

CORNERSTONE LAW FIRM PROFILE

2026

With offices in Bangalore, Chennai & New Delhi, we are a premier corporate law firm delivering business friendly & real time legal solutions to businesses, investors, and startups.

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📍 #102, Golden Square, Eden Park, 20 Vittal Mallya Road, Bengaluru: 560 001

📍 Chamber #82, 3rd Floor, Hardevi Chambers, Pantheon Road, Egmore, Chennai: 600 008

📍 D-136, 3rd Floor, Saket, New Delhi - 110 017.



ABOUT CORNERSTONE LAW

Cornerstone Law is a business-focused corporate and commercial law firm with offices in Bengaluru, Chennai and New Delhi, advising domestic and international corporations, private equity and venture capital-backed businesses, technology companies, financial institutions, startups, and high-growth enterprises across India.

The Firm brings together over 50 years of collective partner experience and is recognized for delivering commercially pragmatic legal solutions that align with business objectives. It regularly advises on complex commercial contracts, supplier and vendor agreements, technology procurement, mergers and acquisitions, corporate restructuring, regulatory compliance, employment matters, and dispute resolution.

The Firm has been working with large organisations and supporting their procurement function. It also acts as trusted external counsel to businesses across multiple sectors, supporting strategic transactions, cross-border commercial arrangements, regulatory compliance, and day-to-day corporate operations.



Cornerstone Law was chosen as the exclusive India contributor to the Legal 500 Comparative Guide on Mergers & Acquisitions, underscoring the firm's thought leadership, technical expertise, and standing in the corporate and commercial legal landscape.

50+

YEARS
COLLECTIVE
PARTNER
EXPERIENCE

03

OFFICES
ACROSS
INDIA

09

PRACTICE
AREAS

09

COUNSEL
AND ADVISORS

OUR PRACTICE AREAS AND INDUSTRY FOCUS

01 Investments, Mergers & Acquisitions and Joint Ventures

In the field of corporate and commercial law, the firm assists with mergers and acquisitions (M&A), joint ventures, and business restructuring, providing transaction structuring, due diligence, and regulatory approvals. Some major transactions to the Firm's credit in the recent past are:

A French Logistics Company's acquisition of its Joint Venture Partner in India included the carving out of indemnity clauses to protect the French Company until total acquisition.

The Acquisition of an Indian IT Company by an US company. This acquisition involved the protection of the rights of the Promoter of the Indian company until the acquisition was completed.

The Firm recently completed a fast track merger between an European Company and an Indian company.

Currently engaged in the acquisition of an Indian IT people provider by another Indian company.

Engaged by a US-based company in connection with the establishment of its Global Capability Centre in India, providing legal support in structuring and drafting workspace and service agreements.

Currently engaged in advising the Indian subsidiary of a Swedish company on its general corporate and commercial legal requirements.

02 Employment Law & Compliance

The Firm regularly advises startups and corporates on the full range of employment law matters, including hiring, employee transitions, workforce structuring, and drafting clear, practical HR policies.

Recently, it supported a subsidiary of a US-based company in the re-badging of around 300 employees. It also issued a policy providing an implementable opinion on dual employment for a large organisation within the Tata Group.

Furthermore, it also supports ongoing employment compliance, including employment contracts, labour law registrations, and compliance with the new Social Security Code 2020. Additionally, it handles employment disputes involving wrongful termination, wage claims, and workplace-related litigation.

OUR PRACTICE AREAS AND INDUSTRY FOCUS

03 Government Policy

The Firm supports and advises foreign companies on government policies to ease business decisions. The Firm recently helped support a German Company with an opinion on ways it could make use of the “Make In India” policy and generate more revenue.

04 Real Estate

The Firm advises corporates, startups, and institutional clients on a wide range of real estate matters, including property acquisitions, sales, leases, and development transactions. The Firm regularly assists companies in Tamil Nadu and Karnataka with the acquisition of large land parcels and provides comprehensive title due diligence and legal opinions.

The Firm recently conducted legal due diligence for acquisition of 350 acres of land for a Public Sector Navratna Company. Other than this, it also advises on lease and licence agreements, joint development arrangements, title verification, conveyancing, and other real estate documentation.

