media, education, food, skin care, fashion house, solar power, oil, etc. Some of her regular clients include Lactalis Group, Dassault Systems, Xerox India, Motherhood, BRS Ventures, NMC Global, OPPO, ICRA, Quattro, Cremica and Flavine N.A. She has also been advising various regulated listed companies on matters relating to strategic management takeovers, board restructuring, buy-backs, post-acquisition remediation actions and other

corporate and regulatory governance matters from the listing regulations, insider trading regulations, take over regulations and various other SEBI regulations including NBFC laws.

Besides the commercial law, Rachna also has a keen interest in legislations and issues relating to workplace discrimination, gender equality and sensitivity and is personally involved in helping companies achieve their goals of a gender neutral, just and compliant internal environment. She is an expert member on Internal Committee constituted under the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 of various multi-national companies and has led several investigations pursuant to the complaints received from employees. Some of the

corporates regularly advised by her on these issues include Moody Corporation INC., Xerox India Limited, Dassault Systems India Private Limited, Group ICRA, Epicurian Foods Private Limited, Style Us Brands Private Limited, etc. Her philosophy for excelling in life is that one needs to be passionate about whatever they are doing, be it work or personal life and success comes only with hard work.

Rachna is absolutely passionate about her work. She has been a role model for her juniors and strives to consistently mentor them to excel in life. She believes in open discussions and has initiated and continues to spearhead knowledge management to mentor and develop young talent.



RADHIKA GAGGAR

PARTNER & CO-HEAD OF PRIVATE CLIENT PRACTICE
CYRIL AMARCHAND MANGALDAS

Radhika serves as Partner at the Mumbai Office of Cyril Amarchand Mangaldas. She is the co-head of the Private Client practice at the firm, specializing in estate and succession planning (especially its cross border aspects and interplay with the Indian exchange control regime, takeover regulations and personal laws), family settlements, family governance and establishment of trusts.

Radhika has extensive experience in advising families, promoters of large corporate houses as well as professional wealth management and fiduciary service providers in relation to establishment and operation of trusts (both in India and overseas), restructuring of existing trust structures, establishment of private trust companies, rights and obligations of fiduciaries and beneficiaries and preparation of wills and family constitutions. She has been instrumental in negotiating and implementing high-profile family settlements.

She also advises on establishment of charitable institutions to aid and promote the philanthropic endeavours of individuals, families and corporates, including for the purposes of compliance with the CSR requirements under the Companies Act, 2013.

In addition to Private Client Practice, she regularly advises on general corporate matters with a special focus on private acquisitions (especially in the financial services space – wealth management, asset management and insurance) and India inbound and outbound foreign investments.

She is an active part of the Japan Desk of the firm and has advised on several inbound investments into India from Japan. She was on secondment for a period of 9 months to the Tokyo office of Anderson, Mori and Tomotsune, one of the leading law firms in Japan.

Radhika is the Asia Winner in the Women in Law category at the Lawyers Global Awards 2018 and has been endorsed as a notable practitioner for financial & corporate law by IFLR1000 (2019). She has also authored articles on investments into India as well as estate planning and philanthropy.



RAJAT MALHOTRA

MANAGING PARTNER
LAWARE ASSOCIATES

Rajat Malhotra leads Laware Associates – a boutique firm catering to Infrastructure and Real Estate Industry clients. Rajat started as a transactional lawyer with L&L Partners after being called to the Delhi Bar in 2006. He is an alumnus of NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad, and his experience spans all areas of law from contracts to insolvency.

As a transactional lawyer, Rajat extensively advises both private corporations and government bodies in various project finance transactions and is retained by top engineering consulting firms including URS Corporation, SNC Lavalin and Feedback Ventures for advise on highway, mass road transit system, water and sanitation and smart city projects.

He carries his transaction advisory experience to the dispute resolution practice and is known to offer complete solution to his clients. Rajat and his team are strongly recommended by Amardeep Jaiswal of Lanco Group as being "most reliable and dependable firm to provide right solutions and advise at the right time."

Despite being a young firm, Rajat's team has extensive experience spanning all facets of Infrastructure and Real Estate industries, including Roads and Highways, Railways, River Basin projects, water and sanitation, SEZs, all manner of construction-development projects, commercial/ residential/ mixed use estate developments, golf courses and the like.

Rajat also had the distinction of representing Maytas Infra Limited and Maytas Properties Limited (promoter group of erstwhile Satyam Computers) in the first of its kind white collar crime matter in India. His current client representations include high stake disputes work with over USD 10 Billion in value. His team is also regularly involved in court litigation settling contentious legal issues influencing commercial decisions in

real estate and infrastructure sectors. Rajat's clients recommend him for "his endless efforts and honest advice".

Pradeep Malhotra from Today Group sums up with the comment "Rajat takes the fight to the enemy. The way he handles matters at this age is really appreciable as the solutions he offers are sometimes better than top senior advocates."

TESTIMONIAL

"As a professional he is one with an indefatigable spirit with which he takes up the cases. Well-read and enlightened one. A person who comes up with out of the box ideas besides being painstakingly persistent. Also a person of whom you can bank upon and my one stop solution for all my legal problems."

Pradeep Balagopal

Counsel
L&T Construction





RAJBEER S SACHDEVA

PRESIDENT (GROUP) LEGAL
J.K. ORGANISATION

Rajbeer S Sachdeva is currently President (Group) Legal for J. K. Organisation. He is an alumnus of Delhi University with an LLB & LLM and has about 28 years of experience as a corporate lawyer. He has extensively worked in domains of Mergers & Acquisitions, Competition Laws, Real Estate Transactions, Intellectual Property & Trademark matters, Arbitrations in India & abroad, disputes relating to product liability claims, employment laws and more recently matters relating to the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016. Sachdeva was previously Senior Executive Director & Group General Counsel at DLF Limited and prior to that worked as Global Head Legal with Ranbaxy Laboratories Limited.

R S Sachdeva's personal philosophy for work includes that the task should be completed with diligence and time lines should be strictly adhered to with all compliances in place. While work life balance is important, it is the work that has to be given priority over other aspects.

He views the role of a Corporate Counsel as an advisor to business teams on various intricate matters taking into consideration the business perspective.

In his view, the emphasis should be to effectively handle the transactions and drafting of the agreements by in house teams after proper due diligence. The teams should be trained to have the skill set to attend to matters and provide solutions keeping in mind the business need while adhering to the timelines.

Your favourite vacation spot?

Goa

Your favourite book of all time?

The Street Lawyer by John Grisham

Your favourite hobby?

Reading

Your favourite car?

Audi

The celebrity you'd like to meet someday?

Akshay Kumar

Favourite thing to do on a Saturday night?



RAJEEV CHOPRA

MANAGING DIRECTOR – LEGAL
ACCENTURE

Having had spells across consumer electronics, IT and Telecommunications, Rajeev for the last 12 years has been serving at Accenture, currently in the capacity of Managing Director – Legal. Rajeev prides himself on working with many legal luminaries. He has the greatest respect for his first senior Justice Madan Lokur, who in his words is not only one of the finest legal minds, but a great person. He has also had the opportunity to brief Mukul Rohatagi on many matters and believes that he is one of the best lawyers in the country. Besides, he has had the fortune to brief Fali Nariman, Ashok Desai, Harish Salve, Amarjit Chandiok, Rajiv Nayar and many other top lawyers, which has been an enriching experience for him. Rajeev is grateful to work with Zia Mody, Cyril Shroff and Lalit Bhasin who have helped him with his learning curve.

In his view, the role of a corporate counsel is that of a “strategic business advisor” who has a seat on the table. Seeing the speed of technological inventions, evolving laws, and understanding the landscape of each jurisdiction, corporate counsels are expected to keep pace to ensure business runs in an ethical and compliant way. To the above, Corporate Counsels, alongside other business leaders, need to make a concerted effort to understand business needs, evaluate the legal risks with prudence and provide a view that is credible and is a “win-win”. In this era of technological evolution, it is important i) to simplify the way we work by Adopting Technology, Being Proactive and Bring New Insights; (ii) to create value by understanding our client needs in the ever-dynamic business environment and curate solutions; (iii) to find opportunities in every challenge.

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Your favourite vacation spot?

Italy

Your favourite movie of all time?

Notting Hill / My Cousin Vinny

Your favourite book of all time?

Any book by Khushwant Singh

Your favourite hobby?

Study of Numerology

Your favourite car?

I now believe that having your own car is not necessary

with so many options for public transport

The celebrity you'd like to meet someday?

Amitabh Bachchan

The best gift you got yourself?

A Mercedes car on my 50th Birthday

Your most treasured possession?

Besides my family and friends, I am not emotional about any object or possession

Favourite thing to do on a Saturday night?

Meeting friends

What is always on your work desk?

My computer

TESTIMONIAL

Businesses today operate in a highly volatile and continuously evolving landscape. Navigating the opportunities and the challenges this presents requires unique leadership skills. Rajeev's deep knowledge of the legal system and evolving frameworks combined with his robust understanding of our business as well as our industry context, ensures that every business transaction is enriched with sharp insights, clarity and judicious decision making. Rajeev leads from the front, and we're proud to have him as our in-house corporate counsel.

Ms. Rekha Menon

Chairman and Managing Director, Accenture



RAJENDRA MISRA

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT & GENERAL COUNSEL
THE INDIAN HOTELS COMPANY LIMITED

Felicitated in London as one of the top 25 In-house Counsel of India by the Law Society of England & Wales and the Indian Corporate Counsel Association during the Indo-UK Summit and being featured in GC Powerlist: India 2016 and 2018 amongst leading General Counsel by The Legal 500, London, Rajendra is well known for pioneering the registration of image marks of Taj Mahal Hotel & Towers as the first building in India to get its image registered as a Trademark.

