

Hemant Sahai

Managing Partner

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Hemant is the Managing Partner of HSA Advocates (“*formerly Hemant Sahai Associates*”) (“**HSA**”), a full-service law firm, with primary focus on infrastructure and energy, corporate commercial M&A, banking & finance, indirect tax, litigation & disputes. Hemant graduated from law school, University of Delhi in May 1988 and commenced his legal career on June 1, 1988. Hemant has attended the Programme “Project Finance in Asia” conducted by the New York Institute of Finance, at Singapore, in November 1997.

Hemant’s current practice spans a wide spectrum and he is actively engaged in areas such as Infrastructure and Energy, including Public Private Partnerships, Banking and Finance (Corporate Finance, Project Finance, Structured Finance), Policy and Regulatory, Institutional Reform and De-regulation, Pensions and Capital Markets, including overseas listings, Foreign Investment and Technology Licensing and Environmental laws with a focus on CDM Projects under the Kyoto Protocol.

Hemant regularly speaks in diverse forums and seminars, conducts workshops and authors papers and articles on subjects in areas including Infrastructure, Banking and Finance, Regulatory and Policy. Hemant was also invited by the University of California, Berkeley, to make a presentation in a conference organised by the University in relation to the proposed legislations being debated in California for creation of an appropriate cap and trade market mechanism. Hemant has been involved in the drafting of several regulatory and policy documents as well as legislations, notably the Pensions legislation for India that provides for the regulation and development of the pensions sector in India, as well as provides the sector architecture.

Hemant has been recommended by Asia Pacific Legal 500, Chambers Asia Pacific as well as Chambers Global as a leading lawyer in India.

Abhishek Dutta

Partner

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Abhishek joined HSA as a partner in June, 2011. Prior to joining HSA, Abhishek was working with BMR Advisors since the firm's inception in 2004.

He is an experienced indirect tax professional with wide ranging expertise in Indian indirect tax, complimented with a good understanding of several industries and an expert in executing assignment with cross-functional teams.

Abhishek's expertise is in the areas of yet to be introduced Indian Goods & Services Tax (GST), Value Added Tax (VAT), Service tax and Entry tax. He has been involved in servicing various marquee clients during his earlier stints.

Anjan Dasgupta

Partner

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Anjan joined HSA as a partner in April 2011. Prior to joining HSA, Anjan practiced as a Senior Associate with Herbert Smith LLP, a top tier international law firm in its London office. He was a core member of Herbert Smith's global energy and project finance practice. Anjan began his career in 2002 with Trilegal, a well-regarded Indian law firm in its Mumbai office. He has also practiced with Norton Rose OR LLP, a top tier international law firm in its Toronto office.

Anjan's practice focuses on infrastructure, energy and project finance, public private partnerships and general banking and finance. He has around 10 years of experience advising clients on large multi currency and multi-sourced financings and has extensive multi-jurisdictional experience in finance and security package structuring, project management and advising on, drafting and negotiating finance documentation.

He has specific experience in acting on projects in emerging markets across a range of sectors including telecommunications, energy, mining, roads, oil and gas, ports, agribusiness and healthcare. He also has experience in clean technology and sustainable development financings. Anjan's clients include major corporations, banks and financial institutions, governments and other public bodies, and commercial organizations. He also has extensive experience acting for export credit agencies and multilateral institutions like International Finance Corporation (the World Bank Group), European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and Asian Development Bank (ADB).

He is a dual qualified lawyer admitted as both an Advocate in India and a Solicitor in England and Wales. Anjan has been recommended by Legal 500 – 2011/12 Edition for banking and finance, and projects and energy transactions in India.

Aparajit Bhattacharya

Partner

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Aparajit heads the firm's corporate commercial and M&A practice group, and also heads the firm's environmental and CDM practice group since its inception. He is actively involved in diverse assignments in the corporate M&A and transaction advisory space, the infrastructure and energy sector, project financing, cross border transactions, CDM project advisory, corporate restructuring and advisory related work in corporate commercial transactions.

Aparajit has led diverse assignments / transactions in the corporate commercial transaction advisory / M&A / PE and cross border transaction space, including strategic and private equity investments and VC transactions, management buy-outs and corporate restructuring transactions, foreign investment into India, entry strategies, and joint ventures. Aparajit joined the firm in 2004, shortly after its inception, and is one of the founding team members.

