



LEX
WITNESS

HALL OF FAME

TOP 50

India's legal sector, led by diverse and prominent players, has grown by leaps and bounds in complexity, substance and global reputation in recent years. The country's leading litigation lawyers have put the judiciary in center stage of constitutional politics, addressing grave and great issues of historical importance. Meanwhile, India's transactional lawyers, both in-house corporate counsel for multinational companies and outside counsel dispersed throughout the country's leading law firms, have raised the global profile of India's legal arena to unprecedented heights. Of course, we cannot ignore India's public interest lawyers, both prominent and not-so-prominent, who fight passionately for a multitude of causes to address imbalances of power or justice in areas as diverse as, among other things, poverty, environment, and public corruption. Lastly, India continues to be well-served by legendary Government functionaries, the conscience-keepers who uphold the values of the Constitution at crucial junctures, and prominent members of academia, who not only transform future lawyers into social engineers, but also shed light on important issues through scholarship and research.

Lex Witness takes immense pride in presenting before you "Hall of fame: Top 50", the individuals who have helped shape the legal landscape of modern India.

NISHITH M DESAI

FOUNDER AND MANAGING PARTNER, NISHITH DESAI ASSOCIATES, MUMBAI

Because

Nishith Desai is an international corporate and tax lawyer, who has been instrumental in formulating India's tax policy reforms

Background

Nishith Desai completed his LLB in 1973 and LLM in 1977 from University of Mumbai. He has been researching in the area of international tax since 1977. In 1989, he founded Nishith Desai Associates, a multi-skilled and research-based law firm. Desai is the only Indian to hold a special license from the State Bar of California to practice Indian law. His practice encompasses an extensive range of tax, corporate and technology matters, with a strong emphasis on private equity and venture capital funds.

Accomplishments

Nishith Desai has substantial experience in the Fund sector, having advised the largest number of offshore investment funds. He played a seminal role in structuring several

private equity funds, including the Indocean Funds, HSBC Private Equity India Fund, Westbridge Capital, DSP Merrill Lynch, in addition to structuring several domestic venture capital funds. He has also advised the Small Industries Development Board of India and the Government of India on their INR 1 billion domestic venture capital fund. Desai has been at the forefront of India's public policy reforms. Among his numerous initiatives, he convened the 'eComTaxpert' group, comprising global experts in the field of information technology and international taxation, to provide recommendations to the Government of India on the taxation of e-commerce in India. Desai also assisted the Government of Mauritius in the development of an offshore regime.

In 2004, Desai was ranked as No. 28 in a global Top 50 "Gold List" by Tax Business, after a worldwide survey of tax professionals who had influenced tax policies.



"Today, while the investing world assesses India's status as a preferred investment destination, it is difficult to ignore a contradiction that has surfaced in recent times: On one side, we see an overt commitment towards globalisation and on the other, the sudden aggressiveness of the Indian tax authorities in matters of international taxation."



PRAVIN ANAND

MANAGING PARTNER, ANAND AND ANAND ADVOCATES, NEW DELHI

Because

Pravin Anand is 'the' leading intellectual property lawyer in India

Background

Pravin Anand graduated in Science from St. Stephens College, University of Delhi in 1976. He studied Law at the Faculty of Law (University of Delhi) completing LLB in 1979. He has since been practising in Delhi both as an advocate, and as a patent and trademark attorney. Currently, Anand is the Managing Partner of Anand and Anand Advocates, a leading specialised intellectual property law firm. His primary practice areas include trademark, copyright, design and patent litigation and prosecution, IT and Tele-Communication laws.

Accomplishments

Pravin Anand has done three decades of pioneering work in intellectual property law. He has been a counsel in some of the most high-profile and interesting intellectual property