05 Estate Planning

Another key focus area, where the firm helps individuals and families secure their wealth and assets through well-structured wills, trusts, and succession plans. The Firm offers legal expertise in family settlements, inheritance planning, and wealth protection strategies, ensuring seamless transitions for future generations.

06 Data Security & Compliance

As data security risks continue to grow, the Firm helps startups and businesses put in place practical, scalable data security and compliance systems.

We advise on compliance with Indian and global data protection laws, including the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023, and help clients translate legal requirements into workable internal policies. We also assist in handling data breaches, incident response, and regulatory queries, ensuring businesses can respond quickly and reduce legal exposure.

OUR PRACTICE AREAS AND INDUSTRY FOCUS

07 Intellectual Property Rights

The Firm has a significant practice in trademarks, including trademark filings, prosecution, and dispute resolution. It also regularly advises on and undertakes copyright and patent filings across India.

08 Commercial Disputes and Litigation

Cornerstone Law has an established dispute resolution practice, representing clients in corporate, financial, and regulatory disputes before various judicial and quasi-judicial forums. The firm has extensive experience handling complex litigation before the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT), National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) and High Courts. It also represents clients on a case-to-case basis before tribunals and regulatory authorities.

Further, it has experience in handling intellectual property disputes, including trademark, copyright, and patent infringement matters. It also represents clients in arbitration proceedings in relation to commercial disputes. Christopher Manoharan, Managing Partner, has been appointed as Arbitrator in commercial disputes and continues to serve as an Arbitrator.

09 Fractional General Counsel

The Firm provides dedicated Fractional General Counsel services to startups and emerging businesses seeking continuous legal support without maintaining an in-house legal team. We work closely with founders and management to address legal, commercial, and regulatory issues as they arise, enabling businesses to focus on growth while effectively managing legal risk. Where required, we also assist with strategic corporate transactions, regulatory matters, negotiations, and dispute management, offering clients a single point of legal support.

LEGAL SOLUTIONS FOR STARTUPS & EMERGING BUSINESSES

We provide end-to-end legal support to startups and emerging businesses, helping founders establish, protect, scale, and successfully exit their businesses through practical, commercially focused legal advice.

OUR SERVICES INCLUDE

- Company incorporation and entity structuring
- Shareholders' Agreements
- SAFE notes, convertible instruments, and other investment documentation
- Intellectual Property (IP) assignment and licensing agreements
- Copyright and design registration
- Commercial contracts, including customer, vendor, supplier, service, SaaS, licensing, distribution, and partnership agreements
- Employment, consultancy, and independent contractor agreements
- Corporate governance and Companies Act 2013, compliance
- Founders' Agreements
- Share subscription and investment agreements
- Non-Disclosure Agreements (NDAs)
- Trademark registration and brand protection
- Technology development, software, and product development agreements
- Website Terms of Use, Privacy Policies, and data protection compliance
- ESOP structuring and employee equity documentation
- Annual corporate and regulatory compliance

LEGAL SOLUTIONS ACROSS EVERY STAGE

Whether you are validating an idea, launching your business, raising capital, expanding into new markets, or preparing for an acquisition or exit, we provide strategic legal support tailored to every stage of your startup journey.

Legal due diligence and compliance audits

Preparatory due diligence for fundraising, including Angel Investments, Seed Funding, Venture Capital, and Private Equity

