

NEWS

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WIGGIN AND DANA

Counsellors at Law



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Wiggin and Dana Announces India Practice and Addition of Partner

Niket Rele Brings Wealth of Experience with India-Related Transactions

New York – Wiggin and Dana is pleased to announce the formal launch of its India Practice, which will serve the legal needs of individuals and entities engaged in cross-border transactions involving India. The addition of Niket Rele, as a partner in the firm's New York office, builds on the work that the firm has been doing with respect to India for many years.

"India has become one of the most important trading partners for the U.S. and our emphasis on the U.S.-India relationship puts the firm in line with a national priority," said Wiggin and Dana's Business Department Chair, Paul Hughes.

Wiggin and Dana lawyers already have years of experience in representing global outsourcing, technology and pharmaceutical companies based in India. "The firm's depth of experience with India, existing Indian clients and obvious commitment to the Indian market were key to my decision to join Wiggin and Dana," Mr. Rele stated. "In formalizing the India Practice, we have brought together, in a focused way, the collective experience of some of our firm's strongest and most well-established practice groups to better serve the full range of legal needs of our clients doing business in India," comments Mark Heaphy, Partner and Chair of the firm's Technology and Outsourcing Practice.

Mr. Rele is actively involved in the representation of early stage, emerging growth and mature companies, in the areas of mergers and acquisitions, business process outsourcing and IT outsourcing transactions, cross border India-US transactions, technology, pharmaceutical and biotech licensing transactions, venture capital, corporate finance and securities, strategic alliances and joint ventures, and general corporate counseling.

Maureen Weaver, Chair of Wiggin and Dana, noted, "with the addition of Niket, we are able to concentrate on providing our existing clients with many areas of experience as well as building new relationships in the India marketplace. Niket's experience in India increases our exposure and capabilities, and we are thrilled that he has joined our firm."

Mr. Rele regularly advises Indian public and private companies in their U.S. acquisitions, strategic alliances and joint ventures across various sectors and industries. He also regularly represents top-tier outsourcing service providers in structuring and negotiating complex global outsourcing transactions. Having practiced law in India, Mr. Rele can assist U.S. corporations in structuring and advising them in their India entry strategies as well as investments and acquisitions in India.

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Before joining Wiggin and Dana, Mr. Rele was the founding partner of a corporate boutique firm in New York City. Prior to that, he was an attorney at the New York offices of Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP, and the Singapore office of White and Case LLP. Mr. Rele has also practiced law in India and was an attorney at Crawford Bayley & Co., a reputable law firm in Mumbai, India.

Mr. Rele is admitted to practice in New York and India. He graduated with a Bachelor of Commerce from Bombay University. He received his LL.B., from Bombay University and his LL.M., from American University in Washington, D.C. Mr. Rele is fluent in Hindi and Marathi.

About Wiggin and Dana's India Practice

Wiggin and Dana's India Practice is an integrated, multi-disciplinary team, bringing together the diverse expertise of the firm's technology, outsourcing, mergers and acquisitions, biotech, pharmaceutical, healthcare, securities, corporate financing, and corporate restructuring lawyers to serve the legal needs of companies engaged in cross-border transactions involving India.

Celebrating our 75th Anniversary in 2009, Wiggin and Dana is a full service firm, with 140 attorneys, serving clients throughout the world from offices in New York City, Connecticut and Philadelphia. For more information on the firm, visit our website at www.wiggin.com.

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