

INTRODUCTION

Mr. Abhimanyu Bhandari has over 15 years' experience as a commercial litigator focusing on arbitration and litigation matters. He has represented leading public sector undertakings, banks, privately held companies, non-profit organizations, national/political figures and celebrities before the Supreme Court of India and various Indian High Courts and Tribunals.

Mr. Bhandari has a substantial international commercial and domestic arbitration practice. He is frequently engaged by corporates, law firms and lawyers, in matters before the London Court of International Arbitration (LCIA), Singapore International Arbitration Centre (SIAC) and other international arbitration forums.

Abhimanyu has also represented leading conglomerates, promoters and business owners in some of the most high profile public interest litigations including matters before the Supreme Court of India relating to allocation of spectrum (2G case), allocation of coal blocks and environmental matters. Mr. Bhandari has also been appointed as Amicus Curiae by the Supreme Court of India to assist the Court in [Shama Vs State of Haryana **(2017)11SCC535**]

As a private legal practitioner, Abhimanyu has represented his clients before the Supreme Court in several civil and commercial cases including **Foreshore Coop. Housing Society Ltd v. Praveen D. Desai** [(2015) 6 SCC 412]; **Orissa IIDC v. Mesco Kalinga Steel Ltd** [(2017) 5 SCC 86]; **U Can Fly Limited v. AVA Spa Holidays** [236 (2017) DLT 373]; **Jindal Stainless Ltd. v. State of Haryana** [(2017) 12 SCC 1]; **Quippo Oil and Gas Infrastructure Limited v. ONGC Ltd. & Anr.**[230 (2016) DLT 384]; **Energy & Resources Institute v. Suhrud Sudarshan Shah** [(2016) 14 SCC 115]; **Esha Ekta Apartments CHS Ltd. v. Municipal Corporation of Mumbai and Anr** [(2012) 4 SCC 689].

Previously, Mr. Bhandari worked with leading international law firms including Cravath, Swaine & More LLP (UK) and Shearman & Sterling LLP. He completed his LL.B at the University of Buckingham with First Class (Honours). Additionally, he earned his M.Phil degree and completed his Bachelors in Civil Law (BCL) at the University of Oxford where he was awarded the Faculty of Law Scholarship.

Mr. Bhandari actively undertakes pro-bono cases and is associated with IDIA, a non-profit organization working in India, which aims to empower underprivileged children by giving them access to quality legal education.

INTERNATIONAL COMMERCIAL ARBITRATION/ CROSS BORDER DISPUTES

- Represented **G+H Schallschutz GmbH**, a German company dealing in acoustic solutions against India's leading public sector undertaking, Bharat Heavy Electronics Limited (BHEL) in an international commercial arbitration at the LCIA. Abhimanyu successfully represented the claimant before the High Court, in an appeal by (BHEL) against a partial award passed by the Arbitral Tribunal [**MANU/DE/2425/2018**].
- Representing a leading global pharmaceutical company, **Alkem Laboratories Limited** headquartered in Mumbai in an arbitration proceeding against a Peruvian company in an international commercial arbitration in London.

- Advised a **major Indian alcoholic beverage** manufacturer on its cross border dispute in connection with the enforcement of guarantee in London.
- Represented **Jindal Stainless Ltd (“JSL”)** in various disputes and arbitrations before the LCIA and other forums in London. For example, represented JSL in their dispute with Glencore in connection with a coal purchase agreement before the LCIA.
- Represented **Linde Heavy Trucks** in their dispute with Container Corporation of India [195(2012)DLT366]
- Represented **National Highway Authority of India** in a dispute with Intertol (a South African construction conglomerate) before a Tribunal consisting of two retired Chief Justices of India.
- Representing a leading **Solar Energy Fund** in its dispute with an Indian company in respect of breach of a share purchase agreement before the Singapore International Arbitration Centre (SIAC).