Currently serving as Executive Vice President & General Counsel at the Indian Hotels Company Ltd., his role at IHCL embraces driving organic as well as inorganic growth from the legal standpoint. He plays an

instrumental role in securing IP protection for the organization in line with its newly launched Brand architecture, in addition to helping some very prominent and sensitive litigation for the group. Rajendra is also a Director on the Board of TajGVK Hotels & Resorts Ltd., a listed company which is a joint venture between IHCL and the GVK group. He holds a Bachelor of Laws degree (LL.B.) from the University of Calcutta, and a Post Graduate Diploma in Patents Law (PGDPL) from the National Academy of Legal Studies and Research University (NALSAR). Rajendra has undertaken the Hawkesmere Course on International Intellectual Property Law from London.

Rajendra's personal philosophy for work is based on hard work, dedication and transparency, which are essential for a fulfilling and successful career. His advice to aspiring leaders looking to lead in-house teams is that one should be fearless; act as a conscience keeper and always do the right thing. One should delegate and let his/her team develop; and above all, mentor young people.

Your favourite vacation spot?

Europe – Switzerland in particular

Your favourite movie of all time?

The Godfather

Your favourite book of all time?

Sherlock Homes – The Complete Novels & Stories by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

Your favourite hobby?

Listening to music

Your favourite car?

Toyota Camry

The celebrity you'd like to meet someday?

Barack Obama

The best gift you got yourself?

My books – best companions for all times

Your most treasured possession?

My grandfather's pocket watch which I inherited from my father

Favourite thing to do on a Saturday night?

Relax and enjoy with family

What is always on your work desk?

RAJESH KUMAR JHA

REGIONAL LEGAL DIRECTOR – AMESA [AFRICA,
MIDDLE EAST, SOUTH ASIA]
RECKITT BENCKISER (INDIA) PVT. LTD.

Born on 30th June, Rajesh enrolled as a lawyer in 1999, soon after graduating with a law degree from Delhi University. He joined Bhasin & Co. and was involved almost immediately in the various disinvestment transactions that the Government of India initiated in the Hotel Corporation of India (Centaur Group of Hotels and the Ashoka Group of Hotels). Rajesh joined Reckitt Benckiser in 2007 and has since been responsible for legal policy and planning, strategy for risk mitigation, goodwill protection, acquisitions & mergers and contract & litigation management. He spearheaded two major acquisitions for Reckitt Benckiser, namely Paras Pharmaceuticals Ltd. and SSL International as well as the sale of its personal care business to Marico India Ltd.

Rajesh's lives by the philosophy that one should be non-status quo-ist, aggressive yet compliant and uncompromising on ethical values.

Rajesh believes that the legal function is that of a strategic business partner and plays a pivotal role in business planning as well as strategy & development. It also ensures compliance, both legal & behavioural.





RAMBHAU KENKARE

PRESIDENT & GROUP HEAD – LEGAL, SECRETARIAL & ADMINISTRATION
THOMAS COOK (I) LTD.

A man who dons many hats, Rambhau paints abstracts and enjoys painting with watercolours. He is also interested in philately, is a numismatist and an avid collector of miniatures. Currently serving as President & Group Head - Legal, Secretarial & Administration at Thomas Cook (I) Ltd., Rambhau has been involved in charting some of the milestones of Thomas Cook India. Since he joined Thomas Cook, the group has acquired: LKP Forex, Travel Corporation India (TCI), Quess, Sterling Holidays, Luxe Asia (in Sri Lanka), Kuoni SOTC & SITA, Kuoni Hong Kong, TC Travel Services, TC Forex Services, Kuoni DMS Entities, Traveljunkie Solutions and DEI Holdings. Rambhau has also taken a keen interest in the market expansion and M&A activity right from the start and played an active part.

Rambhau believes that one should learn from the past but be forward looking,

competent and inspiring. For his personal life he considers spending quality time with family and dedicating time to community. Rambhau admires the work of Zia Mody. He believes that she has one of the sharpest legal brains in the country, and is not afraid to give clients her views, even if it's not what they want to hear. Her ability to analyse a business issue and offer an integrated global, social, and sustainable view and be blunt about it is what he appreciates the most.

With the increase in the number of compliance requirements, the responsibilities and challenges have increased substantially. A GC has to work within the allocated budget for legal fees and controlling legal costs to help the profitability of the organization. Finding ways to generate revenue within the company and make the in-house legal department profit-centric is imperative. Contemporarily, laws and regulatory compliances are becoming more complex than ever. Companies face various risks and challenges, and to become a successful GC, one has to adapt quickly and learn to manage the complexity and the risk, advises Rambhau to aspiring in-house team leaders.

Your favourite vacation spot?

Mauritius

Your favourite movie of all time?

Forever young

Your favourite book of all time?

The Blue Ocean Strategy

Your favourite hobby?

Painting

Your favourite car?

Mercedes

The celebrity you'd like to meet someday?

Warren Buffet

The best gift you got yourself?

A positive attitude.

Your most treasured possession?

My family

Favourite thing to do on a Saturday night?

Enjoying with family and friends

What is always on your work desk?

Ganesha

RAMESH KALPATHY VAIDYANATHAN

FOUNDER AND MANAGING PARTNER, ADVAYA LEGAL

Ramesh Kalpathy Vaidyanathan is the Founder and Managing Partner of Advaya Legal, a Mumbai based full service commercial law firm focusing on both transactional and contentious matters. With a career spanning 22 years, he has been involved in a wide range of corporate and commercial matters including M&A, joint ventures, projects and infrastructure and aviation. Ramesh's initial practice years with a large law firm coincided with India's economic liberalization era with foreign companies looking to set up in India. His practice in the initial years involved handholding international companies on various aspects of doing business in India. He was elevated to partner in 2001 at his earlier firm and tasked with setting up the firm's Mumbai office. Ramesh successfully piloted the Mumbai office until the end of 2006 before deciding to take a different career trajectory. Additionally, Ramesh was also the GVK Group Counsel, advising on power, retail, oil & gas, hotel, mining, port, road and other infrastructure projects.



Inspired by the Sanskrit word, "Advaya" that means "that which does not have a second" or unique", Ramesh founded Advaya Legal in 2010 with the objective of providing an 'out-of-the box' and solution-oriented approach to clients. This focus on "commerciality of approach" has helped Advaya represent a varied set of clients in a short span of time— multinationals, Indian companies, high net-worth individuals and startups.

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Ramesh is active in legal fora at the national and international level and speaks regularly at various conferences, besides contributing articles to, and appearing in, media such as The Economic Times, Business Standard, Hindu Business Line, Mint and CNBC. He sits on committees of international organisations such as the International Bar Association and International Young Lawyers Association. Ramesh teaches an Indian law course module at the Michigan State University in the US and has also rendered a visiting lecture at the Seikei Law School in Tokyo. He is also the founder director of Advaya Charitable Foundation that works with organisations creating awareness on legal education among underprivileged sections of society and in supporting them to access quality legal education.

Ramesh feels that the role of a lawyer has evolved completely from being "just a lawyer" to that of a consummate business advisor. He has greatly admired senior counsel Harish Salve for his unique ability to look at legal issues through commercial eyes, a quality all corporate lawyers must necessarily possess.

His advice for budding law firm entrepreneurs is to "plan well before you take the plunge, build a corpus to last a couple of years, look to make friends and not clients and stay patient". In his free time, Ramesh enjoys travelling to new and interesting places and attending Carnatic music concerts. Being a diehard fan of Mohan Lal, he never fails to show off his cameo appearance in one such movie of his idol while in college.



RASHMI KATHPALIA

SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT AND COUNTRY HEAD LEGAL
TECHNIP INDIA LIMITED (A TECHNIPFMC)

Rashmi Kathpalia gained a wealth of experience as a litigator between 1988 and 1998 in the Supreme Court of India and various High Courts and Tribunals. Representing and advising various Indian and foreign corporate clients on a range of matters, during this early period in her career the UK Government awarded her the Chevening Scholarship for Young Professionals, which recognises future global leaders in business and world affairs. She then moved to Bechtel, the largest US construction and civil engineering company, as its sole in-house counsel in India, covering all of the company's entities and projects in the country. During this phase Kathpalia was managing counsel for the Dabhol power project settlement saga, gaining recognition by achieving a final resolution, with the help of a team of over 30 in-house and outside counsel, spanning four continents. Her success on that this matter led to a

promotion to senior counsel in the global Bechtel legal department.

Joining French engineering and construction company Technip in 2015 as Senior Vice President and Country Head of its legal department, Kathpalia is currently responsible for advising and directing on legal issues raised in commercial transactions and the contract negotiation process; supervising on transactions, litigation, deal and compliance related matters; and provides advice to the local board of directors. More specifically, she is responsible for establishing and administering the company's short, medium, and long-term legal strategy and as a member of the senior management team, she contributes to the effective leadership of the company. Given the heavy regulatory framework in the hydrocarbons and petrochemicals sector, Kathpalia plays an important role in supporting business growth. Her personal philosophy is centred on a famous phrase 'all work and no play make Jane a dull girl!' She recommends taking out time from office even if it is meant for visits to project sites or monitoring the company's CSR activities.

Your favourite vacation spot?

London

Your favourite movie of all time?

