



Puhazh Gandhi P

Education

LL.M., New York University School of Law (Deans Scholar, International Law and Human Rights Fellow), 2009
PGCITL., European University Institute and ILO, Turin, Italy, 2008
LL.B., University of Kerala (Gold medalist), India, 2000
B.Sc Chemistry (1st class honours), M.S University, India, 1997

Bar Qualifications and Language Proficiency

Puhazh was admitted to the Indian bar in 2000. He speaks Tamil, Malayalam and Hindi.

Areas of Expertise

Mr. Puhazh is based in Chennai. His practice areas include Infrastructure, Banking and Corporate, International Trade (WTO) and International Investments.

A record holder in his LL.B (First rank holder) programme bagging nine gold medals from the University of Kerala. Mr. Puhazh undertook his M.Phil in International Law from India's top-ranking University, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. A Deans (Merit) Scholar at New York University School of Law for his LLM, where he was also awarded the prestigious International Law and Human Rights fellowship.

Puhazh has worked as a lawyer at the Appellate body Secretariat of the World Trade Organization at Geneva. He was a member of the Team, which assisted the WTO Appellate body in deciding the dispute of U.S v. Canada, the Soft wood Lumber VI, and U.S v. E.C, the Zeroing case. He also worked as the Assistant Coordinator (Academic*) for the Regional Trade Policy Course conducted by the World Trade Organisation at the National University of Singapore in which Senior/Mid level civil servants from 30 different countries were imparted training in Trade Law.

In 2010 he was invited to be Visiting Expert for Judge Mr Rene Blattmann at the International Criminal Court (ICC) at The Hague, advising him in the trial of Mr Thomas Lubanga Dyilo, a Congolese war lord.

He was previously a Senior Associate with Kochhar & Co, a leading law firm based in Chennai in India.

Representative Matters

Corporate, Mergers and Acquisitions, Private Equity

- Representation of **Mitsubishi Motor Corporation (MMC)**, Japan in its proposed acquisition of **Chennai Car Plant (CCP)** of **M/s Hindustan Motors Limited (HML)**.
- Representation of **M/s Ajax Tocco Magnethermic** in its acquisition of Specific assets of **Pillar Induction (India) private Ltd** and the transfer of employees of **Vidyut Agni Sales and Services Pvt Ltd**.
- Representation of **The Bank of Rajasthan Ltd (BOR)** in its acquisition of some of the **Non Performing Assets (NPAs)** of **ICICI bank Ltd**. The project later aborted.
- Representation of **Suzhou Jiangnan Jiajie Elevator Group Co. Ltd** in setting up a joint venture with Johnson Lifts called **SJEC JOHNSON ESCALATOR PRIVATE LIMITED** for manufacturing, selling, escalators, travelators, moving walks, passenger conveyor and other hauling equipments.

- Representation of **Nagarjuna Oil Corporation Ltd (NOCL)** in setting up a joint venture with L&T Power Development Ltd for setting up a captive cogeneration plant for supply of power and utilities including steam to the refinery complex of NOCL
- Representation of **mJunction services Limited** for conducting the due diligence of **IPFonline Limited** in its proposed acquisition of IPF.

Dispute Resolution

- Representation of Lemcon Construction Pvt Ltd in its arbitration dispute with NOKIA and KIRBY systems Pvt Ltd before the High Court of Madras which was successfully litigated to the satisfaction of the client.
- Representation of The Bank of Rajasthan Ltd (BOR) in its recovery proceedings against various corporate defaulters and successfully litigated before various forums in India.

- Successfully litigated a major banking matter while acting for Mediaimage.com, USA before the DRAT, Chennai against State Bank of India and M/s Compudyne Winfo Systems Limited.

Representation of Ford India Private Limited in its product liability cases filed by various customers.

Miscellaneous

- Representation of **The Bank of Rajasthan Ltd (BOR)** in enforcing its security interest under the SARFAESI Act against corporate defaulters.
- Representation of **Hindustan Telecon Ltd (HTL)** in conducting an e-auction of 10.5 acres of land located in prime area of Chennai, India. It is the second biggest e-auction conducted in India so far.
- Representation of various IT Companies in setting up, registering under STP (Software Technology Park) scheme and assisting them with further compliances.