DOMESTIC COMMERCIAL ARBITRATION

- Represented **Indo-Rama Synthetics (I) Ltd**, a leading manufacturer and supplier of Polyester in an insurance arbitration in connection with disputes arising under a consequential loss of profit policy;
- Representing **Green Delhi Bus-Q Shelters Limited**, a related company of one of India's largest steel companies in an arbitration against Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) in respect of a dispute arising out of a tender for laying bus shelters in Delhi.
- Representing **Jindal Stainless Limited** in arbitration against Moorgate Industries India Pvt. Ltd. in its dispute arising out of expenses payable from the process of coking coal in its coke-oven plant.
- Representing a coal raising contractor against Punjab’s biggest power utility provider in an arbitration where the amount claimed is in excess of (GBP) 177 million.
- Represented several clients in arbitration matters before the Supreme Court and High Court in matters relating to (i) enforcement of arbitration awards before courts in India and (ii) disputes relating to arbitration agreements. - for example represented **Synergy Ispat Pvt. Ltd. [(2014)16SCC654]; GVK Power (Goindwal Sahib) Ltd. [220(2015)DLT4]**

CIVIL AND COMMERCIAL LITIGATION – Supreme Court and High Court

- Appeared before a **Constitutional Bench consisting of 9 judges** where the Supreme Court decided the constitutional validity of entry taxes levied on inter-state sale of goods [(2017)12 SCC 1]
- Represented **Mr. Ashok Shankar Rao Chavan (Former Chief Minister of Maharashtra and Member of Parliament)** before the Hon'ble Apex Court and Delhi High Court in a complaint relating to the non-disclosure of the election expenses. [(2014)7SCC99, MANU/DE/2187/2014]
- Representing **Unitech Limited (India's leading real estate company)** in connection with various matters before the Supreme Court.

- Representing various clients before the Supreme Court and High Courts on constitutional matters dealing with the constitutional validity of several recent amendments in new legislations like the Insolvency and Bankruptcy laws, Prevention of Money Laundering laws.
- Represented **Ultratech Cement Limited** before the Chhattisgarh High Court and **JSL Limited** before then Delhi High Court in connection with the encashment of their bank guarantees due to de-allocation of their coal block by the Union of India;
- Representing **LYCA FLY, an affiliate of LYCA Mobile (London)** in their dispute with an aviation company in Delhi [236(2017)DLT373].
- Represented the **Birla family** in certain disputes arising out of the will of **Mrs. Priyamvada Devi Birla**;
- Represented a **leading educational institution**, as the Petitioner in a defamation case, against one of the World's largest internet portal/web companies and largest search engines, before the High Court of Delhi.
- Appeared successfully on behalf of **Quippo Oil & Gas Infrastructure Limited** in connection with the imposition of VAT Tax and Service Tax on supply of rigs.
- Represented **Former External Affairs Minister of India, Mr. Salman Khurshid** against India Today group before the Delhi High Court in a defamation suit.
- Appeared for the **Emami Group of companies**, one of India's largest consumer company, in connection with setting aside complains in respect of its product 'Fair and Handsome' before the State Commission and in particular, successfully defended an application for summoning the brand ambassador, **Mr. Shah Rukh Khan, a leading Bollywood actor**.

PMLA AND WHITE COLLAR OFFENCES

- Successfully challenged a provisional attachment order passed by the **Enforcement Directorate** before the Delhi High Court against Himanchal Emta Limited.
- Appeared for **Ispat Steel** in challenging the constitutional validity of several provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act before High Court.
- Appeared for promoter of **Varsana Ispat** before the Appellate Tribunal under PMLA in connection with its attachment of assets.
- Appeared and successfully argued bail application for **Sandeep Jhunjhunwala, promoter of REI Agro** before the Trial Court in connection with offences under the PMLA Act.
- Appeared on behalf of **Sanjay Chandra and Ajay Chandra of Unitech Limited** in connection with their bail application before the Supreme Court for allegations of economic offences made by homebuyers.
- Appeared for promoters of **REI Agro Limited** before the Trial Court and High Court and successfully argued their bail applications.
- Appeared for **former senior civil servant** and successfully argued bail application in connection with offences of corruption alleged by the Central Bureau of Investigation.