Love Actually

Your favourite book of all time?

All the Harry Potter series

Your favourite hobby?

Watching Plays

Your favourite car?

Audi A3

The celebrity you'd like to meet someday?

Barack Obama

The best gift you got yourself?

Sketchers Memory Foam Walking Shoes

Your most treasured possession?

My Mother's Shawl

Favourite thing to do on a Saturday night?

Dinner with family or friends

What is always on your work desk?

A computer

RISHABH CYRIL SHROFF

PARTNER & CO-HEAD OF PRIVATE CLIENT PRACTICE
CYRIL AMARCHAND MANGALDAS

Rishabh Shroff is a Partner in the Mumbai Office of Cyril Amarchand Mangaldas. After completing LL. B at the London School of Economics, London, England, he joined the firm in 2007 and has now been working in the firm for the past 12 years. He was admitted as an advocate in the Bar Council of Maharashtra & Goa in 2007. He is also a Solicitor, Supreme Court of England and Wales.

Rishabh forms a key part of the firm's Corporate team, specializing in foreign investments into India, private mergers & acquisitions, joint ventures, and property/real estate transactions. He has also worked on a number of manufacturing sector related transactions. He has formerly worked in the firm's Projects and Project Finance Team.

Rishabh is the Co-Head of the firm's Japan Desk, and works very frequently with Japanese clients. He has been part of the Japan Desk for over 10 years during which he has advised a number of leading Japanese and international companies on their investments into India. He is responsible for managing the Indo-Japanese transactions handled by the firm, and for building and maintaining relationships with its clients in Japan. He regularly travels to Japan for speaking and participating in various India focused seminars. Rishabh is the Co-Head of the firm's Private Client practice, specializing in family settlements/constitutions, trusts, wills and succession planning while also advising promoters of Indian business on issues concerning their personal and corporate (i.e. 'next-generation') succession planning.

Rishabh was awarded the 'Private Client Lawyer of the Year 2015' award by the prestigious publication, 'The Asian Lawyer' in November 2015. He was awarded the 'Rising Star' Award at the 'Legal Era Gennext Congress & Awards' in March 2016. Rishabh was ranked BAND 1 by the prestigious Chambers & Partners HNW Guide in 2016 and 2017. In 2017 and 2018, he ranked one of the top specialist trusts and private client lawyers in the world, by the UK's prestigious legal publication, Legal Week. In 2017, he was the only lawyer from India, and one of only a handful in Asia, to achieve this recognition. He was featured in Legal Week's & the American Lawyer's flagship publication, Private Client Global Elite. He was recognized as one of Asia's top 40 lawyers, by Asian Legal Business (ALB) in its prestigious list of '40 under 40' outstanding legal professionals in Asia, 2018.



RITESH CHANDRA

DIRECTOR & REGIONAL COUNSEL (ASIA), BRAMBLES LIMITED

Starting his career in sales before he found his calling in law, Ritesh practised in districts courts and the Delhi High Court, and also assisted senior lawyers in the Supreme Court, where he gathered a deep understanding of not just procedural laws, both civil & criminal, but also of Constitutional law and the writ jurisdictions of the High Courts and the Supreme Court. He currently serves as Director & Regional Counsel, India and Asia at Bramble. In recognition of the pivotal role he played in protecting and promoting the company's business interests, he was awarded, among others, the President's Award by President of the Indian business.



TESTIMONIALS

Ritesh is a valuable member of our global legal team, embracing new and tough challenges even as he manages a complex multi-jurisdictional portfolio of matters. He naturally assumes leadership roles in his various endeavours and is a skilled negotiator. With his wealth of experience, he is able to successfully utilize his wisdom and craft not only within India but also in other jurisdictions in Asia, and beyond. Most importantly, Ritesh reaches out beyond his legal role to assist our operations as a business partner in taking core strategic decisions – this, combined with his exemplary integrity, has earned him the trust and admiration of his colleagues around the world.

Shawn Galey, Vice President and Regional General Counsel, Brambles Limited

Ritesh is a great advisor and business partner to the CHEP Thailand team. He has supported us through various legal challenges in the past years. His knowledge and experience helps the local team in making core strategic decisions and overcome legal challenges in Thailand. He is a good listener, skilled negotiator as well as reliable advisor who always tackles tough challenges with logical approach and strong determination. With these qualities, he has earned the trust and admiration of Thailand Management Team.

Sorajack Mongkolsri, Country Director (CEO), CHEP (Thailand) Ltd.

Ritesh faces the unique challenge everyday of providing legal counsel across many jurisdictions and time zones yet he is always available to provide expert and well thought out advice. When faced with a set of circumstances Ritesh comes with a legal opinion beyond the original request and provides a broader perspective. It is comforting to know that access to such prompt reliable service from a business partner is only a phone call away from SE Asia. When he's in country he assimilates into the host country leadership environment and it is both great comfort and a real joy to work with Ritesh who has built a reputation of integrity and reliability and can also be relied upon to provide leadership beyond his primary role. We should be so lucky that every business has a great business partner like Ritesh.

Paul Dennison, Country Director (CEO), CHEP Malaysia & Singapore

Your favourite vacation spot?

London

Your favourite movie of all time?

Chupke Chupke (Hindi); You've Got Mail (English)

Your favourite book of all time?

Kafan (Hindi, by Munshi Premchand); Kane & Abel (English, by Jeffrey Archer)

Your favourite hobby?

Watching movies

Your favourite car?

Land Cruiser

The celebrity you'd like to meet someday?

Meg Ryan & Amitabh Bachchan

The best gift you got yourself?

My house

Your most treasured possession?

My collection of: (i) souvenirs of different countries; and (ii) books

Favourite thing to do on a Saturday night?

Spending time with friends and family

What is always on your work desk?

Ganesha

ROHAN K. GEORGE

PARTNER

SAMVĀD: PARTNERS

Rohan has extensive experience in the field of intellectual property, information technology law and media law. He has experience in the field of IP litigation, prosecution, licensing and assignment, media advisory and commercial dispute resolution. Rohan also has experience with policy advisory in the field of intellectual property, competition law and information technology.

Prior to joining the Firm, Rohan had an independent legal practice in Chennai, where he assisted clients on various issues relating to intellectual property and commercial laws. His past experience includes working with Amarchand Mangaldas as part of their intellectual property practice and their competition policy team in New Delhi, and with CSE and CENTAD, New Delhi on areas of intellectual property policy and reporting. Rohan is admitted to practise law in India.

Rohan has a B.A., LL. B (Hons.) from the NALSAR University, Hyderabad, (2004), and a LLM from Columbia University, USA (2009), (Lawrence A. Wein Fellow).

Apart from the law, Rohan is a fan of science fiction books and table-top games. He also tries his hand at fishing, creative writing, singing and playing the guitar.



SAKATE KHAITAN

SENIOR PARTNER, KHAITAN LEGAL ASSOCIATES

Sakate is the senior partner at Khaitan Legal Associates and heads the corporate M&A, funds, restructuring and insurance practice at Khaitan Legal Associates. He advises clients on inward investments into India and on an array of India-focused cross border transactions. Having started his career in litigation, Sakate has over 11 years of litigation experience advising various clients in their disputes that included high profile joint venture disputes, tax disputes and disputes with regulators. Sakate also serves on the boards of several companies as a non-executive director, lending his legal and business acumen to businesses around the globe. Sakate assists clients with pragmatic and commercially sound advice on dealing with Indian rules and regulations. His clients include multinationals, private equity funds, financial institutions, fund managers, and HNIs.

Sakate is the alumnus of London Business School ("LBS") and is also the co-founder of the India Business Forum ("IBF") at LBS. The IBF is a platform that was created in 2003 to build awareness and facilitate discussions on and encourage cross border investments to/from India. Sakate is dual qualified and is a member of the Bar Council of India and is also admitted as a solicitor of the Senior Courts of England and Wales. However, he exclusively practices Indian law. Sakate's philosophy for work is based on three core principles- excellence in service; superior client

experience and respect for every individual. He leads by the examples of these three principles and encourages his team to believe in these three core principles as well.

Sakate admires the work of Mr. PadamKhaitan, Senior Partner at Khaitan& Co. He also attributes his own success significantly to Mr PadamKhaitan as Sakate was trained by Mr PadamKhaitan in his formative years and he is grateful for the guidance and direction received from him. Sakate feels that over the years, clients have become more aware

of expectations and conscious of costs. As all automation, technology and artificial intelligence become all pervasive, even clients would increasingly require smarter solutions in shorter timeframes. This points to the fact that lawyers will have to specialise in their respective domains if they are to meet the challenge of making substantial contributions to the interests of their client. As a lawyer's core specialisation is providing excellence in service, it also underpins the need for specialisation.

For aspiring lawyers looking to lead law firms, Sakate gives two

suggestions. "One: work towards developing sector specialism, and two: work towards developing a deep commercial understanding of your client's requirements. This serves many purposes. Firstly, it creates greater level of comfort between the client and the law firm. Secondly it leads to generation of solutions at a faster pace as a deep business and sector specific understanding can prevent many problems from even happening in the first place and at the same time bring in the law firm's input in a proactive manner."





