

Indian law firms to tap global talent

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MUMBAI

INDIAN law firms are looking at recruiting talent from overseas. This is on the back of India Inc acquiring companies beyond its shores, creating the need for legal talent. Besides, lawyers, who went abroad to study or practice, are now looking for ways to return to India.

Nishith Desai of Nishith Desai & Associates (NDA) said his firm has been receiving a large number of applications from the US and the UK for employment or just for an internship. "As a firm, we are very selective and our recruitment



LEGAL CONNECTION

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process is stringent. We hire people and train them to be best-in-class," he said. The firm has hired talent from the US' top law schools. "Our lateral recruits with JD (Juris Doctorate) or LLM is an eclectic mix, with representatives from schools, such as Georgetown, NYU, Har-

vard, Columbia and Duke," said Mr Desai. NDA also employs a US attorney registered to practice in Massachusetts. Amarchand & Mangaldas and Suresh A Shroff & Co have also been recruiting legal talent based in other countries looking to return to India. An offi-

cial employed with the latter said this is not just because of the slowdown. "The India story is looking attractive. Besides, Indian firms are engaged in major global deals and offer opportunities to legal executives unlike those based in the UK or the US," added the official.

Lawyers looking to come back to India are an attractive proposition for large law firms. "Someone like us continuously looks to recruit people across levels," said Rabindra Jhunjhunwala, partner, Khaitan & Co. The firm has already hired Murali Neelakantan and Kalpana Unadkat from Ashurst in London and Bharat Anand, who was earlier with Freshfields in London.