

Intellectual Asset Management



The World's Leading Patent Practitioners



India

It is an exciting time in the fast-moving Indian patent market, with new precedents being set and jurisprudence developed. The hotly contested issue of compulsory pharmaceutical patent licensing remains a major topic of debate. However, with the views of lawyers, multinationals, the government and non-governmental organisations all coming into play, it seems unlikely that a consensus will be reached in the near future. After a spate of high-profile courtroom battles in recent years, the volume of full-blown litigation has levelled off somewhat. In the prosecution space, while practitioners have observed heightened IP awareness among domestic enterprises, Indian filings still lag far behind those of foreign applicants. A substantial proposed increase in official filing fees has sparked concerns that local innovation will be stifled further. Although the traditional front-runners such as Anand and Anand and Remfry & Sagar continue to dominate, the status quo is being challenged by an ambitious collection of newer groups.

Anand and Anand

Anand and Anand "Anand and Anand remains at the top of the game." This large, storied ensemble leads the charge on the litigation, transactions and prosecution fronts, counting pharmaceutical heavyweights Bristol Myers Squibb, Merck and F Hoffmann-La Roche Ltd among its illustrious client base. "Timeliness, incisive legal counsel, a strategic outlook and robust track record" set it apart in a competitive arena. The star player is managing partner Pravin Anand, a gold-standard advocate whose achievements earn widespread recognition. "Smart and resourceful" prosecutor Archana Shanker's able direction of the patents and designs division has been "hugely instrumental" in the group's enduring success.

De Penning & De Penning

Well-established and respected prosecution shop De Penning & De Penning "is a very solid competitor". Its "reliability, consistency and range of experience", plus its capabilities in intersecting IP disciplines, make it a premier choice for companies with diverse portfolios. Key name **David Solomon** is "a real pleasure to collaborate with".

Groverlaw

IAM Patent 1000 newcomer Groverlaw was founded in 2013 and represents an attractive alternative to the traditional market heavyweights. The flourishing New Delhi-based group is already making an impact in the prosecution space, thanks to its "thorough advice, in-depth technical

Firms - litigation and transactions

Anand and Anand

K&S Partners

Krishna & Saurastri Associates

Remfry & Sagar

S Majumdar & Co

Singh & Singh Law Firm LLP

Lakshmikumaran & Sridharan

Perfexio Legal

Firms - prosecution

Highly recommended

Anand and Anand

K&S Partners

Remfry & Sagar

knowledge and prompt responses". Clients appreciate its "ability to think outside the box, personal attention and reasonable costs". Engineering specialist Vivek Dahiya is a good first port of call.

K&S Partners

"While many firms have large inbound practices, few can match the thriving outbound practice at K&S Partners." This bustling boutique is home to one of the jurisdiction's most proficient teams, ably tackling the spectrum of assignments, from multi-jurisdictional prosecution projects to highlevel enforcement. Life sciences specialist **Calab Gabriel**'s "brilliant" service wins admiration from across the country. As a founding member and the patent division head, he is credited with taking the unit from strength to strength. "Fast and efficient prosecutor" **Ravi Bhola** makes his *IAM Patent 1000* debut this year. In addition to his sterling work in the biotechnology field, he leads the Bangalore office.

Khaitan & Co

Prosecution-focused Khaitan & Co is "judicious and careful when drafting specifications. It has guided us through both the Indian and foreign grant systems with aplomb". Clients include foreign companies such as Otsuka Pharmaceutical Factory, Inc and Hospira, Inc, plus a collection of flourishing domestic innovators. Seasoned attorney **Jose Antony Madan** is a favourite for his "thoroughness, precision and systematic approach".

Khurana & Khurana, Advocates and IP Attorneys

Established in 2007, the "responsive and cost-effective" Khurana & Khurana is among the newest players on the scene. It has rapidly built up a sizeable team with well-honed drafting abilities across the spectrum of technologies. "Dynamic" founding partner **Tarun Khurana** leads the cadre of attorneys with distinction, offering "high-quality analysis, a clear writing style and swift responses" on drafting and prosecution assignments.