SAMEER CHUGH

GENERAL COUNSEL AND DIRECTOR LEGAL & REGULATORY
INDIA AND SOUTH EAST ASIA REGION
BHARTI AIRTEL LIMITED

A mischievous boy back in school who used to get away without punishment due to his innocent looks, Sameer is presently the General Counsel and Director – Legal & Regulatory for India and South East Asia Region at Bharti Airtel Limited. Sameer graduated with an LLB in 1997 from the University of Pune. He has also received an M.Sc in Telecom Business from UCL as well as an MDM in Marketing from the Symbiosis Institute of Management Studies. Sameer views the role of a corporate counsel as one to support the organization to achieve its goals and targets in the most complaint free manner within the realm of the law. The Corporate Counsel is equally responsible for the targets as much as the business colleagues and must support and ensure that the same are achieved. The Corporate Counsel should focus on minimizing the risk for the organization and ensure a long-term approach without overlooking

short term requirements and objectives. Sameer admires the work of Mr. Fali Nariman and Mr. AspiChinoy for their clarity and simplicity in thought and their arguments. He also appreciates their deep knowledge and ability to argue on different subject matters.

TESTIMONIAL

Sameer as a business partner has tremendous analytical ability, with a detailed and thorough approach to issues and problems. He is extremely responsive and creative in his advice. He is a valued advisor to Airtel because of his practical approach to issues. He is careful to understand issues and get everyone's views holistically before looking for solutions. He has led several successful matters and transactions for the organization and provided immense value. He is an exemplary leader, a trait he consistently displays in motivating and managing a large and diversely qualified team. His leadership style is inclusive, inspiring and transparent, qualities that have encouraged his team to drive execution excellence and constantly reinvent themselves to enable business in a challenging competitive environment. He is a trusted member of the Airtel Management Board/leadership team at Airtel.

Gopal Vittal

Managing Director & CEO, India & South Asia, Bharti Airtel Limited

Your favourite vacation spot?

London and Goa

Your favourite movie of all time?

Godfather and Satta Pe Satta

Your favourite book of all time?

The Godfather by Mario Puzo

Your favourite hobby?

Driving and Sports

Your favourite car?

BMW

The celebrity you'd like to meet someday?

Al Pacino

The best gift you got yourself?

My Cars

Your most treasured possession?

My pen collection which includes my grandfather's pen (which is now about 50 years old!)

Favourite thing to do on a Saturday night?

Relaxed evening with family & friends

What is always on your work desk?

My to-do list

SAMEER JAIN

FOUNDER & MANAGING PARTNER
PSL ADVOCATES & SOLICITORS

With an innate understanding of the legal, political and commercial environment prevailing in India, Sameer's core expertise lies in the areas of International Commercial Arbitration, Insolvency & Bankruptcy, Corporate – Commercial Litigation and Taxation. He is also the ICC YAF Representative, Member of the Core Committee of ICC's - India Arbitration Group and India's nominee member of ICC Commission of Arbitration and ADR.

Sameer has presented papers and given talks at prestigious national and international conferences on topics like Arbitration, WTO, Customs, Service Tax and Intellectual Property. He is also a guest faculty at the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India.



Sameer has served as lead counsel in several matters involving intricate and complex legal issues and advised various clients from Retail, Logistics, Oil and Gas, Power, Defense and Automotive sectors on Arbitration, Insolvency, Contracts, Media and Tax law involving stakes of over INR 150 billion at Tribunals, High Court and Supreme Court level. Sameer has also represented several Indian & Foreign multinational companies and government entities in several International Commercial and Ad-hoc Arbitrations. Sameer's philosophy for work is based on the fact that if a client has entrusted him with a matter, he will do everything in the contours of the law to get his client the required result. "Clients repose extreme faith on their lawyers and it is our duty to live up to it" says Sameer.

In his personal life, he lives by the philosophy that if something he feels would not matter to him 5 years down the line, then it won't matter to him today. Sameer feels that the role of lawyers has certainly evolved in the last decade. There is an influx of talented lawyers and an upsurge of boutique firms providing services at par with tier 1 firms. As clients are wary of costs involved, therefore Sameer feels that apart from providing outstanding legal representation, it is imperative to service the client as well. Lawyers nowadays have to be more approachable and accessible to the client and provide them with more comfort. Further, lawyers have to keep themselves abreast of any technology change that directly affects their ecosystem. Sameer thinks that there is an immense talent in this profession and he feels that he draws strength and quality from a few. He admires Mr. Fali Nariman's court craft, Mr. Mukul Rohatgi's approach to complex matters, Mr. Salman Khurshid's humility and Mr. Balbir Singh's discipline and effort that he puts in every matter he argues.

SAMEET GAMBHIR

JOINT VICE PRESIDENT (CORPORATE LEGAL & COMPLIANCE) AND COMPANY SECRETARY
DCM SHRIRAM LIMITED

Seldom does one come across a person who is working in the capacity of a Corporate Counsel without actually having a graduation degree in law. That was the case with Sameet who, as a Company Secretary of one of his past employer, successfully handled the legal matters and litigations including a big size matter of winding up in which the company was involved. As fate would have it, he was made the Legal Head of that company. This inspired Sameet to pursue a full-time LLB. Presently serving as Joint Vice President (Corporate Legal & Compliance) and Company Secretary at DCM Shriram Limited, Sameet has over thirty years of experience in managing a gamut of matters related to Corporate Legal Affairs, Risk & Compliance, Corporate Secretarial, Corporate Governance, Brand Protection, Due diligence, investigations, property issues etc. He was a member of the Compliance Council and also the Corporate Governance committee



during his role at Schneider Electric and has been a member of Law Advisory Committee, IMS Law College, NOIDA. Sameet is also a regular faculty at MSOP, a statutory training programme organised by ICSI for fresher company Secretaries and is also a regular speaker / guest lecturer for various training programmes / seminars, conferences etc.

Sameet lives by the philosophy that your conscience is your best advisor. Hence follow it and you will never regret it in the long term. Whatever happens, happens for the good, you may not realize it in the short term but will surely realize it in the long term. Sameet is inspired by the work of Nani Palkhiwala who without a godfather and without a privileged background became one of India's most sought-after lawyers and remained at centre stage for almost five decades. His advice to aspiring leaders who intend to manage in-house teams is to make sure that one does not limit himself on the area that he is working. It is important to think out of the box and think creatively and encourage your team for the same too. He says that if your team is coordinated, it is ok for them to make mistakes as this ensures that they still work with a creative spark and are trying to think out of the box. He recommends playing the role of a skilful HR Manager as well to head the team of lawyers to get best out of your talented team.

Your favourite vacation spot?

Goa, India

Your favourite movie of all time?

Forrest Gump

Your favourite book of all time?

Attitude is everything

Your favourite hobby?

Golf

Your favourite car?

BMW

The celebrity you'd like to meet someday?

Tiger Woods

The best gift you got yourself?

Started Golf

Your most treasured possession?

My Golf Kit

Favourite thing to do on a Saturday night?

Movie

What is always on your work desk?

The Economic Times



SAUGATA CHAKRAVARTY

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT AND GENERAL COUNSEL
SOUTH ASIA PRACTICE, SIEMENS LIMITED

Having been conferred with many awards both for his team and as individual honours, Saugata has been working as a Corporate Transactional Lawyer. Currently serving as the Executive Vice President and General Counsel South Asia practice at Siemens Limited, he heads a team of 38 people. He is currently serving on the Board of Directors of Siemens group entities such as Powerplant Performance Improvement Limited and German Business community and Consulate General Earthquake Assistance Foundation. Saugata is part of the Executive Management team of Siemens Limited. He is also a permanent invitee to the Board meetings and Management Committee meetings of Siemens Limited. Additionally, Saugata also shoulders the responsibility of overseeing the Legal activities of Sri Lanka and Bangladesh.

Saugata's personal philosophy is based on the following phrase - "What we become is permanent; What we possess is temporary." Saugata admires the work of Aditya Ghosh (Indigo), John Beccia (Circle Internet Financial) and Brett Hard (United Airlines) since these individuals played a pivotal role in spearheading their respective businesses and over time transformed into CEOs of the companies from the position of General Counsels.

For individuals looking to lead in-house teams, Saugata advises to look for transformation from Legal Counsel to Business Partner to Business Enabler. It is important to build up a first-class inside team on one hand, having experienced and expert in-house lawyers and on the other hand having smart, broad-gauged, high-integrity, business-savvy lawyers. The former saves cost and bring excellence and the later increases speed and productivity. When you choose – choose the ones who challenge you and think differently – this pushes your ability to manage and build a high performance culture.

Your favourite vacation spot?

Nice - France

Your favourite movie of all time?

Schindler's List

Your favourite book of all time?

Gita

Your favourite car?

Made for James Bond - 007

The celebrity you'd like to meet someday?

Subhash Chandra Bose

Your most treasured possession?

Tranquillity

Favourite thing to do on a Saturday night?

Family time

What is always on your work desk?

How to make tomorrow a better day



SHARMIL BHUSHAN

PARTNER
KHAITAN LEGAL ASSOCIATES

Sharmil is a partner based in the Mumbai office of Khaitan Legal Associates. With over a decade of experience, Sharmil offers expertise in the areas of banking and finance, M&A, private equity, structuring and funds formation, debt restructuring, resolution of distressed assets, enforcement of security, insolvency proceeding and related general corporate transactions.

Sharmil has advised various multinational and domestic companies as well as funds across sectors on various aspects of Indian law. She also regularly advises boards of listed and unlisted companies, on governance and other related issues.

Having also worked as in-house counsel, Sharmil carries a practical and resolution based approach, without compromising the legal position, in deal making. She has devised and implemented various exit strategies for domestic and offshore funds. Her interpersonal skills work well in dealing with the regulators and counter parties.

