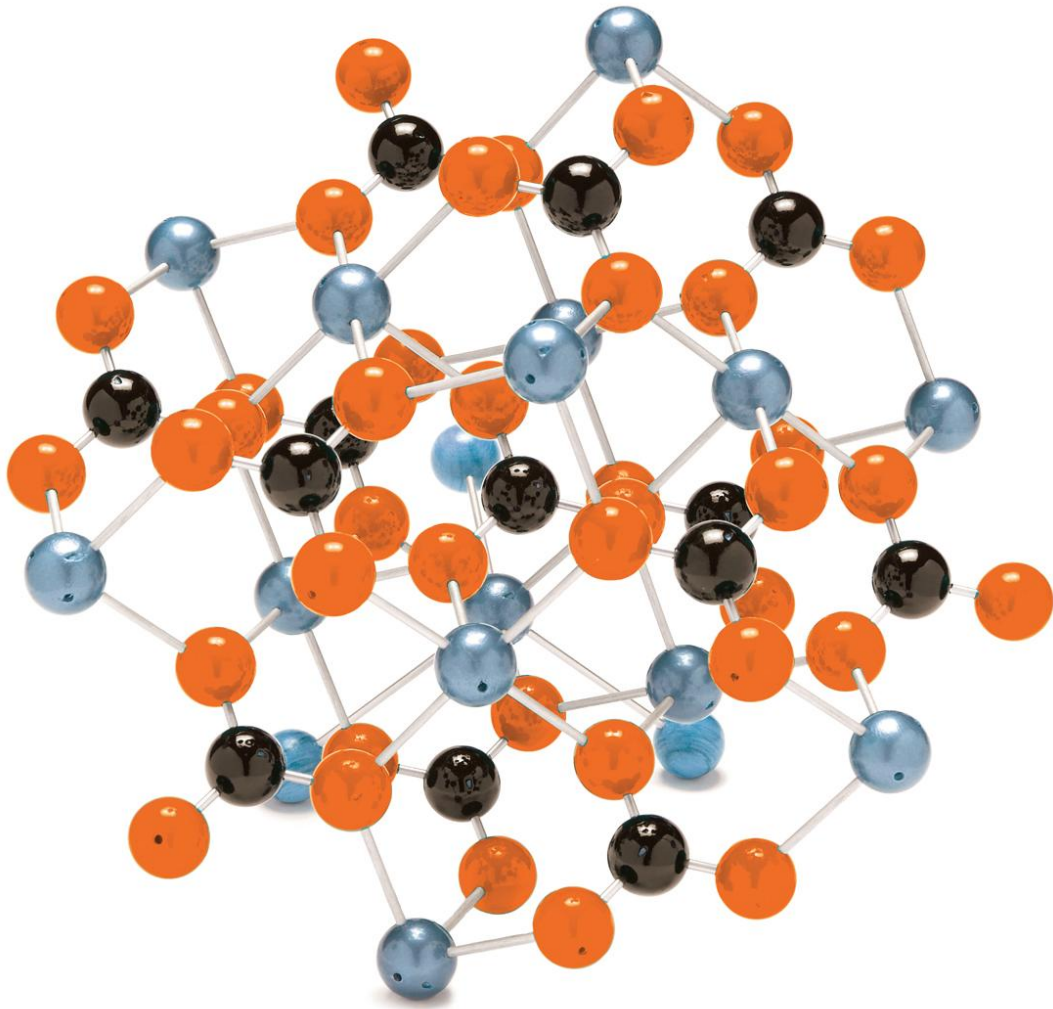

India

Intellectual Property Attorneys



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Introduction

RNA, IP Attorneys is a Prominent intellectual property (IP) law firm with offices in the National Capital Region (Gurgaon) and Chennai.

RNA provides the full range of IP services to a wide range of clients from major multi-national IP owners and users to start-up businesses and individuals.

The firm combines a high level of specialist professional skill with 'on-the-ground' practical know-how of the IP scenario in India, and elsewhere on the sub-continent. Our seamless multi-disciplinary teams made up of lawyers, researchers, patent and trade mark agents, paralegals and IP investigators have expertise and experience in the development and implementation of enforcement programmes; the filing and prosecution of trade mark, copyright, design and patent applications; and all aspects of IP management including due diligence.

We believe that our particular combination of specialist skill and experience, multi-disciplinary capacity and local know-how, enables us to obtain results that would otherwise be difficult to achieve.

Approach

Our exclusive IP focus enables us to maintain a high level of service. We aim to be professional and friendly; recognizing the need to be flexible, open-minded and creative in all areas of business.

Our people are crucial to the way we do business; we invest in and nurture the talents and ambitions of each and every member of our team. This is reflected in the combination of enthusiasm and disciplined work habits that can be found at all levels of our organisation.

Our investment in technology enables us to provide clients with superior means of access to information on the work we do for them, including online databases and bespoke reports.



