

Nishith Desai Associates

Legal & Tax Counseling Worldwide

Mumbai • Silicon Valley • Bangalore • Singapore • Mumbai-BKC • New Delhi

Nishith Desai, Founder

nishith@nishithdesai.com



Nishith Desai is the founder of the multi-skilled, research-based international law firm, Nishith Desai Associates (www.nishithdesai.com) with offices in Mumbai, Silicon Valley, Bangalore, Singapore, New Delhi and Mumbai – BKC.

He is an international tax and corporate law expert, researcher, published author and lecturer in leading academic institutions around the world. Nishith Desai is listed in the Lex Witness 'Hall of fame: Top 50' individuals who have helped shape the legal landscape of modern India. He is also the recipient of Prof. Yunus 'Social Business Pioneer of India' – 2010 award. He has been voted 'External Counsel of the Year 2009' by Asian Counsel and Pacific Business Press and the 'Most In Demand Practitioners' by Chambers Asia 2009. He has been ranked No. 28 in a global Top 50 "Gold List" by Tax Business, a UK-based journal for the international tax community. Nishith Desai holds a special licence from the State Bar of California to practice Indian law. He is also a leading lawyer for private equity and venture capital, highly recommended for tax and recommended for M&A and Media laws by PLC Which Lawyer? 2009.

A specialist in providing strategic legal and business solutions coupled with industry expertise in an integrated manner to clients, Nishith Desai Associates has developed expertise and carved a niche in the area of litigation and dispute resolution with a strong focus on complex cross border disputes, providing clients with creative and pragmatic solutions and effective dispute resolution strategies.

In tax litigation, Nishith Desai has played an important role. In the *Azadi Bachao Andolan*, he successfully defended the 'Mauritius route' and thus has been regarded as one of the most influential decisions shaping the evolution of international tax jurisprudence in India. He has also formed a Global Think Tank on Arbitration, which has made recommendations on the consultation paper released by the ministry of Law and Justice, Government of India on the Arbitration & Conciliation Act, 1996. He has also contributed to the research paper '*Dispute Resolution in India*' providing incisive analysis of key imperatives in the litigation space and, has been extensively well received along with the articles we routinely publish in key international and Indian journals and media.

We have been ranked as the best performing Indian law firm of the year by the RSG India Consulting in its client satisfaction report (2011). We have been named an ASIAN-MENA COUNSEL 'IN-HOUSE COMMUNITY FIRM OF THE YEAR' in India for International Arbitration (2011). For the second consecutive year, International Financial Law Review (a Euromoney publication) has recognized us as the Indian "Firm of the Year" (2011) for our Technology - Media - Telecom (TMT) practice. Our Tax, Investment Funds and TMT practices have also been consistently ranked in tier 1 by Legal 500, while Chambers & Partners have ranked us # 1 for Tax, TMT and Real Estate - FDI. We've received honorable mentions in Asian - Counsel Magazine for Alternative Investment Funds, International Arbitration, Real Estate and Taxation for the year 2010. We have been adjudged the winner of the Indian Law Firm of the Year 2010 for TMT by IFLR. We have won the prestigious "Asian-Counsel's Socially Responsible Deals of the Year 2009" by Pacific Business Press, in addition to being Asian-Counsel Firm of the Year 2009 for the practice areas of Private Equity and Taxation in India. Indian Business Law Journal listed our Tax, PE & VC and Technology-Media-Telecom (TMT) practices in the India Law Firm Awards 2009 as also Legal 500 (Asia-Pacific) that has ranked us #1 in these practices for 2009-2010. We have been ranked the highest for 'Quality' in the Financial Times – RSG Consulting ranking of Indian law firms in 2009. The Tax Directors Handbook, 2009 lauded us for our constant and innovative out-of-the-box ideas. Other past recognitions include being named the Indian Law Firm of the Year 2000 and Asian Law Firm of the Year (Pro Bono) 2001 by the International Financial Law Review, a Euromoney publication. In an Asia survey by International Tax Review (September 2003), we were voted as a top-ranking law firm and recognized for our cross-border structuring work.

Nishith Desai is credited with establishing what is arguably a unique organization model for a law firm based on the principles of democracy, transparency and trust; and has delivered lectures on the subject at acclaimed and prestigious global fora.