Sharmil is a regular speaker and external/guest faculty at premium business and law schools in India, and conducts workshops on various subjects like capital raising, corporate governance and organisational behaviour, strategies

on deal making, restructuring and insolvency, etc.

"Be yourself and give 100% to whatever you do. Finish what you started or you might regret it later and trust me, life is too short to have regrets." This is the philosophy that Sharmil swears by.

Sharmil feels that her role as a lawyer has evolved in a way where nowadays she has to take up an entrepreneurial role. It is based on networking, procuring new clients & deals and making practical decisions that streamline those deals.

Sharmil's advice to all aspiring lawyers is to be honest and loyal to their profession and to do good work. "One should not chase money; if your work is good, money will automatically follow" she says.

■ LAW FIRM

SHASHANK GARG

PARTNER
ADVANI & CO.

Shashank is a seasoned dispute resolution practitioner skilled in international commercial arbitration, sports arbitration, civil and commercial mediation and litigation. He is an Advocate with over ten years of practice before the Supreme Court of India, the High Court of Delhi and other judicial and quasi-judicial forums. He often represents as a Counsel before Arbitral Tribunals and also acts as an Arbitrator.

Currently serving as Partner at Advani & Co., Shashank is in-charge of the Delhi Office where he handles commercial litigation and arbitration verticals. He is also the Standing Counsel for State of

Goa in the Supreme Court, Special Counsel for Delhi Development Authority and Panel Counsel for Bhakra Beas Management Board, Chandigarh and Hindustan Copper Limited.

He was recently appointed as the Joint Secretary of the Society for Construction Law. In 2018, he had been nominated as the Member from India to the ICC Commission on Arbitration and ADR. He has also been appointed as the Regional Chapter Coordinator for India by the ICC YAF for 2017-2019. The Delhi High Court has nominated Shashank as a member of the Arbitration Committee of the Delhi International Arbitration Centre, New Delhi. Shashank is a certified Civil and Commercial Mediator from ADR Group London. He has an LL.M. in International Commercial Laws from University of Nottingham, U.K. and was also awarded complete scholarship by The Hague Academy of International Law for the summer course on private international law in 2009. He has acted as an Arbitrator at the Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot, Vienna. He is a visiting faculty for arbitration at the Indian Law Institute, New Delhi and the Symbiosis Law School, Noida.

Shashank is also an advisor to the KIIT Centre of International Arbitration (KCIA) and a member of CIArb, ICCA, MIAS, IBA, YIAG, SCBA, Lawasia etc. His areas of specialization include Commercial Arbitration, Mediation, International Trade and Business Law and Private International Law. Shashank has edited the book "Alternative Dispute Resolution: The Indian Perspective" published by Oxford University Press and has also authored a book titled "Tourism Law in India" published by Universal Law Publishing Co. He has also co-authored along with Prof. Martin Hunter, a chapter in the "Handbook on International Arbitration" to be published by Kluwer Publishing. He has regularly been invited as a speaker at various dispute resolution events across the globe.



SHARANYA G. RANGA

PARTNER
ADVAYA LEGAL

Sharanya is a corporate partner with Advaya Legal with a work experience spanning 17 years. She counsels domestic and international clients on cross-border M&A, India entry strategies, foreign direct investment, joint ventures and commercial contracts. Sharanya advises on a wide variety of digital and e-commerce transactions ranging from legal and regulatory issues in the sharing economy, software/technology licensing, technology transfer to data privacy. She also counsels companies on labour and employment issues, focusing on anti-harassment law and the complaint redressal/investigation process.

Sharanya started her career with the Bangalore office of a law firm before moving in-house for a brief while. She moved back to private practice and went on to set up and head the Mumbai office of a mid-size full service law firm. Sharanya has the unique ability to look at the 'big picture' and is regarded for her work ethic. She has advised the French multinational FM Logistic on its India acquisition and corporate restructuring besides representing clients such as Freecharge (Snapdeal), Maersk BPO, Hexagon Group, and non-profits such as Pathfinder International.

She has also helped develop the anti-harassment practice in Advaya given her work as an external member of the 'Internal Complaints Committee' set up by various Indian corporates under the anti-sexual harassment law. In this capacity, she plays a pivotal role in guiding the committee - right from the time a sexual harassment complaint is filed to determining the facts of the case, participating in the investigation process and making recommendations to the management. She is active with the International Bar Association and the Inter-Pacific Bar Association and also writes and speaks regularly on aspects related to doing business in India, entrepreneurship and technology. Some of her articles and

thoughts have been published in the Mint, Financial Express, The Hindu Business Line, Business Today and VCCircle.

Sharanya believes that one should enjoy the work they do to make it work and tries to follow the philosophy of the Gita to focus on one's efforts without worrying about the results. She looks up to Ms. Zia Mody as a role model given how she broke barriers for women in Indian corporate law. Her advice to those aspiring to lead a law practice is to identify the "sweet spot" or the "value-add" for the client and focus on being attentive and responsive. In the digital era, she believes that the traditional role of a lawyer has changed and that one needs to understand the business risks of the client to offer customized legal solutions.

Sharanya enjoys travelling while also exploring the local cuisine, flora & fauna and honing her amateur bird watching skills. She is also a certified 'Life Skills Trainer' and has volunteered with Unnati, an NGO based in Bangalore, in conducting gender sensitization and sexual harassment awareness sessions.





SHUJATH BIN ALI

SENIOR DIRECTOR – LEGAL AND COMPANY SECRETARY – INDIA
COMPLIANCE OFFICER, PAREXEL INTERNATIONAL

With a penchant for teaching and mentoring, Shujath likes to disseminate knowledge through various white papers relating to Governance, Risk & Compliance Management. Outside work, Shujath loves to read and travel and has very recently taken up running, hoping to participate in a marathon soon.

Serving as Senior Director – Legal and Company Secretary – India Compliance Officer at Parexel International, Shujath has worked in the areas of Governance, Compliance, Risk Management, Corporate, Commercial and Employment laws. He is Founder and Executive Committee Member of the Indian Corporate Counsel Association and a member of the Corporate Law, Legal and IPR wing of the Federation of Telangana & Andhra Pradesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry. He is also a member of Toastmasters International.

Shujath's personal philosophy is about sharing knowledge, networking, building relationships, learning from everyone and bringing new ideas to the table. He views his role as Corporate Counsel as a friend, philosopher, guide for the Business and his stakeholders while contributing as an effective enabling Business Partner and Governance, Risk & Compliance leader.

TESTIMONIAL

Shujath brings a unique sense of curiosity, patience and perseverance and will not rest till we get to the bottom of a complexity and reconcile business needs with best practices in legal/contracting.

Pashupati Kumar, Director- Risk Advisory
Deloitte US India, Hyderabad

Your favourite vacation spot?

Dubai

Your favourite movie of all time?

It keeps changing

Your favourite book of all time?

How well you measure your life by

Clayton M. Christensen

Your favourite hobby?

Reading & Travelling

Your favourite car?

Toyota Fortuner

The celebrity you'd like to meet someday?

Aamir Khan

The best gift you got yourself?

Running Shoes to focus on my fitness goal

Your most treasured possession?

Family & Friends

Favourite thing to do on a Saturday night?

Playing with my children

What is always on your work desk?

Water

SHUKLA WASSAN

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR – LEGAL & CORPORATE AFFAIRS, SOUTH ASIA
HINDUSTAN COCA-COLA BEVERAGE PVT. LTD.

Shukla Wassan is Executive Director – Legal & Corporate Affairs, South Asia of Hindustan Coca-Cola Beverages Pvt Ltd and Chairperson and Member of the Board of Bottlers Nepal Limited & Bottlers Nepal (Terai) Limited (both Listed entities) and International Beverages Pvt. Ltd, Bangladesh. She is also member of the Audit Committee and Board of Coca-Cola Beverages Sri Lanka Limited and a member of The Coca-Cola Company Bottling Investment Group Women's Advisory Counsel and a Founder Member of Indian Corporate Counsel Association. She is a Law graduate and a Fellow Member of Institute of Company Secretaries of India and Associate Member of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, UK. During her rich and diverse career spanning over 3 decades, she has been a part of the Corporate Management Team of multinational companies like Reckitt Benckiser, Xerox India & Max New York Life Insurance Co. Her wide-ranging areas of expertise includes Joint Venture, Strategic Alliances, Fund Structuring, Intellectual Property, Indirect Taxation, Arbitration, Competition Law, Arbitration and Corporate Governance & Compliances. Shukla is a prominent speaker in seminars and international conferences, is also a Committee Member of various industry forums and has taken leadership roles in community organization – She has been enlisted in 'World's Leading General Counsel' published by LegalEra in London – November, 2017. She has been awarded the 'Corporate Lawyer of the Year' by the Annual Women in Compliance Awards-2017 organized by C5 Communications Limited (formerly known as Euroform) a subsidiary of C5 Group Inc., UK. She was also awarded the Jury award for 'Outstanding Achievement – In house - Female', 2013 and 'General Counsel of the Year (Female)' 2014 at the Annual LegalEra Awards. Her team has also won the award of 'Best In- House Team of the Year – FMCG Category' for the three consecutive year from 2014 – 2016 and the Best In-House Legal Team of the Year – FMCG Category' for the three consecutive year from 2014 – 2016 at the Annual LegalEra Awards and in 2018 'Best Legal Team of the Year' by India Legal Awards.

TESTIMONIAL

Shukla Wassan has been the perfect legal head. While being obsessed with being beyond compliant, she establishes the rights and privileges of the business through the due process of law, thereby ensuring a perfect balance between compliance and litigation. The unique quality that makes her standout is, in all this complex balance, she retains a humane attitude at work.

