



Bar & Bench's People Moves Report (Jan-July, 2014)



People Moves Half Yearly Roundup: Lateral Shifts, Partner Promotions and more

The first six months of the year saw a number of lateral shifts amongst the country's bigger law firms, as well as the entry of new players in the field. And in addition to startup ventures, the first half of the year also saw a high number of Partner promotions in most of the larger law firms.

Lateral Shifts

When it comes to lateral shifts, BMR Legal saw the addition of three Partners, one from Lakshmikumaran & Sridharan and two from Themis Associates. Khaitan & Co got three Associate Partners from JSA, Trilegal and White & Case each.

Luthra & Luthra lost its Partner Shishir Vayttaden to Amarchand Mangaldas while HSA Advocates Partner, Jagvir Singh left the firm to join Jupiter Law Partners. Anuradha Iyer, one of the founders of I&S left her firm to join Tatva Legal.

Indus Law got a new Partner from Khaitan & Co. Hufriz Wadia left Juris Corp to join Kochhar & Co. Ex-AZB Partner Yogesh Bhattarai joined Trilegal as a Partner, with the firm also getting a Partner in the form of Himanshu Sinha who moved from Deloitte.

Promotions

When it comes to making new Partners, Khaitan & Co leads the way, with two new Equity Partners and 11 Associate Partners. In second place is JSA, which announced 9 new Partners, exactly half of last year. Economic Laws Practice wasn't way behind making six Associate partners and also hiring Bharti Airtel General Counsel, Jyoti Pawar.

Lex Orbis promoted four of its practice heads to partnership and Khaitan Sud & Partners also made four new partners. AZB & Partners, which saw the departure of two of its Partners, made four new Partners in the first six months.

Tatva Legal promoted three of its Senior Associates to partnership while both Luthra & Luthra and Samvad Partners made two Partners. JSA saw the exit of Dispute Resolution Partner Promod Nair. AZB lost Partners, Meera Singh and Debashish Sankhar

New firms & mergers

The trend of breakaway firms continued this year as well with Khaitan & Co's Corporate Partner, Vaishali Sharma leaving the firm to set up Agram Legal Consulting. Another new law firm, Altum Law, was set up by NLSIU grads Anindita Phukan, Shekhar Vyas and Dinesh Singh.

As far as mergers go, there was one noticeable merging of practices between Chennai-based law firm Vichar Partners and JSA, with the new venture effectively becoming JSA's Chennai office.

Interestingly, three in-house counsels resigned from their roles to set up their independent ventures. Infosys General Counsel Nithya Nandan Radhakrishnan resigned to set up Brown Tree Consulting while Facebook Counsel Chetan

Nagendra established his own law offices.. The in-house counsel from MSD Pharma, Jaspreet Singh Chandok, resigned to set up Win Law Group.

International Firms

There hasn't been too much to report when it comes to the India practice of international law firms. Allen & Overy promoted Counsel Amit Singh to Partner at the firm's Hong Kong office while Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher made Priya Mehra an Of Counsel. On the whole, it has been a quiet time for Indian lawyers working in foreign shores.

Concluding remarks

With market experts predicting a rise in India's GDP, law firms are gearing up for the increased workload. At the same time, increasing competition within the legal market means that law firms are trying hard to retain top talent; Partner promotions may well be one method to fight poaching.

The trend of breakaway law firms, more specifically those being established by in-house counsels, could very well signify a turning point in the role of the general counsel. Long believed to be limited to compliance alone, the in-house legal counsel is fast gaining importance within the legal industry. Establishing new firms could be a reflection of this fact.

Interestingly, the first six months have seen fewer high-level exits indicating that some efforts are being made to retain people at the top, in this competing market. The first half has hardly seen any major poaching amongst the big law

firms. Conversely, one possible fall-out of this could be an increasing top-heavy structure amongst bigger law firms. Going forward, this may be one issue that law firms would do well to address.

Name of the Firm/ Company	Person(s)	Movement
Agram Legal Consultants	Vaishali Sharma	Leaves Khaitan to set up Agram Legal Consultants
ALG India Law Offices	Jayant Kumar	Leaves to join Win Law Group
Altum Law	Anindita Phukan Dinesh Singh Shekhar Vyas	Established in May 2014 with offices in Bangalore and Delhi
Allen & Overy	Amit Singh	Promoted to partnership
Amarchand Mangaldas	Pooja Mahajan	Resigns
	Shishir Vayttaden	Joins as Partner from Luthra & Luthra
Aureus Law Partners	Niki Kantawala	Join as Partner
	Mukesh Aggarwal	

Name of the Firm/ Company	Person(s)	Movement
AZB & Partners	Abhinav Ashwin Bhavi Sanghvi Sachin Mehta Shuchi Sinha	Promoted to partnership
	Meera Singh	Resigns
	Debashish Sankhari	Leaves to join Jupiter Law Partners
Bharti Airtel	Jyoti Pawar	Leaves to join ELP as Partner
BMR Legal	A R Madhav Rao	Joins as Partner from Lakshmi Kumaran & Sridharan
	Roshan Thomas Siddharth Nair	Join from Themis Associates as Partners
Brown Tree Consulting	Nithya Nandan Radhakrishnan	Established in May 2014 out of Bangalore
Clasis Law	Ashwin Sapra	Joins from Luthra & luthra as IP head
Desai & Diwanji	Jolly Abraham	Promoted to associate partner level
Deloitte	Himanshu Sinha	Leaves to join Trilegal as Partner

