

ALB INDIA TOP FEMALE LAWYERS 2022

PURVI ASHER

Mansukhlal Hiralal & Company

VANITA BHARGAVA

Khaitan & Co

SUJATA CHAUDHRI

Sujata Chaudhri IP Attorneys

AVISHA GUPTA

L&L Partners

PRIYAMVADA HARIDAS

Saraf and Partners

MAMTA RANI JHA

Inttl Advocare

PRITHA JHA

Pioneer Legal

SEEMA JHINGAN

LexCounsel Law Offices

AAKANKSHA JOSHI

Economic Laws Practice

AMITA KATRAGADDA

Cyril Amarchand Mangaldas

CHARANDEEP KAUR

Trilegal

NILOUFER LAM

ZBA

SONALI MAHAPATRA

Talwar Thakore & Associates

SHWETASREE MAJUMDER

Fidus Law Chambers

RUPINDER MALIK

JSA

In this inaugural ranking, ALB features exceptional women lawyers in India who have left remarkable imprints in the continuously changing legal landscape amid the COVID-19 pandemic. This list highlights 30 female lawyers who have consistently delivered high-quality work and set high standards in their respective legal space, while earning accolades from their colleagues, superiors and clients. The names are in alphabetical order, and some lawyers have been profiled.

LIST BY ASIAN LEGAL BUSINESS, TEXT BY BINGQING WANG



VINEETHA MG co-founder and partner, Samvad Partners

Vineetha MG is one of the founding partners of Samvad Partners and

heads the firm's Mumbai office.

In her career spanning over two decades, Vineetha has advised clients in a bouquet of inter-disciplinary practice areas such as financial services (including fintech), private equity investments, investment funds, cross-border and domestic M&A involving both listed and unlisted entities, including advising on issues arising out of such M&A, such as corporate governance and restructuring. She also advises many global conglomerates in relation to domestic and foreign anti-corruption laws including white-collar crimes.

Certain prominent private equity investors whom she has advised in the past include the Government of Singapore Investment Corporation (GIC), KKR

& Co, Warburg Pincus, Morgan Stanley and the investment arm of re-insurance giant, the Munich Re group. She has also advised on complicated cross-border structures, assisted with regulatory interfacing, and advised on pre-litigation / pre-insolvency strategies.

She has also advised other marquee investors such as True North and Sequoia Capital in their participation in India's growing story, including in sectors such as education, edtech, e-commerce, technology and fintech. Similarly, in the banking and finance space, her long-term clients include ICICI Bank, YES Bank, HDFC Bank and Kotak Mahindra.

Vineetha has also advised many demand-side clients as well and some of her significant clients include the Continuum, Manipal Health, Megsan, Sagar Cements, Kaleidofin and CASHe.

Being sector and client-agnostic, Vineetha has achieved the unique status of being able to navigate through versatile issues with ease.

Apart from her professional achievements, Vineetha has been actively engaged in policy development in education, securities regulations, banking and finance, and constitutional law. Besides this, she acts as a legal resource person for organisations in the impact sector guiding their policy decisions and serves on boards of many such impact sector players as well.

Vineetha, however, takes the greatest pleasure in mentoring young female lawyers in their individual and combined pursuit of breaking the glass ceiling. ^{ALB}



NITI PAUL
senior partner,
Atlas Law Partners

Niti Paul is a senior partner in the corporate practice of Atlas Law Partners and heads the M&A practice of the firm. She has extensive experience in representing reputed M&A domestic and international clients in India in her legal practice spanning more than 22 years.

Paul deals with a diverse range of transactions, from deal structuring, due diligence, and entry strategies for foreign entities and start-ups, to joint ventures, inbound and outbound foreign investments, corporate restructuring, compliance, regulatory, and employment matters.

Paul advised MPC Rhine River on its India investments and up to its exit from an Indian company. She also advised Immo-bilien Indien I and II, real estate-focused German Funds on their Indian portfolios, negotiations with joint venture partners, litigation strategy in joint venture disputes and proceedings, and actively negotiated on their behalf with third parties, eventually leading to an exit from majority of their investment portfolio in 2019.

Among the notable work that she has handled in the last year, Paul represented and advised Kunshan Q Tech Microelectronics India on a proposed group restructuring and filing applications seeking FDI approvals for its current and future Indian ventures. The restructuring was on account of a change in shareholders of Qtech India after India imposed restrictions on foreign

investment from countries sharing a land border with it (including China).

Paul has routinely advised clients in diverse sectors such as retail, hospitality, healthcare, financial services, real estate, IT, entertainment, and telecom. She has advised Oppo Group, Euramco Holdings, Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative (IFFCO), and Next47 GmbH, among others.

As a senior partner, Paul has been a proponent of gender equality in the workplace. She has also been the force behind the firm's transition towards enabling remote working by creating a technology platform. ^{ALB}

METHODOLOGY

Evaluation Criteria:

- Significant achievements (deals, cases etc.) throughout the candidate's career
- Significant work handled in the last 18 months
- Key clients
- New clients
- Significant accolades / third-party awards or recognition
- Certifications, participation in the bar and/or professional activities
- Client recommendations and comments
- Comments from managing partner or colleague

The evaluation was based on the following factors:

- **Complexity:** the degree to which the work required the crucial exercise of legal expertise, business acumen, or innovative solutions.
- **Breadth:** the degree to which the work involved numerous jurisdictions, legal practice areas, parties, and industries.
- **Significance:** the degree to which industry players or the region may be affected by the cases/deals.
- **Innovativeness:** the degree to which the work involved applying new and/or creative solutions to existing systems and processes to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19 pandemic or to transform the organisational capabilities. It can also include using technology, or analytics to uncover opportunities and risks in each deal.

VINEETHA MG
Samvad Partners

VAISHALI MITTAL
Anand and Anand

SALONI MODY
DSK Legal

NAINA KRISHNA MURTHY
Krishnamurthy & Co. (K Law)

SMRITHI NAIR
Juris Corp

GUNITA PAHWA
S&A Law Offices

SMITA PALIWAL
King Stubb & Kasiva

NITI PAUL
Atlas Law Partners

GODA RAGHAVAN
AK Law Chambers

SHWETAMBARI RAO
Krishnamurthy & Co. (K Law)

MANISHA SINGH
LexOrbis

PUJA SONDHI
Shardul Amarchand Mangaldas & Co.

ADITI VERMA THAKUR
Ediplis Counsels

DISHA TOSHNIWAL
Ahlawat & Associates

NAMITA VISWANATH
Indus Law