T Krishnakumar

CEO India (CBO) & Region Director South Asia



Your favourite vacation spot?

Mountain View

Your favourite movie of all time?

Sound of Music

Your favourite book of all time?

Kane and Abel & Past Life regression of children

Your favourite hobby?

Interior Designing

Your favourite car?

BMW

The celebrity you'd like to meet someday?

Myself

The best gift you got yourself?

Guitar

Your most treasured possession?

Original signed picture of Mother Teresa

Favourite thing to do on a Saturday night?

Watching movies

What is always on your work desk?

Box of sweets



SHWETA BHARTI

SENIOR PARTNER
HAMMURABI & SOLOMON PARTNERS

Shweta serves as Senior Partner at Hammurabi & Solomon Partners (H&S), a leading law firm in India ranked amongst the top 20 Indian Firms by the Asian Legal Business (ALB) and having pan India presence. The firm bears a credible name in the corporate commercial space across India as well as abroad. With over 15 years of experience, Shweta has represented clients in all facets of the corporate litigation including joint venture & corporate commercial disputes, Intellectual Property Disputes, environmental law and real estate disputes.

Shweta has been awarded the 'Best Dispute Resolution Management Lawyer of the year' as well as the runner up award for the 'Best Partner- Female' at the Legal Counsel Congress - Ideas Exchange Legal Awards. She has also been conferred with the award of the 'Real Estate Lawyer of the Year' and as

a 'Phenomenal She - 2019' by the Indian National Bar Association (INBA). Recently, Shweta was awarded one of the top 'Women in Law 2019' by Legal Era.

Shweta currently Chairs The Environmental Law Committee of Inter Pacific Bar Association (IPBA) and is also a very active member of CII, International Bar Association (IBA), Organization for Economic Co-Operation and Development (OECD), Society of Indian law Firms (SILF), I-Tech Law Conference, Legal & Tax Summit of Indian Power Producers Association of India (IPPAI), International Academy of Law on Competition Law and International Indian Bar Association on new business laws of India to name a few.

At H&S, her work emphasizes on corporate/ commercial disputes practice including Insolvency & Bankruptcy, all aspects of Foreign Direct Investments inbound as well as outbound, company formation, company administration, restructuring and liquidation.

SONAL KUMAR SINGH

MANAGING PARTNER
AKS PARTNERS

Sonal Kumar Singh spearheads AKS Partners' arbitration, corporate and IP practice. Having gained a reputation within India and abroad for his deep knowledge and extensive experience in both subjects. Sonal has, on behalf of the Firm, handled arbitration matters for institutional giants such as the National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI), National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED), Uttar Pradesh Financial Corporation (UPFC) and the Housing Urban Development Corporation Limited (HUDCO) and has also participated in international arbitrations before the London Court of International Arbitration and the Singapore International Arbitration Centre.

A member of the Young International Arbitration Group at the London Court of International Arbitration and the American Arbitration Association, Sonal has written extensively on the subject of International Arbitration, with his articles on International Investment Arbitration forming part of a book titled "Damages on International Arbitration" published by the British Institute of International and Comparative Law. He has also collaborated with renowned author and international arbitrator, Prof. Martin Hunter in preparing tutorials on International Commercial Arbitration for the students of Kings College, University of London.

Sonal has advised national and international clients on general corporate and commercial matters pertaining to joint ventures, technical and financial collaborations, initial and ongoing support services for setting up of entities and undertaken company research, investigations and legal due diligence. Sonal is also recognized by his peers and the industry for advisory and litigation expertise on issues relating to Intellectual Property including Copyrights, Privacy & Data Protection, e-Commerce and the Internet. He has been advising clients on complex issues pertaining to protecting and exploiting their Intellectual Property Assets, the management of such Assets, Outsourcing and other Strategic Procurement relationships, Joint Venture transactions and Licensing.

Sonal has also represented the Firm's clients successfully before the Supreme Court of India, various State High Courts, Tribunals and Commissions including the State and National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commissions, the Company Law Board, the Central Administrative Tribunal and the Debt Recovery Appellate Tribunal. Sonal holds a Bachelor of Law degree from the University of Delhi and a Master's degree in Commercial and Corporate Laws from Kings College, University of London. He has to his credit a Post Graduate Diploma in Cyber Law from the Indian Law Institute.



SUDHA HOODA

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND LEGAL COUNSEL HEADING LEGAL,
COMPLIANCE AND ETHICS FOR INDIA
NVIDIA GRAPHICS PVT. LTD.

A nature lover who draws figures in the clouds, likes to hear the ocean talk back to her and lie down on ground hearing the leaves rustle on a breezy day, Sudha likes to keep it simple when she takes her time off from work. Presently serving as the Executive Director and Legal Counsel – Legal, Compliance and Ethics at Nvidia Graphics Pvt. Ltd., Sudha has over a decade's experience in leading progressively challenging assignments, requiring demonstration of integrity, courage, perseverance and creative problem solving.

Sudha believes that an individual is only confined by the walls that he builds for himself. She lives by the fact that each day is a new beginning and brings with it a new opportunity to start afresh. Sudha views her role as a corporate counsel in the capacity of a business lawyer who drives the company to soar new heights, explore opportunities in uncharted territories, promote innovation and mitigate risks along the way. She prides herself on remaining the guardian and the conscience of the organization throughout this journey.

TESTIMONIAL

Sudha was NVIDIA's first Counsel in India. She is the epitome of a world-class in-house legal counsel. Sudha is incredibly bright, multidimensional, results-focused and very business oriented. She also has impeccable integrity. With operations in Pune, Mumbai, Hyderabad, and Bangalore, Sudha was instrumental in further developing our government, engineering, human resources, real estate and compliance practices. Sudha's leadership clarity, organizational skills and unfailing willingness to go above and beyond made her sought after by every locale. Sudha is one of those rare individuals who light up a room with her charisma and charm. In my eyes, she is that "indomitable will" that should make all Indians proud.

Brian E. Cabrera, (Former) Senior Vice President
and General Counsel, NVIDIA, Inc.



Your favourite vacation spot?

Leh

Your favourite movie of all time?

Rang De Basanti

Your favourite book of all time?

Panchatantra

Your favourite hobby?

Travelling

Your favourite car?

Red Convertible Ferrari

The celebrity you'd like to meet someday?

Stan Lee (in heaven!)

The best gift you got yourself?

A digital detox every now and then

Your most treasured possession?

My passport – it helps me travel the world!

Favourite thing to do on a Saturday night?

Hangout with family and friends

What is always on your work desk?

Energy bar

SUMANT NAYAK

PARTNER
DESAI & DIWANJI

With a career spanning over 20 years, Sumant is presently serving as Partner in Desai & Diwanji. He practices in the field of Disputes Resolution, Insolvency & Bankruptcy and M&A. He has a keen interest and a special focus on capital intensive and long gestation infrastructure projects in the field of power, airports and hydrocarbon and pioneering experience in Public Private Partnership (PPP) model business in India. He has great expertise in strategizing high stake litigations and ADR in India and abroad. Additionally, he is adept at structuring and negotiating high stake commercial contracts, giving shape to Merger & Amalgamations deals. Sumant is a qualified lawyer, management graduate (MBA) and qualified company secretary (FCS). He has also chaired several Boards of Companies.

Sumant regularly appears before the High Courts, Appellate Tribunal for Electricity (APTEL), Central Electricity Regulatory Commission, NCLT and NCLAT. He has many marquee clients including Continuum Energy, a Morgan Stanley controlled company, Vestas Wind Energy, a Resolution Professional ("RP") who is a part of PWC, LIC of India, GMR Group, Essar Group, Brambles, Oyo Rooms, Sunlife, etc. He assists many MNCs and Indian corporates in the domain of Energy including Renewal energy, Insurance, Logistics, Airports, EPC, Hospitality, Media, Co-sharing, Education, Commodities Trading and Financial Services.

He is one of the few lawyers who advises and appears before different judicial forums on intricate energy laws including Power. He is actively involved in the complete chain of legal activities under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code ("IBC Code") which includes initiating the process of Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process ("CIRP") before the NCLT, advising the RP as legal advisor and submission of Resolution Applications ("RA"). Currently he is advising an RP who is a part of PWC in the CIRP process of an infrastructure company. He has helped several RAs while submitting resolution applications under the IBC Code including a Kotak group entity and BRS group. Sumant lives by the philosophy that one should like whatever he does and not do whatever he likes. Sumant believes that legal knowledge is more of an attitude (i.e. the process of approaching & thinking about a legal issue) than the absolute reservoir one possesses to address the issue. In his opinion this change of mind-set is being adopted by various lawyers in the industry.





SUMES DEWAN

MANAGING PARTNER
LEX FAVIOS

Sumes is a corporate and securities lawyer with over twenty years of experience. He specializes in Project Financing, Joint Ventures, Cross Border Taxation Issues, Private Equity, Securities Law, SEBI Takeover Regulations, Banking and Finance and has been advising clients on issues relating to acquisition of both Indian and overseas companies including foreign exchange and other governmental regulations applicable to such transactions and has been acting as legal counsel for PE transactions

Sumes values his past experience as a litigation background/exposure which he feels helps him with negotiating transactions and understanding the issues pertaining to enforcement of legal contracts. Sumes lives by the philosophy that one should "Work hard – Play hard" and he tries to emulate the same in his work. He

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feels that better work-life balance or a good life/work management skill brings success. Sumes feels that over the years, the role of a lawyer has evolved wherein the clients look upon the lawyer to take advise on business decisions, which have any legal ramifications. The role has moved from handling disputes to proactive role in client's business to assist with risk mitigation.