Krishna & Saurastri Associates

With offices in New Delhi, Ahmedabad, Pune and Bangalore, alongside its Mumbai headquarters, Krishna & Saurastri Associates is a premier choice for corporations with interests across the region. While it is best known for its prosecution capabilities, the "adept and accomplished" group also provides astute counsel across the patent spectrum. Sunil Krishna is a key contact.

Lakshmikumaran & Sridharan

Intellectual property is a central plank at esteemed commercial firm Lakshmikumaran & Sridharan, complemented by sophisticated corporate, tax and international trade nous. Pragmatic solutions to business problems underpin its popularity on the market and few can best its A-to-Z offering. It provides A to Z patent services in a way that few others in India can and the provision of pragmatic solutions to business problems underpins its popularity on the market. Founder and managing partner **Varadachari Lakshmikumaran**'s dual qualification as an advocate and patent agent proves valuable on multifaceted assignments. Life sciences head **Malathi Lakshmikumaran** is "a fine biochemist" whose remarkable academic credentials are a significant advantage on complex briefs. Her private practice experience is backed up by her industry background.

Lall Lahiri & Salhotra

While this Gurgaon outfit has traditionally stood out for its trademark prowess, a string of recent additions to its patent team have helped to enhance and develop its profile in this area. Its expertise extends to a number of fields, although chemistry and biotechnology are particular fortes. A useful contact in the "smart and diligent" set is partner Rahul Chaudhry.

Legasis

S Majumdar & Co

Recommended

De Penning & De Penning

Groverlaw

Khaitan & Co

Khurana & Khurana, Advocates and IP Attorneys

Krishna & Saurastri Associates

Lakshmikumaran & Sridharan

Lall Lahiri & Salhotra

Legasis

LexOrbis Intellectual Property Practice

Obhan & Associates

RK Dewan & Co

SKS Law Associates

SS Rana & Co

Subramaniam, Nataraj & Associates

ZeusIP Advocates

Prosecution work is bread and butter for Legasis. Assisting Indian IT titan Tata Consultancy Services with the protection of its computer-related inventions both at home and abroad is one of its most noteworthy recent undertakings. It is further distinguished by a cutting-edge, client-accessible online management system and the availability of patent analytics and landscaping services. Priyank Gupta helms the patent practice.

LexOrbis Intellectual Property Practice

LexOrbis has assembled a sterling team whose diverse know-how runs the technological gamut, from electrical engineering to life sciences and chemicals, among others. The recent retirement of prominent individual Shanti Kumar has put the spotlight on the next generation of attorneys, whose varied experience includes doctoral studies in genetics and in-house roles. Co-founder Manisha Singh Nair is a leading figure.

Obhan & Associates

The “innovative and forward-thinking” Obhan & Associates is “one of the most impressive practices to have sprung up in the last decade”. While the firm was originally established as an IP specialist, in recent years it has broadened its remit to incorporate commercial and transactional law. “Dedicated, talented and successful” founding partner **Essenese Obhan** began his career at the illustrious Anand and Anand before branching out in 2007. He deploys a rare combination of technical and legal credentials to great effect on both prosecution and contentious engagements.

Perfexio Legal

Perfexio Legal’s contentious savvy wins warm acclaim. The boutique has been involved in some of the most widely reported cases of recent years, including a headline-grabbing matter related to compulsory licensing. Its policy of representing innovators only ensures a deep understanding and appreciation of its clients’ specific needs and priorities. “True authority” **Sanjay Kumar** spearheads the ensemble. His canny firm management and performance in high-stakes battles set him apart.

Remfry & Sagar

Remfry & Sagar ranks among India’s most acknowledged and venerated groups. Its elite position is attributed to its “depth of experience, exceptional awareness of international procedures and ability to handle large, complicated portfolios”. A predominantly overseas clientele includes many of the world’s most famous and prolific pharmaceutical and mechanical rights holders. Esteemed managing partner **Ashwin Julka** excels across the spectrum of intellectual property. With “outstanding life sciences expertise”, **Ranjna Mehta-Dutt** leads the way on chemical, biotechnology and pharmaceutical instructions.