Aparajit has been named amongst the leading M&A corporate lawyers in India by Chambers Asia 2010, 2011 & 2012 Editions, as well as by Chambers Global, Asia Pacific Legal 500, and Global Business Magazine (UK) – List of Leading Lawyers in India 2012. He is also listed as the leading and recommended lawyer by Global Law Experts for Climate Change Legal Advisory Services, Country: India.

Meenakshi Arora

Partner

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Meenakshi was admitted to the Bar in 1984 and has been practicing in the Supreme Court of India and diverse High Courts in India, for over 25 years. She was awarded the first rank in the qualifying examination for Advocate on Record, Supreme Court in 1989. She had also, for a brief spell, worked with Goodwin and Soble, an international law firm in Washington DC. Meenakshi has extensive experience in litigation matters and Alternative Dispute Resolution, including Arbitration, and has also dealt with arbitral claims for large clients before international fora, viz. the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC).

Her area of practice includes, Indirect Taxation and Anti Dumping Law, Commercial Civil Litigation including Company Law, Constitutional Law including Election & Delimitation Law, Petroleum Contracts & Operations and commercial Arbitration.

Navin Syiem

Partner

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Navin joined HSA as a partner in 2010. Prior to joining HSA, Navin was a member of Ashurst's (a leading international law firm) India practice at the Dubai office where he advised multinational corporates, financial investors and government-linked entities on cross-border M&A and joint ventures in the Middle East and Asia, including India and Sri Lanka. Navin also has in-house legal experience, having worked as the India Legal Counsel for GE Commercial Finance from 2004 to 2007. Prior to going in-house, Navin worked with leading top tier law firms in India. Navin's expertise includes Banking and Finance, M&A, joint ventures, corporate finance and financial investment.

He is a dual qualified lawyer admitted as both an Advocate in India and a Solicitor in England and Wales.

Nand Kishore

Partner

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Nand joined HSA as a partner in 2011. Prior to joining HSA, Nand worked in the Indirect tax advisory practice of BMR Advisors. At BMR, Nand has advised on complex tax issues and strategic tax planning for varied clients. Nand has experience in both advisory and litigation practice in the areas of Excise, Customs, Service tax and Foreign Trade Policy laws. Prior to joining BMR, Nand had worked with Lakshmikumaran & Sridharan. Nand has been an arguing counsel on tax matters before various fora.

Nand expertise includes both advisory and litigation in Indirect tax laws comprising laws relating to excise, customs, service tax and foreign trade policy.

Payal Chawla

Partner

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Payal has over 16 years experience and has handled several Mergers & Acquisitions and Joint Ventures for the Fast Moving Consumer Goods and Healthcare Industries. She is also a Rotary Scholar, a Russell Baker Fellow and the recipient of the International House of Chicago Grant. She has an LL.M. from the University of Chicago. She is currently the President of the University of Chicago Alumni Club in New Delhi and on the Executive Council of the New York State Bar Association in India. She has been practicing law since 1995 and is enrolled with Bar Council of Delhi.

Payal began her career with Coca-Cola India as In-house Counsel, where she worked for nine years. Thereafter she served as Head of Legal - South Asia for Reckitt Benckiser. Having worked both as an outside and in-house counsel, she has gained varied experience in different areas of law and jurisdictions.

Her expertise includes Litigation and Arbitrations, Real Estate, Franchising Law; Intellectual Property; Competition law; Environmental laws; Labour Laws; Food laws; Insecticide law; law relating to Drugs and Cosmetics.

Ranjit Prakash

Partner

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Ranjit has over 20 years experience and has been actively involved with diverse assignments in the infrastructure sector, in particular Energy and Highways Sectors and Mining Sectors and other corporate commercial transaction. Ranjit has also substantial experience in several international and domestic commercial arbitrations involving large infrastructure and manufacturing companies. He has been practicing law since 1991 and is enrolled with Bar Council of Delhi.

Ranjit joined the firm in June 2005 after having served as the Head of the Corporate Law Division and Partner with a well-known leading law firms in India.

His expertise includes Infrastructure Projects, Mining and International Commercial Arbitrations.