Sumes admires the work of Nanabhoy Palkhivala who he feels had an incredible ability of making his argument sound so simple and convincing that the Judge would be left spellbound. He was in awe of his speeches which were backed by quotations, statistics and lots of other information that he would recite from memory and without using a single scrap of paper.

For any aspiring lawyer looking to lead a law firm, Sumes recommends the following:

1. It is imperative for such a person to position himself as a leader and should be able to demonstrate to the team that he can lead from the front. Further, he should devote time and resources to legal research and ensure that such research material/articles are posted on social media sites.
2. Build meaningful relationships with clients as it goes a long way in establishing a practice. The client should feel confident to reach out to you for any legal issues or support.
3. Position your practice around key practice areas of the industry especially when setting up a new firm and focus on key strengths as the clients are evolving and prefer using specialists for each areas of Practice.

SURAJ SINGH

VICE PRESIDENT AND HEAD LEGAL
WELLS FARGO INDIA

Led by the belief that digitization not only makes legal work efficient but also that technology is intrinsically 'democratic', Suraj has championed the cause of adoption of technology in all areas of legal functioning. In the current role of Vice President and Head Legal at Wells Fargo India, Suraj heads legal teams in 2 different countries and provides strategic advice to the senior management and the board of the company.

Suraj started his career about 2 decades back as a litigation lawyer and worked for a prestigious law firm, Fox Mandal before moving to in-house roles. He has climbed every step of the corporate ladder and gained rich experience of how an in-house legal team works, having worked at every level. Suraj went on to hold a series of increasingly senior in-house legal roles across some of the biggest multi-nationals to Indian corporates: Sandoz (a Novartis Company), Mylan Laboratories, Strides Arcolab, Indian Seamless and Malhotra group of industries.

Suraj lives by the philosophy that there is no such thing as a free lunch and hence one has to work hard to achieve anything in life. Having completed his masters from JNU he still follows the values imparted to him at the University which advocated defending democracy, ethics and taking a scientific approach to problem solving.

Suraj's long and distinguished career has taught him that the biggest challenge GCs face is in making the top management understand the need to have a robust ethics and compliance systems, and the need to have an adequate budget for it.



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Your favourite vacation spot?

Hyderabad

Your favourite movie of all time?

Gandhi

Your favourite book of all time?

God of small things

Your favourite hobby?

Reading

Favourite thing to do on a Saturday night?

Watching a movie

■ IN-HOUSE

TAGORE YARAGORLA

HEAD – LEGAL
SB ENERGY PRIVATE LIMITED

"I love my job best when I'm on vacation and will continue to work till I win a lottery". These are the words of Tagore, presently serving as Head - Legal at SB Energy Private limited. He loves his work and feels that there is no substitute to growing professionally without diligent efforts towards one's work.

Tagore graduated with an LLB in 2002. He worked in different industries including telecom, finance and infrastructure, before moving to the energy sector. After spending about five years in the renewable company, Tagore moved to SB Energy (SoftBank Group) in the year 2015 and heads the legal team. Tagore's father taught him the importance of flexibility – a trait that he uses to his advantage in complex transactions by keeping his mind open to the possibilities of change in strategy, which is legally and ethically correct.

Tagore sees a corporate counsel's role in the shoes of an entrepreneur and encourages participation in every leg of transactions that the business undertakes. He believes that general counsel shall be instrumental in creating business with economic value and provide advice that shapes discussion and debate about business issues, but not as mere legal advisor.

TESTIMONIAL

Tagore is a thorough values-driven professional, incredibly committed, who goes beyond the brief. His value addition extends to all aspects of the transaction. He combines a sharp commercial approach with deep legal and industry knowledge. Tagore has always impressed me with his drive, diligence and innovative approach in arriving at the most appropriate legal solutions.

Raman

CEO, SB Energy, SoftBanks Energy Arm



Your favourite vacation spot?

My native town, Nandigama

Your favourite movie of all time?

Lakshya

Your favourite book of all time?

Wings of fire

Your favourite hobby?

Long run

Your favourite car?

Pajero Sport

The celebrity you'd like to meet someday?

Anna Hazare

The best gift you got yourself?

My children

Your most treasured possession?

My dad's books

Favourite thing to do on a Saturday night?

Spending time with friends

What is always on your work desk?

Material to manage the work-life balance

TAPAN PATI

DIRECTOR AND SENIOR LEGAL COUNSEL, SOUTH ASIA
JOHNSON & JOHNSON

An avid reader and a bibliophile with a massive personal library of books on a wide range of subjects, Tapan has over 19 years of experience advising on a wide range of complex corporate and commercial transactions both as a law firm attorney and as in-house counsel. He has provided leadership to the India legal teams of three large US-headquartered NYSE-listed MNCs (Yum Brands, Hilton WorldWide and Johnson & Johnson) as part of their senior India leadership team. He graduated in law from the National Law School, Bangalore in 2000. He is currently a member of the Editorial Board of Practical Legal Guidance (LexisNexis) and also serves on the Intellectual Property Rights committee of the American Chamber of Commerce in India.

Tapan is part of the executive management board of the pharmaceutical business of Johnson & Johnson, where he is currently Director and Senior Legal Counsel for South Asia. He lives by the philosophy that 'you get to live the life you create'. Tapan believes that an in-house counsel has to help create and sustain a company culture (along with other senior management) where employees operate within the framework of what is legally permissible. The in-house counsel has to set up systems and processes through which legal risk (breach of law) and contractual risk are understood and addressed at the right level within an organization.

TESTIMONIAL

Tapan is an accomplished lawyer with a great blend of technical expertise and sound intellect. He has been able to add value by his nuanced stand not only as a lawyer but through his astute observations on the management board which have helped the organization make quality decisions. He has an uncanny ability to spot risks as well as opportunities.

Sanjiv Navangul

Managing Director, Janssen India, Pharmaceutical Company of Johnson & Johnson



Your favourite vacation spot?

Cannes, France

Your favourite movie of all time?

Saving Private Ryan

Your favourite book of all time?

Crusade – the untold story of the Persian gulf war

Your favourite hobby?

Collecting Watches

Your favourite car?

Lamborghini Huracan

The celebrity you'd like to meet someday?

Barack Obama

The best gift you got yourself?

A Mercedes C class car

Your most treasured possession?

A Rolex day-date watch

Favourite thing to do on a Saturday night?

Meet friends

What is always on your work desk?

A calendar

TUSHAR DEY

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & CHIEF LEGAL OFFICER
CAPARO INDIA OPERATIONS

What more can one ask for when your opposite counsel appreciates your effort and wished that you were a part of his team! Well that was the case when Tushar negotiated a multimillion contract with a Fortune 500 Company based in the US. Serving as the Executive Director & Chief Legal Officer at Caparo India, Tushar has always believed in working hard and smart. He is always positive whenever he sets out to undertake a task and never gives up until he has achieved the end result.

Tushar views his role as Corporate Counsel in the form of an important cog in the overall management of the group. The duty is to take a holistic view of the business and ensure all-round compliance, thereby continuously adding value to business. Tushar looks up to the work of Mr. Prasanna Kumar, Ex General Counsel of Aditya Birla Group. Mr. Kumar was always in a position to give a legal solution to any and all problems faced by their business. To aspiring in-house leaders, Tushar recommends treating the role as if you are leading a law firm and managing deliverables as if you are the Managing Partner. Success is definitely assured if the same is followed.

TESTIMONIAL

Mr. Tushar Dey is a result oriented professional with a growth mind-set. He is an excellent leader to his people and the business, He communicates effectively with exceptional interpersonal skills and all positive vibes. Along-with his excellent in-depth knowledge of Legal and Secretarial matters, he has a proven track record of delivering best in class results in all Corporate and Plant operational, commercial and statutory matters. His innovative approach to problem solving and process improvement have resulted in great achievements across Shareholders and Employee metrics. His cross functional expertise in fields of treasury, finance and human resources is truly exceptional. He has an eye for detail and is passionate about developing talent, popularly known for his humility, a fantastic mentor to many, a buddy and sincere human being, he is a role model we love to learn from and work with.

Sachin Gupta,
Director & COO, Caparo Power Limited



Your favourite vacation spot?

London followed very closely by Goa

Your favourite movie of all time?

Operation Day Break

Your favourite book of all time?

Lee Iacocca: An Autobiography

Your favourite hobby?

Listening to Music

Your favourite car?

Maserati Levante

The celebrity you'd like to meet someday?

Mr. Barack Obama

The best gift you got yourself?

Mont Blanc Pen

Your most treasured possession?

Family photograph

Favourite thing to do on a Saturday night?

Chilling out with family

What is always on your work desk?

My Planner

CHAKRADHAR VARADARAJAN

HEAD - CORPORATE LEGAL
GODREJ INDUSTRIES LTD.

Chakradhar currently serves as the Head of Godrej Industries Limited and its associated Companies' Corporate Legal team, looking after legal risk mitigation (including indirect taxes' litigation) as well as the legal aspects of the inorganic growth of (i) Godrej Industries Limited (ii) Godrej Consumer Products Limited and (iii) Nature's Basket Limited. He is a member of the Godrej Leadership Forum, responsible for managing the legal aspects of business turnovers of these above-mentioned Godrej businesses. His professional experience spans 3 decades of which his corporate in-house practice has been of 28 years and he did invest a life-time enriching work as in-house counsel for 2 decades serving the FMCG industry. Under the leadership of Chakradhar, Godrej's Corporate legal team received several recognitions & accolades such as the "Best In-house legal team - FMCG sector in 2015", "diligent and valued-partner for Godrej businesses". Chakradhar has also been listed as one among the best in-house counsel in India by Legal500 in 2017 & 2018.