RK Dewan & Co

This widely tipped patent and trademark ensemble secures and protects the assets of a diverse set of companies, including aerospace, pharmaceuticals, automobile and engineering entities. Its “reliably sound output” across searching, filing and drafting assignments makes it a prime pick of domestic inventors. Principal **Mohan Dewan** and head of patents **Niti Dewan** win warm accolades: “Both are very erudite and devoted to the needs of the client. They employ creativity and lateral thinking to solve intricate and contentious problems.”

S Majumdar & Co

S Majumdar & Co is best known for fighting the corner of Indian generic pharmaceutical manufacturers. “Its attorneys are dependably challenging opponents – and ones we frequently lock horns with.” Globally renowned founder **Subhatosh Majumdar** has “a fantastic range of experience”, combining scientific and legal acumen with IP licensing know-how.

Singh & Singh Law Firm LLP

“An obvious choice for complex litigation”, Singh & Singh has countless courtroom successes under its belt. The “dynamic and well-reputed” group is especially recommended for its accomplishments in the life sciences realm. Prominent conflicts specialist Prathiba Singh stepped down as managing partner at the end of 2013, on her designation as a senior advocate by the Delhi High Court. Despite this change, the “bright and capable” patent department will “no doubt uphold Singh’s high standards”. Saya Choudhary is a primary contact.

SKS Law Associates

New Delhi operation SKS Law Associates houses experts in a number of scientific fields, including biochemistry, bioinformatics, pharmaceuticals and veterinary medicine. While the business-minded ensemble is primarily recognised for

its prosecution work, it also offers valuable services in the related areas of biodiversity and technology transfer. Active involvement in governmental policy and training is another USP. Sunita Sreedharan is a good first port of call.

SS Rana & Co

“Clear, concise communications” and “effective yet economical strategies” are the calling cards of this proactive and respected firm. A sparkling client roster features a number of Fortune 500 and multinational corporations, including top semiconductor and technology organisations. The team’s expanding workload has resulted in the recent recruitment of additional patent agents. Vikrant Rana is the managing partner.

Subramaniam, Nataraj & Associates

Although one of the jurisdiction’s smaller groups, “active and growing” Subramaniam, Nataraj & Associates punches well above its weight: “It has a great profile on the local market and can be trusted to achieve great results.” The “very gifted” **Hariharan Subramaniam** “does an excellent job on prosecution projects” and earns praise from across Asia and North America.

ZeusIP Advocates

“ZeusIP is a can-do firm which provides timely, quality advice on all areas of intellectual property. The attorneys’ dedication, accuracy, consistent follow-up processes and technical and legal skills give us peace of mind.” The talented unit, which celebrates its 10-year anniversary in 2014, “sets the benchmark for excellent service” in the prosecution, searching and drafting areas.

Other recommended experts

At Groser & Groser, the “renowned” **Francis Stewart Groser** has “a profound understanding of the intricacies of Indian practice”. Powerful litigator **Rajeshwari Hariharan** of Rajeshwari & Associates is “a most effective advocate of her clients’ rights”. “Intelligent and committed” Fidus Law Chambers founder **Shwetasree Majumder** continues to cement her fine reputation in the contentious sphere. Full-service group Amarchand & Mangaldas & Suresh A Shroff & Co is home to venerable prosecution doyen **Dev Robinson**.

Individuals - prosecution

Recommended

Ravi Bhola
K&S Partners

Niti Dewan
RK Dewan & Co

Mohan Dewan
RK Dewan & Co

Calab Gabriel
K&S Partners

Francis Stewart Groser
Groser & Groser

Ashwin Julka
Remfry & Sagar

Tarun Khurana
Khurana & Khurana, Adovcates and IP Attorneys

Malathi Lakshmikumar
Lakshmikumar & Sridharan

Jose Antony Madan
Khaitan & Co

Subhatosh Majumdar

S Majumdar & Co

Ranjna Mehta-Dutt

Remfry & Sagar

Essenese Obhan

Obhan & Associates

Dev Robinson

Amarchand & Mangaldas & Suresh A Shroff & Co

Archana Shanker

Anand and Anand

David Solomon

De Penning & De Penning

Hariharan Subramaniam

Subramaniam, Nataraj & Associates

Individuals - litigation and transactions

Pravin Anand

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Rajeshwari Hariharan

Rajeshwari & Associates

Sanjay Kumar

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Varadachari Lakshmikumaran

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