REAL ESTATE

- Representing **Ferani Hotels in one of India's largest real estate commercial dispute** of INR 37,000 Crores approx. against Nusli Wadia before the Supreme Court of India and Bombay High Court. **[(2015)6SCC412; 2013(3)BomCR669]**
- Representing the interest of over 400 homebuyers before the Supreme Court of India against the Amrapali group of builders.
- Represented a leading **Energy Resources Institute (TERI)** in India and successfully argued that lands allotted to the institute should not be cancelled **[(2016)14SCC115]**
- Appeared on behalf of residents of the famous **Campa Cola compound** in Mumbai in connection with regularization of various apartments within the complex **[(2012) 4 SCC 689]**
- Represented a large **consortium of Irish investors**, relating to the alleged wrongful and fraudulent siphoning of funds by Indian real estate developers;

POWER, OIL AND GAS SECTOR

- Appeared successfully on behalf of **Quippo Oil and Gas Infrastructure Limited** and challenged the illegal rejection of its bids by ONGC in a proposed multi-billion dollar tender. **[(2018) MANU/DE/0998/2018; 230(2016)DLT384]**
- Appeared in various electricity tariff matters before the Supreme Court as well as Electricity Tribunals, for example represented **Essar Power Limited** in tariff dispute **(2016)9SCC103**.
- Representing a leading **Solar Energy Fund** in its dispute with an Indian company in respect of breach of a share purchase agreement before the Singapore International Arbitration Centre (SIAC).
- Representing a coal raising contractor against Punjab's biggest power utility provider in an arbitration where the amount claimed is in excess of (GBP) 177 million.

ENVIRONMENT

- Represented **Chambers of Commerce**, one of the biggest consortiums of marble and granite manufacturers in India on a landmark environmental matter relating to ban and injunction on the renewal of mining leases and on marble quarrying in the Aravali Hills region of India, affected by extensive denudation, soil erosion in the light of its overall environmental impact.
- Representing the **Monarch Hotels (Owned by Mr. Mithun Chakraborty** – an iconic bollywood Actor) before the Supreme Court of India, in landmark environment litigation with respect to the “Elephant Corridor” in Ooty.

INFRASTRUCTURE

- Appeared on behalf of **Jindal Stainless Limited** and successfully won Jindal's appeal against Mesco Kalinga Steel Limited in respect of wrongful allotment of mining lease land by Orissa Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation **[(2017)5SCC86]**

- Representing **Green Delhi Bus-Q Shelters Limited**, a related company of one of India's largest steel companies in disputes against Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) before the Delhi High Court in respect of tender for laying bus shelters across Delhi.
- Representing various large infrastructure companies in disputes relating to commercial contracts in High Courts and Apex Court
- Successfully challenged the illegal blacklisting of **Emami Power Limited** in a tender issued by National Thermal Power Corporation. [**MANU/DE/0101/2018**]
- Representing a leading infrastructure company **GVK Limited** against National Highways Authority of India in arbitration in relation to disputes arising out of tender contracts.
- Represented **National Highway Authority of India** in their dispute with Intertol (a South African construction conglomerate) before a Tribunal consisting of two retired Chief Justices of India.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

- Representing a **leading cosmetic goods** manufacturer in a case of alleged infringement of trademark.
- Appeared for **Shamnad Basheer** in a Public Interest Litigation in respect of enforcement of provisions in the Patent Act in respect of the requirement that Patent holder must show the use of the patent
- Appearing for **Emami Limited** against Dabur Pharma Limited in a case of alleged disparagement.
- Successfully completed a **thesis on European Design Rights** at the University of Oxford for M.Phil. Degree

INSOLVENCY/ COMPANY RESTRUCTURING MATTERS

- Appearing for a **leading hotel conglomerate** before the National Company Law Tribunal in connection with allegations relating to mismanagement of the Company.
- Appearing for **SREI Infrastructure Finance Limited** before the National Company Law Tribunal in relation to initiating insolvency proceedings against a leading health care company under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016
- Appearing for **EMTA Limited** against Punjab State Power Corporation Limited in an alleged mismanagement of company affairs dispute.