



**KHAITAN
&CO**
Advocates since 1911

News for, and of, Khaitan Alumni **#KConnect**

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2019: Year in Review

The Firm continued to be at the forefront of various marquee deals in the latter half of 2019. As a recognition of our continued efforts, we were ranked #2 in the RSG India rankings and were also awarded the 'RSG Consulting Grow India Award for Enabling Corporate India' for our role in the landmark Flipkart-Walmart deal.

At Khaitan, we are proud to note that our partners from the Direct and Indirect Tax practices have been featured as 'Highly Regarded' tax practitioners in the International Tax Review (World Tax 2020). As many as 3 of our Partners, Nikhil Narayanan, Kartick Maheshwari and Ashwin Bishnoi featured in the shortlist of 20 Indian Legal Practitioners for the 'RSG India Award for Emerging Leaders of 2019' and Nikhil Narayanan went on to win the award. Further, our Partner Sudip Mullick was recognised as 'Lawyer of the Year' for his expertise in Real Estate by the Indian Bar Association, and our Litigation Partner Vanita Bhargava was featured in ALB India's 'Top 15 Disputes Lawyers', and while our Tax Partner Abhishek Rastogi bagged a coveted spot in the Economic Times '40 under 40' list for 2019, our Partner Kartick Maheshwari featured in ALB's '40 under 40' list for 2019.

On a separate note, we are excited to announce that the Firm has revamped its [website](#) and would be happy to hear your feedback.

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*We also take this opportunity to wish our alumni
a very happy and prosperous new year!*

Learning and Development

“If longevity is the best index to measure a company, a basic requirement is the ability of the corporation to generate new and new leaders” – NR Narayana Murthy

At the Firm, we are committed towards the professional and personal development of all our members. We hosted our Annual Partner’s Conference at Surajkund in September. The theme of the conference was ‘Introspection for Improvement’- something we believe is important for us to identify our goals and our approach to achieve these goals. We hosted an array of distinguished speakers and panelists including Rajiv Memani (Chairman and Regional Managing Partner, EY) and CP Gurnani (CEO and Managing Director, Tech Mahindra) to give our partners food for thought. Keeping with the theme, the conference saw a host of team building activities to bring together our large and diverse partnership across offices and age groups and give everyone an opportunity to know each other at a deeper and more meaningful level.

The Firm also hosted Claudia Winkler to conduct the ‘Effective Negotiation and Client Communication Skills’ for its Principal Associates to help gain deeper insights into using client-focused negotiations as a powerful tool. The second edition of our annual programme for Principal Associates - ‘Together Towards Tomorrow’, saw our young lawyers glean valuable insights from celebrated speakers including Jamshed S Daboo (Managing Director, Trent Hypermarket), Dr Pawan Agrawal (Motivational Speaker), Chandramouli Venkatesan (Author) and our Senior Partner, Haigreve Khaitan. During this 2-day workshop, our Principal Associates also engaged in fun group activities including ‘Team Olympics’ and ‘Ukulele Challenge’.



Our Principal Associates at the Annual PA Meet 2019

Key Client Engagements

We truly understand and value the importance of client building and remain committed towards strengthening these relationships. In the latter half of 2019, the Firm conducted various webinars including:

‘Driving value from Indian REITs’, ‘Employment in India – What Your Company Needs to Know’, ‘When Dawn Raid Strikes – Prepare for the Unexpected’, ‘IP Litigation in India’, ‘Why Environmental Liabilities Matter in M&A Transactions’, ‘Staying in Control – New Framework for Differential Voting Right Share’, ‘Distressed Investment Market in India – Current Issues and Emerging Thoughts for International Investors’, and ‘Pre-transaction Issues in Public M&A in India’.

Diversity & Inclusion Initiative

The Firm is pleased to announce launched **arise**, a diversity and inclusion Initiative (coined on the philosophy of ‘acceptance, recognition, inspiration, support, and empowerment’. Through **arise** we aim to nurture a community of like-minded people and foster an inclusive environment in which all can flourish regardless of gender, age, sexual orientation, religion or culture. We also hosted the first session of the ‘In Conversation with Women Leaders’ series, with a fire-side chat between Manisha Girotra (Head, Moelis India) and our Partner, Bijal Ajinkya.



Fire-side chat between Bijal Ajinkya and Manisha Girotra

Sports and Recreation

It is our belief that sports binds us in a unique way. We are pleased to report that our cricket team emerged as winners of the Citi Box Cricket League 2019 (Mumbai), having prevailed over 11 other participants. Our team also won the prestigious Society of Indian Law Firms (SILF) Cricket Tournament – the team put up a smashing performance throughout the tournament by winning 5 out of 6 matches!



Winners of the SILF Cricket Tournament 2019

Maintaining the Firm's hot streak in sports, our football teams in Bangalore and Mumbai have done us proud. While the Bangalore football team won in the 'shield' category of the Bangalore Lawyers' Football Championship (BLFC), defeating Indus Law in a nail biting final, our Mumbai team emerged as 'Runner's Up' at the DBS Soccer Event.



