

NIKHIL SONKER

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EDUCATION

- Graduated with **B.Sc. LLB (IPR Hons.)** from **National Law University, Jodhpur** in the year May, 2018 with a **Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA) of 7.22/10**.
- Scored **88% in the Science stream, Class XII**, I.S.C from St. Joseph's Academy, Dehradun.
- Scored **90% in Class X**, I.C.S.E. from St. Joseph's Academy, Dehradun.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- **United World, New Delhi Office (Formerly known as United IPR)** (*September, 2021- Present*)
Currently working under the guidance of Mr. Sudarshan Kumar Bansal (Managing Partner) and my primary role at the firm entails pursuing Intellectual Property (IP) litigation/advisory/transaction matters and trademark oppositions. During my association with the firm, I have:
 - Independently handled clients, prepared case briefs, briefed senior counsels and independently attended to court hearing and mediations before Delhi High Court and various district courts in Delhi;
 - Drafted legal opinions, legal notices and responses to legal notices, pleadings such as rectification petitions, counter affidavit to rectification petitions, complaints, written statements, replications, injunction applications, reply to injunction applications, rejoinders, sur-rejoinders, affidavits, settlement applications and various other ancillary applications;
 - Handled national and international trademark portfolios of various clients, conducted trade mark clearance searches, advised on trade mark applications and cancellation/opposition actions, drafted notice of oppositions, counter statements, rectification petitions, evidence by way of affidavit in support of trademark oppositions/rectifications and applications and appeared before Registrar of Trademarks;
 - Drafted IPR policy for a school and various agreements such as IP assignment/license/franchise agreements;
 - Conducted, organized and assisted in various IP awareness programmes including creation of interactive PPTs.
- **Saikrishna and Associates, Mumbai Office** (*February, 2021- August, 2021*)
As a part of firm's media and entertainment law team, my responsibilities included pursuing matters related to transactional disputes and providing legal opinions on various aspects of media and entertainment law. During my retainership, I had:
 - Conducted due diligence of scripts and advised clients on defamation and privacy laws;
 - Advised clients on the use of third party's trademarks in their media content;
 - Advised clients on the applicability of part III of the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021;
 - Drafted memorandum of a self-regulating body of Publishers of Online Curated Content to be established under the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021;
 - Conducted legal research and drafted pleadings such as complaints, injunction applications, replies, rejoinders and legal notices.
- **Freelance Trademark Consultant** (*November, 2020- January, 2021*)
As a freelance consultant, I worked on short-term projects with various individuals/companies in the IT sector, Restaurant services and Music Production and provided them with legal services including:
 - Trademark availability search;
 - Drafting and filing trademark applications;
 - Drafting replies to examination reports issued by trademarks registry;
 - Drafting software development agreements and talent management agreements and negotiating the same;
 - Conducting due diligence and assisting in mergers and acquisitions.
- **Intl Advocare** (*August 2018 – August 2020*)
My primary role at the firm entailed pursuing Intellectual Property (IP) litigation/advisory/transaction matters and trademark oppositions. During my retainership with the firm, my responsibilities included:
 - Reviewing of clients' IP portfolio and routinely advising them on brand protection including strategizing litigations, oppositions and cancellations;

- Drafting of notice of oppositions, counter statements, evidence by way of affidavit in support of trademark oppositions and applications;
- Filing, preparing and pursuing suits with respect to trademark, copyright and design infringement, disparagement and defamation cases, trademark and copyright rectifications before Intellectual Property Appellate Board (IPAB) including communicating with clients and adversaries, briefing senior counsels, attending to court hearing and mediations before Delhi High Court, IPAB-Delhi and various district courts in Delhi,
- Conducting legal research and drafting pleadings such as rectification petitions, counter statement to rectification petitions, complaints, written statements, replications, injunction applications, reply to injunction applications, rejoinders, sur-rejoinders, affidavits, settlement applications and various other ancillary applications;
- Drafting infringement notices, take-down notices to intermediaries, replies to legal notices, IP assignment/license agreements and specific clauses of agreement dealing with protection/monetization/liabilities and warranties with respect to IP,
- Conducting civil raids, assisting police officials in enforcing rights of the clients and coordinating with counsels for cases filed outside Delhi;
- Drafting and filing of applications for IP recordation under Customs Rules,
- Drafting and sending letters/replies to various government authorities such as the Customs Department and FSSAI and attending to meetings with various Customs, Food Safety Department and Police officials.

INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCE

- **ALG India Law Offices LLP, New Delhi** (*November 15, 2017 – December 15, 2017*)
- **Rajeshwari & Associates, New Delhi** (*June 1, 2017 – June 30, 2017*)
- **Krishna & Saurastri Associates, Gurugram** (*January 1, 2017 – January 31, 2017*)
- **Saikrishna and Associates, Noida** (*July 15, 2016 – August 12, 2016*)
- **Chadha and Chadha IP, Gurugram** (*June 15, 2016 – July 14, 2016*)
- **K&S Partners, Gurugram** (*November 16, 2015 – December 4, 2015*)

CERTIFICATION COURSES

- Global Initiative of Academic Networks, course on “Patents, Specialized Licenses & Issues”, held at NLU Jodhpur in April 2017.
- CARTAL Conference on International Arbitration, “Arbitration at Crossroads”, held at NLU Jodhpur in October 2016.
- Herbert Smith Freehills Lecture Series, “Cross Border M&A and Negotiations”, held at NLU Jodhpur in March 2016.
- MHRD IPR Workshop, on Intellectual Property Litigation Strategies, Prosecution and Corporate Practice, “Dispute Resolution in IP”, held at NLU Jodhpur in March 2016.

MOOT COURT EXPERIENCE

- Participated in Frankfurt Investment Moot Court Competition, 2015-2016.

RESPONSIBILITIES HELD

- Member of Cultural Committee, NLU Jodhpur (2016-2018)
- Vice-Chair, Decor Committee, NH-65, 2016 (Inter-college cultural bi-annual fest)
- Senior-Chair, Decor Committee, Yuvadha, 2017 (Inter-college sports bi-annual fest)

REFERENCES

- Mr. Manish Kumar Mishra, Associate Partner, Intl Advocare (91-9873553269)
- Mr. Dharendra Singh, Senior Associate, United IPR (91-9871088498)
- Mr. Anirudh Bakhru, Independent Counsel (91-9810133229)