

Pierce Law Takes IP Knowledge to India

BY JON R. CAVICCHI, JD '84/ LLM '99, PROFESSOR OF LAW AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LIBRARIAN

Pierce Law's many successful intellectual property graduates from India have made a tremendous impact on their country. There is much to be said about Pierce Law's world-renowned reputation that has brought so many bright students from all corners of India to study intellectual property in New England. Today, Pierce Law also takes its Intellectual Property (IP) programs to India, via telephone lectures by Professor Jeffrey Hawley. These lectures are adapted from Hawley's Patent Law course and will be enhanced later this year by lectures to be offered by Professor Ann McCrackin JD '97.

Bal Das MIP '94 was the first graduate student from India to study at Pierce Law. And since that time, more than 50 students from India have followed him.

Das now serves as the general counsel and head of strategic planning at the InsCap Group. He practiced for over eight years in New York and in Europe at Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP, later serving as special counsel at the New York office of Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft LLP.

Pierce Law graduates lead the way in every IP sector in India. Among them, are the following successful graduates:

Vishal Katariya LLM '01

Vishal Katariya LLM '01 was appointed as the first chair professor of the newly established IPR chair under the aegis of Ministry of Human Resource and Development (MHRD) at University of Pune. "Franklin Pierce Law Center is one of the premier institutes in the United States which imparts intellectual property education. World Intellectual Property Organization officials and nominees for patent offices from many countries prefer to study IP law at this institution," says Katariya. After receiving his LLM, he interned at the Atlanta office of Holland & Knight LLP.

His education and work in the United States enriched his experience, and he returned to India in 2002, where the IP field was still in its infancy. Through networking and traveling globally, he began to lay a foundation for his own law firm. He was later appointed by the CSIR to become the country's youngest chair professor of intellectual property rights at the University of Pune. Katariya's firm, Vishal Katariya & Associates, services both Indian and international clients.

Keshav Dhakad LLM '02

Keshav Dhakad LLM '02 is the head of intellectual property rights (IPR) and license compliance in the Legal and Corporate Affairs Division of Microsoft India in New Delhi. He is responsible for all IPR related legal issues of the company, IP policy and law, including anti-piracy initiatives and enforcement, license compliance, patents and related areas. He also serves as country chair and represents his company on the India Committee of the Business Software Alliance (BSA). As chair, Dhakad works to drive IPR policy and programs, and anti-piracy issues within the government, industry and academia.

Prior to joining Microsoft, Dhakad was a partner at Anand & Anand, New Delhi where he managed the IT and E-commerce Law Department. He was instrumental in obtaining landmark orders including judgments on damages granted by the Delhi High Court against violation of copyrights in software.

Pooja Dodd LLM '02

Pooja Dodd LLM '02 of New Delhi is a partner and head of the Intellectual Property Department at Fox Mandal Little in New Delhi where she manages IP litigation, filing and prosecuting trademark and copyright applications, and preparing opinions on intellectual property issues. Before joining Fox Mandal, Dodd served as a legal intern at law firms in New York and Minnesota. At Bazerman & Drangel, P.C., NY, Dodd prepared strategy for anti-counterfeiting measures, conducted trademark conflict searches, and updated a publication on the impact of the Madrid Protocol on United States trademark practice. As an intern for Abdo, Abdo, Broady & Satorius, PA, Minneapolis, MN, she assisted attorneys on various intellectual property related entertainment issues, as well as filing trademarks.

"The LLM program at Pierce Law gave me an in-depth insight into intellectual property issues which not only prepared me for the kind of work I now handle at my current job, but also prepared me to excel in it," says Dodd.



Dr. Kalyan C. Kankanala LLM '03

Kankanala LLM '03 works in the areas of IP consulting, licensing and training at his firm, the Brain League, located in Bangalore, the IT capital of India. During his career as a consultant, he has worked closely with technology driven companies on IP analysis, audits, collaboration and licensing. He specializes in designing IP processes and framing policies for companies and universities and partners with companies to build their IP culture. Kankanala recently authored a book entitled *Genetic Patent Law and Strategy*, that has proven to be a good guide for those in the field.

“In addition to learning from the best professors in the field, the courses gave me a good blend of theory and practice, which was very useful during the initial stages of my practice,” says Kankanala. The relationships with individuals from different countries, provided the contacts required to provide services to my clients internationally.”

Zakir Thomas MIP '04

Zakir Thomas MIP '04 currently on sabbatical with a fellowship from the government of India, has held many senior governmental positions, including the registrar of copyrights and deputy secretary in the Ministry of Human Resources Development. Thomas has recently been appointed as project director of the Open Source Drug Discovery Project of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) the first initiative of this kind to be instituted by the government of India. Thomas also writes and lectures on Indian and international IP law and policy. He directs Pierce Law's traditional knowledge portal at: <http://www.traditionalknowledge.info>.

“I not only value the academic side of my experience at Pierce Law, but also have benefited immensely from the international mix of the student population,” says Thomas. “I strive to understand other cultures and their processes for managing IP.”

“Pierce Law strengthened my fundamentals in IP law in a professional and progressive way. It is a great institution that I was lucky to attend, where you get to be a part of an international community from across the world. Teachers were most friendly and engaging. The setting of the school is also beautiful and distraction free. I will always consider my stint at FPLC as one of the highlights of my academic journey to a IP lawyer.” – Keshav Dhakad LLM '02