Services

IPR registration and portfolio management

We provide a full trade mark, design, copyright and patent filing and prosecution service, fully supported by the technology required to meet our clients' service expectations. Key features of our services include: efficiency and reliability using custom designed databases to which our clients can have access, prompt response, comprehensive and clear reporting. Patent, Trademark and Design, searching, filing and registration work is carried out on a fixed-fee basis. We have a great deal of experience working with the Trademarks Registry, Patent office and Intellectual Property Appellate Board and routinely advise large and small businesses, from a wide variety of industries, on the maximisation of their current trade mark portfolios and the selection of new marks.

Our Patent Group combines a solid technical background in various areas such as biotechnology, chemistry, mechanical with patent law expertise and business acumen to provide our clients with the advice they need to stay competitive in the global and regional marketplace. We have particular expertise in life science, plant varieties, biological diversity, bio-prospecting and bio-piracy, and have been advising various governmental agencies on the protection and licensing.

Indian criminal and civil IPR enforcement

We have a team of experienced professionals who specialise in the enforcement of all forms of IP, in each case using the most appropriate means to enforce rights or resolve disputes. The team comprises appropriately qualified lawyers. In addition to litigation in the Courts, we make full use of administrative and other bodies, including Customs and alternative forms of dispute resolution wherever appropriate. We regularly advise clients on matters such as the most appropriate courts for initiating legal action and whether civil or criminal action is a better option, and we provide detailed case management services at all stages of the litigation.

Domain Name Dispute Resolution

Our team has expertise in advising on domain acquisition & dispute resolution through UDRP and INDRP. Our team has successfully handled various domain disputes and regularly advise clients on their domain strategy.

IPR investigations

We have an in-house team of investigators who are regularly involved in tracking counterfeit products to source. The team also conducts commercial IP investigations, particularly in the context of IP audits and due diligence, trade mark investigations and domain name recovery investigations. The investigation and enforcement teams work closely together, utilising market information to meet clients' needs.

Indian Sub-continent regional practice

We manage substantial enforcement and IP registration work in Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka and Maldives. Our extensive IP experience and close relationships with local lawyers and investigators enables us to take effective action in these jurisdictions.

Background

Our business was established in 2004 with the objective of providing commercial solutions to legal problems. We advise on commercial IP issues including licensing, acquisition and disposal, and IP management. We draft all forms of commercial IP documentation and have a substantial patent and trade mark agency business, focusing on the protection, maintenance and renewal of IP rights. Our investigation division provides IP investigation services, supporting both commercial and enforcement work.

Our aim has always been to provide practical and cost effective assistance to our clients in relation to the protection, enforcement and commercialisation of IP rights.

About India

India is the second most populous country in the world. Its vast land mass is home to over one billion people. The liberalisation of the Indian economy in the early 1990's led to a huge increase of investment in every sector, with many multinational companies looking to manufacture and distribute their products in India. Growing consumerism and globalisation have resulted in a great demand for branded goods, both in urban areas and among the rural population. The major commercial activity centres are Delhi, Mumbai (Bombay), Kolkata (Calcutta) and Chennai (Madras). In addition, Bangalore and Hyderabad have emerged as hubs for information technology and biotechnology in the world market place.

In the last five years the Indian government has amended most of its IP legislation to become TRIPS compliant. In making these changes, it has given positive encouragement to foreign investment. The Judiciary has also been adopting a more pragmatic approach towards the protection of well-known international brands, on the basis of international reputation and the spillover of that reputation into India. The last two years have also seen an increase in patent litigation following the availability of 'product patents' in respect of pharmaceuticals. India's pharmaceuticals market is valued at US\$5.7 billion and growing annually at 9%.

Although many states in India have special IP enforcement police units, civil remedies for trade mark infringement and passing-off have, over the years, proved to be quicker and more reliable than criminal remedies. Criminal actions can be useful to create impact through search and seizure followed by publicity which has shown to create deterrent input in the trade. But, in general, slow prosecution, close management and confidentiality issues makes working with the Police a less attractive option.

The challenges of working in India also emanate from cultural diversity. India has 28 states, 22 official languages and 1652 dialects. The key to the country's growth and development lies in the purchasing power of the burgeoning middle class that exists in all these states.

Memberships

We are active in Asia in organisations such as the International Trademark Association (INTA), Asian Patent Attorneys Association (APAA), ASEAN IP Association, World Customs Organization and regularly write for numerous IP-focused publications such as Managing Intellectual Property, World Trademark Law Report, World Trademark Review etc.

We use specialist bespoke client databases to manage IP work; these are available for Online client access.

Fees/Terms of business

We charge fairly and are always willing to give our best estimate of future costs, both at the outset and periodically during the course of a matter. Full details of our fixed fees and hourly rates are available on request.

Following is a general indication of how we charge for our services:

Legal consultancy - hourly rates, which vary according to the seniority of the attorney handling the matter.

Investigation, research and analysis a combination of fixed fees and hourly rates.

Patent, Trademark and Design registration mostly fixed fees. We are prepared to extend discounts to clients with high volume filings.

Standard terms of business

Services are provided on the basis of our standard terms of business, a copy of which is made available to all new clients.



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