

ABHIJEET KUMAR

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PROFILE

Legal professional with specialisation in Intellectual Property Laws and Oil & Gas Laws, with a demonstrated history of working in various legal services industry. Presently working as In-house Counsel for Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited, a Govt. of India Enterprise.

Recipient of Herchel Smith Fellowship for doctoral research at Queen Mary University of London. Author, researcher, and enthusiast on different issues related to Intellectual Property Laws. Experienced in management, leadership, legal consultancy, public speaking, organisational skills, and strategic planning.

EDUCATION & QUALIFICATIONS

Queen Mary University of London, PH.D. (Herchel Smith Doctoral Researcher) Centre for Commercial Law Studies (pursuing)	2024
National Law University Jodhpur, LL.M. (I.P.R.) CGPA: 8.5/10 – Batch Topper.	2018
National Law University Odisha B.A., LL.B. (Pol. Sc. and I.P.R. Dual Hons.) CGPA: 6.5/8 – Gold Medallist	2015

WORK EXPERIENCE

Teaching Associate | Queen Mary University of London **July 2021 to Dec 2021**

- SOLM092/Commercialisation of Intellectual Property, with John Hull.
- SOLM160/Energy and Climate Change, with Prof. James Dallas.
- SOLM155/Energy Law Principles, with Prof. James Dallas.
- SOLM075/International and Comparative Copyright Law, with Prof. Uma Suthersanen.

In-House Counsel | Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (India) **Jan 2017 to Jan 2021**

- Advising management in decision making and day-to-day business operations.
- Drafting, vetting, and negotiating agreements for primary and allied business.
- Drafting internal policies and conducting legal workshops for executives.
- Briefing out Counsels for representation before courts and forums.
- Liaising with different State and non-state players.
- On Sabbatical till November 2023.

Advocate | Chambers of Ravi Panwar (Rajasthan High Court) **Aug 2016 to Dec 2016**

- Appearing and arguing before Courts in different issues of civil and criminal nature.
- Client handling, developing strategies and arguments, preparing briefs.
- Drafting contracts, deeds, and notices.

Advocate | Private Legal Practitioner (Patna High Court) **Jun 2015 to Jul 2016**

- Consultancy and counselling for Start-ups regarding incorporation and registration of IPs.
- Advising on compliance related issues for start-up corporations and organisations.
- Drafting of rules, service agreement, user agreements, terms, and condition.
- Assisting senior lawyers in legal research on case-to-case basis and providing drafting support on matters related to different legal issues.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Book

- A Complete Guide to Valuation of IP Assets: With Discussion on Managing, Auditing and Taxing IPs, Thomson Reuters, 2020 (ISBN-10: 9390529441, ISBN-13: 978-9390529445).

Book Chapters

- Methods for Intellectual Property Valuation, in ‘Handbook of Intellectual Property Research: Lenses, Methods, and Perspectives’ (Irene Calboli and Maria Lilla Montagnani eds.), Oxford University Press, 2021. (Co-authored)
- Bioinformatics: Nuances in Granting IP Protection, in ‘Intellectual Property Issues in Microbiology’ (Prof. H.B. Singh and Chetan Keswani, eds.) Springer-Nature, 2018.

Book Reviews

- A Legal Tripartite for Protecting TCEs: a step forward from the IP narrative, Review of ‘Legal Shape-shifting: On the protection of traditional cultural expressions and crossing boundaries between copyright, cultural heritage and human rights law’ by J.M. Breeman (Eleven Publishing), for Journal of Intellectual Property Law and Practice, Oxford University Press. 16 (10): 1157-1158 (2021).
- Review of ‘Choquepoints: Global private regulation on the Internet’ by Natasha Tusikov (University of California Press, 2016), for International Criminal Justice Review, Vol. 29 (1), pp. 90-91, 2017.

Peer-Reviewed Articles

- “My Words, My Copyright”: Justifiability of Performer Owning ‘Speech’ or ‘Address’, Journal of Intellectual Property Rights, NISCAIR. Vol 27 (2) __-__ (2022). (in print)
- Stem Cell Patenting: Moral and Legal Dilemma, Journal of Intellectual Property Rights, NISCAIR. Vol 27 (1), 42-51 (2022).
- ‘Unpackaging’ Trademark Through Tobacco Regulations, Journal of Intellectual Property Rights, NISCAIR. Vol 25 (1-2), 29-39 (2020).
- IP Protection to Software: Conflict between Indian Provision and Practice, Journal of Intellectual Property Rights. NISCAIR. Vol 22(5), 247-256 (2017).
- Protecting Smell Marks: Breaking Conventionality, Journal of Intellectual Property Rights. NISCAIR. Vol 21(3), 129-139 (2016).
- Gene Patenting vi-a-vis Notion of Patentability, Journal of Intellectual Property Rights. NISCAIR. Vol 20(6), 349-362 (2015).
- Protecting Trade Secrets in India, Journal of World Intellectual Property. Volume 18(6), 335 –346 (2015). (Co-Authored)
- Underwriting Agreements in India: Existing Regulations and Needed Reforms, International Company and Commercial Law Review, Sweet & Maxwell, I.C.C.L.R. (9), 295-301 (2015).
- Communities Right and Fair Benefit Sharing: Legal Instruments and Hurdles in Implementation, Journal of Intellectual Property Law and Practice, Oxford University Press 10 (1): 48-57 (2015).
- Crystallisation of a Floating Charge in India: The Scope and Need of Law Reform, International Company and Commercial Law Review, Sweet & Maxwell, I.C.C.L.R. (9), 323 (2014).

PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS AND ASSOCIATIONS

- Research Associate, Queen Mary Intellectual Property Research Institute (Sep 2020 – till now),
- Member, IP & Innovation Researchers of Asia (2020 – till present).
- Speaker, World Law Dialogue 2021; Indian Law Conclave (2019).
- At HPCL: Nominated member of IP Policy Team (2018-till now); Nominated Mentor of Young Officers (2019-21); Awarded Best Zonal Law Officer (2019-20); Selected to present at oil industry legal conference, Petrolex (2017).
- Ranked among Top 250 General Counsels of India, by World Intellectual Property Forum, 2018.
- Expert – Oil and Gas Laws, Industry-Academia Panel of WB NUJS, Kolkata (Sep 2017 – Sep 2020).

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Advisory Board of Abhas Spandan (NGO) since 2018 (member since 2014); Advisory Board of Alexis Group (Conglomerate of different NGOs) since 2018 (member since 2011).
- Trainings: CS50 for Lawyers, HarvardX (2021); Soft Skills, IITBombayX (2019); Workplace Communication, IITBombayX (2019); Seven-day Course on Arbitration, by Indian Merchant Chambers (2017); Contractual Clauses by IWG Group (2017).

INTERESTS

- A single, three-part, life mantra: learning one more skill; visiting one more place; and, helping one more soul.