Mergers, acquisitions, strategic investments, and exits

Fractional General Counsel and ongoing legal advisory services

Dispute prevention, risk management, and dispute resolution

CONFIDENTIAL AND PRIVILEGED

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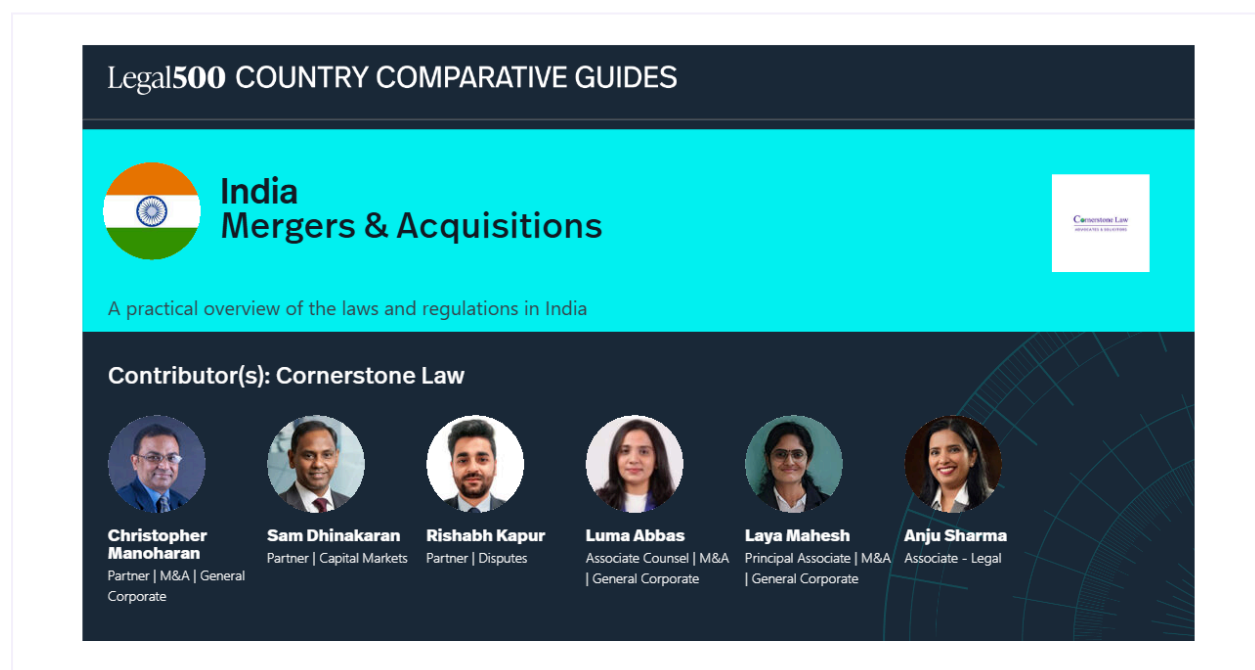
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OUR MILESTONES IN THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

Cornerstone Law is the exclusive India contributor to the Legal 500 Country Comparative Guide on Mergers & Acquisitions.



LEGAL 500 — LEGAL LANDSCAPE: INDIA, MERGERS & ACQUISITIONS



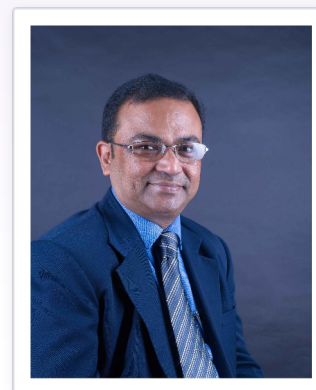
LEGAL 500 — INDIA: MERGERS & ACQUISITIONS CHAPTER, CONTRIBUTING TEAM

CHRISTOPHER MANOHARAN

PARTNER

MERGERS & ACQUISITIONS | GENERAL CORPORATE

✉ chris@cornerstonelaw.in



EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

B.A. LL.B (Hons.), National Law School of India University, Bangalore (1994)

LL.M., Annamalai University — Labour, Industrial & Administrative Law

PRACTICE AREAS

Mergers & Acquisitions

Venture Capital & Private Equity

Employment Law

Government Policy

Corporate Law advisory and counselling to Start Ups and Small Companies

Corporate Disputes

NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS

Led high-value due diligence for a Singapore-based investor across multiple legal verticals.

Instrumental in setting up the USD 100 million India Advantage Fund at ICICI Venture.

Advised a German conglomerate on Make in India strategy and local-content optimization.

Counseled a major FMCG corporation on double employment compliance.

Oversaw acquisition of 102 acres for Wipro ODC, Chennai, including title verification, possession, and deed drafting.

Appointed as Arbitrator in commercial disputes, and continues to serve as an Arbitrator.

RECENT SUCCESS STORIES

Advised a Canadian company on a 50% stake acquisition in India.

Represented an Indian promoter in a US-led acquisition transaction.

Assisted a French logistics company in converting its Indian JV into a wholly owned subsidiary.

Managed the transition of 350 employees from a US subsidiary to a GCC in India.