Name of the Firm/ Company	Person(s)	Movement
Dua Associates	Dinesh Mathur Vikram Dhokalia Srinivas BR	Promoted to Equity Partnership
	Jay Badola	Promoted to Partnership
ELP	Darshan Upadhyay Sanjay Notani	Promoted to equity partnership
	Deep Roy Hardik Modh Harsh Shah Jitendra Motwani Aakanksha Joshi Kumar Visalaksh Ranjeet Mahtani	Promoted to Associate Partner level
	Jyoti Pawar	Joins as Partner from Bharti Airtel
Fox Mandal	Rajesh Sehgal	Resigns

Name of the Firm/ Company	Person(s)	Movement
Gibson, Dun & Crutcher	Priya Mehra	Promoted as Of Counsel
HSA Advocates	Pranav Singh Harsh Arora	Promoted to partnership
	Arun Mani Sumedha Dutta	Promoted to Associate Partner level
	Jagvir Singh	Leaves to join Jupiter Law Partners
I & S Associates	Anuradha Iyer	Leaves to join Tatva Legal as Partner
Indus Law	Nishant Singh	Joins as Partner from Khaitan & Co
Infosys	Nithya Nandan	Resigned to set up Independent Venture

Name of the Firm/ Company	Person(s)	Movement
JSA	Arka Mukherjee Ashni Roy Vibha Dhawan Gautam Gandotra Shailesh Shukla Smita Singh Sujoy Bhatia Uttara Kolhatkar Vikrant Patwardhan	Promoted to partnership
	Kartik Somasundram Gaurav Shrawat	Promoted to Associate Partner level
	Pramod Nair	Resigned to be Independent Counsel
	Dibyanshu Sinha	Leaves to join Khaitan & Co
Jupiter Law Partners	Debashish Sankhari	Joins as Partner from AZB & Partners
	Jagvir Singh	Joins as Partner from HSA Advocates
Juris Corp	Hufriez Wadia	Leaves to join Kochhar & Co

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K Law	Gaurav Shrawat Karthik Somasundram	Promoted to Associate Partner level
Khaitan & Co	Raj Panchmatia Adheesh Nargolkar	Promoted to equity partnership
	Arindam Sarkar Ashwin Bishnoi Diwakar Maheshwari Gaurav Juneja Harsh Kumar Mehul Shah Nandini Khaitan Prasenjit K Chakraverti Ratnesh Rai Rishi Kabir Bogra Sucharita Basu	Promoted to Associate Partner
	Dibyanshu Sinha	Joins from JSA as Associate Partner

Name of the Firm/ Company	Person(s)	Movement
	Kartick Maheshwari	Joins from White & Case as Associate Partner
	Nishant Beniwal	Joins from Trilegal as Associate Partner
	Nishant Singh	Leaves to join Indus Law as Partner
	Vaishali Sharma	Resigned to set up Agram Legal Consultants
Khaitan Sud & Partners (KSP)	Debarshi Dutta Kanishk Vardhan Shahi Navpreet Ahluwalia Sujeet Das	Promoted to partnership
	Preeti Balwani	Leaves to join Rajani Singhania as Partner
Kochhar and Co	Hufriz Wadia	Joins as Partner from Juris Corp
Lakshmi Kumaran & Sridharan	A R Madhav Rao	Leaves to join BMR Legal
Lawyers at work (LAW)	Sonal Basu	Joins from Wipro
Law Offices of Chetan Nagendra	Chetan Nagendra	New legal venture established by ex-Facebook counsel

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LexOrbis	Amaya Singh Deepak Srinivas Pooja Dodd Rajeev Kumar	Promoted to partnership
Luthra & Luthra	Kanchan Sinha Vaibhav Kakkar	Promoted to partnership
	Anil K Rai	Resigned
	Ashwin Sapra	Leaves to join Clasis Law
	Shishir Vayttaden	Leaves to join Amarchand Mangaldas as Partner
OP Khaitan & Co	Nipun Malhotra	Rejoined as Partner
PRA Law	Sanjeev Jain	Promoted to partnership
Rajani Singhania and Partners	Preeti Balwani	Joins from KSP as Partner
S&R Associates	Mohit Gogia	Promoted to partnership
Samvad Partners	Nivedita Nivargi Neela Badmi	Promoted to partnership

Name of the Firm/ Company	Person(s)	Movement
Shook Lin & Bok	Aditi Mathur	Promoted to partnership
SJ Law Offices	Natasha Landge	Sets up Delhi Office
SNG & Partners	Rahul Sud	Promoted to Associate Partner level
Talwar Thakore & Associates	Rahul Gulati	Promoted to Partnership
Tatva Legal	Anuradha Iyer	Joins as Partner from I & S Associates
	Raghunath Ananthapur Ritika Pal Seher Ali	Promoted to partnership
Themis Associates	Roshan Thomas Siddharth Nair	Leaves to join BMR Legal as Partner
Trilegal	Neeraj Menon	Promoted to partnership
	Yogesh Bhattarai	Joins as Partner from AZB
	Himanshu Sinha	Joins from Deloitte as Partner
	Nishant Beniwal	Leaves to join Khaitan & Co

Name of the Firm/ Company	Person(s)	Movement
Vichar Partners	Aarthi Sivanandh Chitra Narayan Vinod Kumar	Merge with JSA
White & Case	Kartick Maheshwari	Leaves to join Khaitan & Co
Win Law Group	Jaspreet Singh Chandhok	Leaves MSD Pharma to set up Win law Group
	Jayant Kumar	Joins as Partner
Wipro	Sonal Basu	Leaves to join Lawyers at work (LAW) as Partner