Chakradhar's personal philosophy is, one has to carry out his duty with diligence and the results will follow in proportion to his/her diligence.

Chakradhar admires the work of Senior Counsel Anil Diwan and Harish Salve with whom he had the opportunity to work and learn between 1997 and 2003 to prepare cases during his stint in ITC. He also appreciates the work of his able mentor Sri K S Suresh at ITC who significantly contributed to goal setting for Chakradhar that directly contributed to his achievements.

To all aspiring in-house team leaders, Chakradhar advises that it is essential to be hungry professionally so as to seize the opportunity to learn with zeal and toil with diligence. In this process it is important to stay humble and be focused on what is on hand to deal with and finally deliver results.

Your favourite vacation spot?

Binsar, Himachal Pradesh, India

Your favourite movie of all time?

Lion of the Desert: Omar Mukhtar (1981)

Your favourite book of all time?

The Adventures of Tom Sawyer by Mark Twain

Your favourite hobby?

Long walks & playing chess

The celebrity you'd like to meet someday?

Sunita Williams, the Astronaut

The best gift you got yourself?

My wife

Your most treasured possession?

Memories from my childhood

Favourite thing to do on a Saturday night?

Browsing through the HD TV English movie channels

What is always on your work desk?

Pin up buttons for my notice board to take notes, watch & reminder items/thoughts that are important for my existence





DR. VIVEK MITTAL

REGIONAL COUNSEL – MIDDLE EAST, TURKEY, AFRICA
AND INDIA
DANAHER CORPORATION (DIAGNOSTICS PLATFORM)

A firm believer of the fact that nothing is impossible, Vivek has grown from strength to strength since his school days having successfully completed M. Com, Ph.D., LLB and ICSI. Currently serving as the Regional Counsel – Middle East, Turkey, Africa and India at Danaher Corporation, Vivek specializes in Joint Ventures, M&As and restructuring of companies, FDI, Indian Direct Investment Outside India, Contracts, Terms Sheet (including product procurement, IPR, service etc), Litigation Management, Risk Management, Corporate Laws; Commercial Laws, Real Estate Laws, Compliances under Companies Act, SEBI, RBI etc., Royalty and Technology transfers, FCPA compliances, Industrial, Employment & Labour Laws, Legal Compliance Framework, Direct and Indirect Taxation Laws. Vivek has the same philosophy for both life and work which is – 'work is personal life and personal life is work!' While Vivek doesn't have any specific lawyer whose work he looks up to he tends to learn from anyone and everyone around him. From youngsters he has learnt about their enthusiasm, from peers he has learnt to adopt different skillsets and from seniors he has learned about patience and endurance. In his view, in today's world our learning capabilities also have to be dynamic and we should learn from all sources.

As a Corporate Counsel, Vivek sees his role as supportive, strategic, directional, assistive, and assertive. As corporate counsel, he has to wear many hats while performing his duties. It's a duty of trust, and there is no place for untrustworthy people. He needs to be a role model of humility, transparency and integrity. With changing times where law is also constantly changing along with the business environment, one needs to think dynamically, have a clear vision, and have the ability to predict 'next', while continuously upgrading skillsets.

Your favourite vacation spot?

Japan

Your favourite movie of all time?

The Pursuit of Happiness

Your favourite book of all time?

The Monk who sold his Ferrari

Your favourite hobby?

Playing with my son

Your favourite car?

BMW

The celebrity you'd like to meet someday?

APJ Abdul Kalam (unfortunately lost the chance)

The best gift you got yourself?

Education

Your most treasured possession?

My profession

Favourite thing to do on a Saturday night?

Long drive

What is always on your work desk?

My laptop

VASANTHARAO SATYA VENKATARAO

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
IFCI LTD.

Satya Venkatrao is currently serving as Executive Director in IFCI Ltd. He has over 26 years of professional experience with nearly 19 years in IFCI Limited as a part of the senior management. Prior to this, he was working with The Housing and Urban Development Corporation Limited (HUDCO). He is a graduate in Commerce and has completed M.L. (International Law) and P.G. Diploma in Industrial Relations & Personnel Management. He has secured a Gold Medal in M.L. (International Law) from Andhra University and stood first in B.L for Nyaya Vidya Parishad Law College affiliated to Andhra University.

His personal philosophy towards work or life has always been to keep things simple and doing the best for all the things that are under one's control. Satya Venkatrao views the role of Corporate Counsels moving in an upward trajectory amidst the growing complex business and external environment. The corporate counsels will have a very critical role in finally shaping, formulating and executing the business strategies and business targets.

For someone looking to lead an in-house team, Satya gives three pieces of simple advice:

1. Be sure of legal provisions
2. Be sensitive to business requirements & develop a business sense.
3. Get your facts right at all times



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Your favourite vacation spot?

Mauritius

Your favourite movie of all time?

Sholay

Your favourite book of all time?

Stay Hungry Stay Foolish

Your favourite hobby?

Listening To Old Songs

Your favourite car?

Mercedes

The celebrity you'd like to meet someday?

Amitabh Bachchan

The best gift you got yourself?

My Spouse

Your most treasured possession?

My Calm Nature

Favourite thing to do on a Saturday night?

Spending Time With family

What is always on your work desk?

Striving for Perfection

■ OUR GLOBAL PARTNERS



GEOFFREY D. CREIGHTON
CEO, IN-HOUSE COUNSEL WORLDWIDE



1. In-house Counsel Worldwide (ICW)

In-house Counsel Worldwide (ICW) is a global network of associations that is focused on the profession of in-house counsel. Member associations form a community of international in-house counsel working together to promote the value of the in-house profession; share knowledge and best practices across borders; and foster global connections. The ICW is the premier global organization to which in-house associations around the globe should belong. It builds the standing of in-house counsel as trusted strategic advisors and an essential part of the leadership team.

Geoffrey D. Creighton is Chief Executive Officer (volunteer) of In-House Counsel Worldwide (ICW). A Chartered Director (C.Dir.) and Certified In-House Counsel (CIC.C), he is a member of the Independent Review Committee of BlackRock Canada, and a 'public member' of the Board of The Financial Advisors' Association of Canada. Geoff was formerly SVP, General Counsel of IGM Financial Inc. Currently the Chair of the judging panel for the Governance Professionals of Canada's Excellence in Governance Awards, he is a frequent speaker on governance and legal matters. Geoff is also a Past-Chair of the Canadian Corporate Counsel Association.



2. Asia Pacific Corporate Counsel Alliance (APCCA)

The Asia Pacific Corporate Counsel Alliance (APCCA) was formed in 2009 at the Regional Corporate Counsel Conference organised by SCCA in Singapore. Signatories to this alliance were SCCA, Indonesia Corporate Counsel Association (ICCA), In house Counsel Forum – Korea (IHCF) and Association of Corporate Lawyers Sri Lanka (ACLSL). It has since expanded to include many more CCAs from the Asia Pacific region including the Indian Corporate Counsel Association.



3. Singapore Corporate Counsel Association (SCCA)

The Singapore Corporate Counsel Association is the pioneer national organisation representing the interests of in-house lawyers based in Singapore. SCCA's Vision is to be the Centre of Excellence for the Practice of Law In-House in Asia and to promote professional standards and provide developmental opportunities to help in-house lawyers in Singapore. SCCA believes that Better Counsel make Better Corporations, and, in turn, Better Corporations make Better Communities. It is our contribution to making the world a better place.



ALEXANDRA CHYCIJ
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CCCA



4. Canadian Corporate Counsel Association (CCCA)

The Canadian Corporate Counsel Association (CCCA) is the national voice and section for in-house counsel in Canada. We have been championing Canadian in-house counsel since 1988. Now more than 4000 strong, the CCCA is proud to be a section of the Canadian Bar Association, the essential ally and advocate of the legal profession in Canada. They are the leaders and voice for in-house counsel in Canada. Their members are lawyers working for public and private companies, non-profits, associations, government and regulatory boards, Crown corporations, municipalities, hospitals, post-secondary institutions and school boards.



ALISON LEE
CEO, CCASA



6. Corporate Counsel Association of South Africa (CCASA)

The Corporate Counsel Association of South Africa (CCASA), previously known as the Corporate Lawyers Association of South Africa (CLASA), was formed in 1982 to promote the common interests of corporate counsel in South Africa as the South African Government does not formally recognize or endorse CCASA or its members. CCASA is currently the only Association in South Africa which represents Corporate Counsel in South Africa. It operates under and in terms of the common law "universitas" concept.



SIAN WINGATE
PRESIDENT, ILANZ



5. In-house Lawyers Association of New Zealand (ILANZ)

The In-house Lawyers Association of New Zealand (ILANZ) is a section of the New Zealand Law Society. Previously called the Corporate Lawyers Association of New Zealand (CLANZ), it was established in 1987 to meet the professional needs of in-house lawyers, including practice-sharing, networking and professional development. It recognises the distinct needs and concerns of lawyers providing professional legal services to their employers. ILANZ members are New Zealand lawyers working in the private sector, public sector, not-for-profit and other organisations. ILANZ has approximately 3,000 members who make up 23.5% of the legal profession in New Zealand.