Currently advising the Indian arm of a Luxembourg-based company on an acquisition.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATION

Member, Bar Council of Tamil Nadu and Puducherry

Member, Madras Chambers of Commerce & Industry

COUNSEL PROFILE

SAM DHINAKARAN

PARTNER

CAPITAL MARKETS

✉ sam@cornerstonelaw.in



EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

LLB., V. R. Law College, Nellore

PRACTICE AREAS

Corporate Law & Regulatory Compliance
Alternative Investment Funds (AIF) Structuring
Securities & Listing Regulation
FEMA Advisory
Debt Instruments & Structured Finance
Corporate Governance

NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS

Designed and implemented family succession structures, including trusts and wills.
Directed corporate governance compliance under the Companies Act & SEBI regulations.
Successfully structured AIFs for investment groups.
Conducted extensive real estate due diligence and high-value acquisition documentation.

RECENT SUCCESS STORIES

Acted on obtaining approvals and setting up of a SEBI Registered Stressed Asset Fund.
Acted on setting up a SEBI Registered Alternate Investment Fund.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATION

Member, Southern Indian Chambers of Commerce

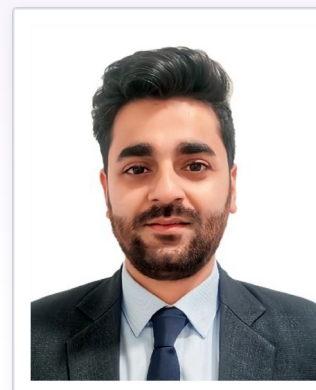
COUNSEL PROFILE

RISHABH KAPUR

PARTNER

DISPUTES

✉ rishabh@cornerstonelaw.in



EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

B.A. LL.B. (Hons.), National Law School of India University (2014)

PRACTICE AREAS

Civil & Commercial Litigation
Supreme Court Litigation
High Court Litigation
Arbitration
NCLT & NCLAT Matters
Consumer Disputes (NCDRC)

NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS

Advocate-on-Record at the Supreme Court of India with 11+ years of experience.
Regular appearances before SC, Delhi HC, NCLT, NCLAT, NCDRC, District Courts.
Known for structured, strategic advocacy and strong client-focused representation.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATION

Member, Bar Council of Delhi

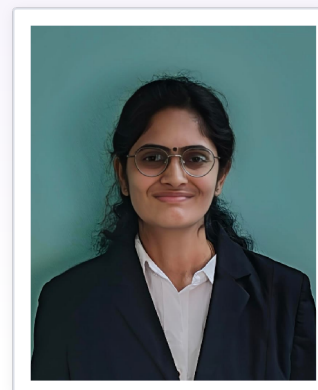
COUNSEL PROFILE

LAYA MAHESH

PRINCIPAL ASSOCIATE

MERGERS & ACQUISITIONS | GENERAL CORPORATE

✉ laya.maresh@cornerstonelaw.in



EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

M.O.P. Vaishnav College for Women (B.Com
Corporate Secretaryship | 2011–2014)

ILS Law College, Pune (Bachelor of Laws, LLB |
2014–2017)

Jindal Global Law School (Master of Laws, Corporate
and Financial Laws | 2021–2022)

PRACTICE AREAS

General Corporate

Mergers & Acquisitions

Corporate Due Diligence

Transactional Documentation

NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS

Worked on strategic investments, business transfers, fast-track mergers, cross-border transactions.

Formerly with HSB Partners, IC Universal Legal, Kochhar & Co.

Experience with regulatory advisory, related-party compliance, labour law applicability, and
municipal licensing.

Research background includes taxation, insider trading, mutual fund regulation.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATION

Member, Bar Council of Tamil Nadu & Puducherry

COUNSEL PROFILE

SHARANYA MUKHERJEE

CONSULTING COUNSEL

GENERAL CORPORATE | DATA PRIVACY

✉ sharanya@cornerstonelaw.in



EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

Hidayatullah National Law University, Raipur

PRACTICE AREAS

- Digital Rights & Privacy Law
- Data Protection Compliance (GDPR, CCPA)
- Technology Law
- Intellectual Property
- Commercial Contracts

NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS

- Worked with Allendeaux & Co. (Ohio), advising companies on privacy, cybersecurity, and compliance.
- Developed privacy policies, compliance frameworks, and training programs.
- Provided strategic guidance for tech, SaaS, and data-centric organizations.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATION

Member, Bar Council of West Bengal

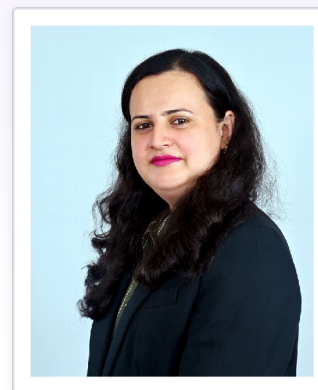
COUNSEL PROFILE

BHAVANA BHANDARI

ASSOCIATE

MERGERS & ACQUISITIONS | GENERAL CORPORATE
& COMMERCIAL CONTRACTS

✉ bhavana@cornerstonelaw.in



EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

LL.B., DAV College, Dehradun | 2020

B.A., D.B.S. College, Dehradun | 2016

PRACTICE AREAS

Mergers & Acquisitions (M&A)

Corporate & Commercial Contracts

Data Privacy and Protection Laws

NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS

5+ years' experience in corporate legal drafting and advisory.

Expertise in drafting SHAs, SSAs, ESOPs, NDAs, and commercial contracts.

Experience in due diligence and legal risk assessment.

Supported startup advisory and regulatory compliance matters.

Exposure to cross-border transactions and legal research.

Drafted contracts for international technology platforms.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATION

Member, Bar Council of Delhi

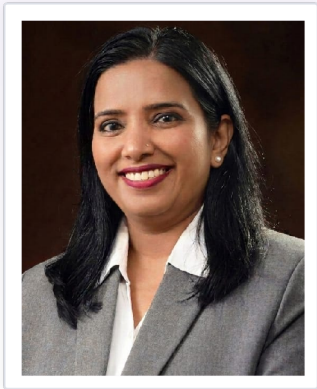
COUNSEL PROFILE

ANJU SHARMA

ASSOCIATE

LEGAL AND FINANCE

✉ anju@cornerstonelaw.in



EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

- Madhusudan Law University, Cuttack, Odisha (LL.B., AIBE | 2025)
- Ranchi University, Jharkhand — B.Com. (Accounts Hons | 2000)

PRACTICE AREAS

- Regulatory Compliance
- Litigation & Arbitration Support
- Corporate Governance
- Finance & Accounts Management

NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS

- 15+ years of experience in legal, finance, and compliance functions.
- Practicing before the Madras High Court in corporate and regulatory matters.
- Advised on contract management, compliance, and corporate governance matters.
- Managed financial operations, audits, taxation, and investor coordination for corporate entities.
- Experienced in risk management, litigation support, and regulatory compliance.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATION

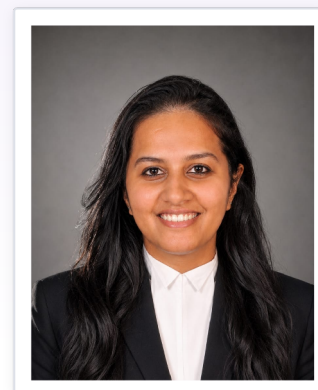
Member, Jharkhand State Bar Council, Ranchi

COUNSEL PROFILE

ANCY GEORGE

INDEPENDENT PRACTITIONER

ADVOCATE, MADRAS HIGH COURT



EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

O.P. Jindal Global Law School (LL.M., IPR and Technology Law | 2022–2023)

SASTRA University, Thanjavur (2016–2021)

PRACTICE AREAS

Commercial & Civil Litigation

Real Estate & Property Disputes

Banking & Financial Disputes

NCLT & NCLAT Matters

Intellectual Property Rights & Trademark Matters

Contract Drafting, Review & Negotiation

NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS

Experience in matters before the Madras High Court, Civil Courts, DRT, DRAT, NCLT and NCLAT.

Regularly engaged in drafting and settling pleadings, affidavits, written submissions, appeals, applications and legal notices.

Advising businesses and MSMEs on commercial contracts, employment documentation, business arrangements, disputes and legal risk.

Experience in trademark prosecution, examination report responses and other IPR-related matters.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATION

Advocate, Madras High Court

COUNSEL PROFILE

ARUNAN

INDEPENDENT PRACTITIONER



EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

EDUCATION TO BE ADDED

PRACTICE AREAS

PRACTICE AREAS TO BE ADDED

NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS

NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS TO BE ADDED

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATION

AFFILIATION TO BE ADDED

SOME OF OUR VALUABLE CLIENTS

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CONTACT US

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