Winners of the Bangalore Lawyer's Football Championship

Khaitan IVCA Private Equity Forum

The Firm, in collaboration with IVCA, hosted the Khaitan IVCA Private Equity Forum in August 2019. In the backdrop of the general elections which concluded earlier this year, the theme of this year's forum was "Road Map for the Next 2 Years – Investments in India".

The event saw enthusiastic and widespread participation from key executives of PE firms, investment banks and corporates. Speakers included Gautam Narayan (Apax Partners), Rajeev Gupta (Arpwood Capital), Shantanu Rastogi (General Atlantic), Dhanpal Jhaveri (Everstone Capital) and Dhruv Sukhrani (Bain & Company). Our partners Niren Patel and Mehul Shah used the forum to delve into the nuances of the Birlasoft and KPIT transaction.



Khaitan IVCA Private Equity Event

Client Event – Estate and Wealth Planning

In collaboration with Kotak Wealth, the Firm also hosted a client event in New Delhi – "Estate Planning – Protecting Your Legacy". The event was attended by distinguished business owners and heads of family offices and witnessed insightful discussions on the road ahead for wealth preservation. The Firm received positive feedback on conclusion of the event.



Asian Legal Business
M&A Rankings 2019 – Tier 1 Law Firm



Tier 1 Indian Law Firm
Corporate & M&A, Capital Markets,
Restructuring and Insolvency



Asialaw Profiles 2020
Outstanding Firm
Banking and Financial Services,
Capital Markets, Competition / Anti-
trust, Corporate M&A, Dispute
Resolution, Investment Funds, Private
Equity, Real Estate, Regulatory and
Tax



Chambers Asia Pacific 2020
Tier 1 Indian Law Firm
Corporate M&A, Dispute Resolution,
Private Equity, Private Wealth Law
and Tax



Asian Legal Business
Tier 1 Firm – Patents and Copyright /
Trademark



IAM Patent 1000
Recommended firm for Patent
Prosecution under India region



Benchmark Litigation Asia-Pacific
2019
Tier 1 Firm
Commercial and Transactions,
Construction, Insolvency, Competition
/ Anti-trust, Government and
Regulatory, International Arbitration



FT Innovative Lawyers Award - Asia-
Pacific 2019 Managing Complexity and
Scale
Highly Commended for Vedanta's
Resolution Plan for Electrosteel Steels
– The deal that established several
firsts for the Indian Bankruptcy
Regime

Marquee Transactions

The Firm continued to be at the forefront of several big-ticket transactions in the latter half of 2019. We are grateful to our clients for continuing to choose us as their trusted advisors.

In the M&A space, the Firm advised Bharat Serums on its part sale to Advent International, Advent International in acquisition of minority stake in Aditya Birla Capital and Reliance Industries Limited on its proposed joint venture with BP Plc.

In the private equity space, we advised Blackstone's logistics platform with the Hiranandani group, Brookfield Asset Management's acquisition of Waterstones Hotels, Advent's acquisition of minority stake in Enamor, Lightbox's investment in Dunzo, Investcorp's investments in ASG Hospitals, Bewakoof Brands and Intergrow Brands Private Limited and Perfios Software in its fund raising from Warburg Pincus and Bessemer Venture Partners.

Despite a sharp decline in IPO activity, the Firm was involved in the successful listing of Sterling and Wilson Solar (~USD 400 million) and advised the Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Coal in relation to the offer for sale of shares of Coal India and L&T in relation to the offer for sale of shares of L&T Technology Services Limited. In the banking and finance sector, we represented LIC, L&T Finance and L&T Infra Debt Fund in relation to issue of non-convertible debentures.

The firm represented the CDR lenders of Leela with respect to various aspects of the divestment transaction and ensuing negotiations and also represented JM Financial Asset Reconstruction Company in successfully challenging the SEBI order in relation to the contentious Leela Hotels dispute. The Firm has also been advising Rakesh Gangwal (co-promoter, InterGlobe Aviation Limited), in relation to corporate governance matters at InterGlobe Aviation Limited.

Alumni in Focus

Rohith Ashok was an associate in the Corporate practice at our Mumbai office. In September 2015, he ventured out to explore possibilities connected to his interests in travel and motorcycles. What began as a journey to see and experience more of the world, grew into an alternate way of life for him. He now spends a considerable part of every year travelling, often riding motorcycles through some of the most adventurous routes within and outside India. Having found a way to combine his penchant for adventure with the opportunities of digital media, Rohith is now counted amongst the leading travel and motorcycling related content creators in India. He often shares stories of his experiences with a growing global audience through his YouTube Channel (Toll Free Traveller), blog and other social media platforms.



Rohith Ashok – Travel and Motorcycle Enthusiast

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Get in touch

We would love to hear your feedback and views on the Alumni Newsletter or the larger KConnect alumni programme. Please let us know by sending an email to alumni@khaitanco.com. For more information on the KConnect alumni programme visit our [website](#).