



Ajay Bahl
Co-Founder & Managing Partner

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Ajay Bahl is widely recognised as one of India's foremost corporate attorneys. He is also a qualified chartered accountant, which is advantageous in complex, high-profile, legal and tax transactions. Ajay regularly advises clients on investigations into allegations of fraud and misstatements in financial statements and on tax and regulatory filings. He is known for his expertise in structuring, restructuring and transfer pricing-related issues and has been praised by Chambers & Partners Asia-Pacific for his, "sharp commercial mind and ability to lead from the front."

Experience

- Founding Partner, AZB & Partners (2004 – Present)

Key Practice Areas/Sectors

- Corporate / Mergers & Acquisitions
- Dispute Resolution
- Private Client Practice
- Private Equity & Venture Capital
- Regulatory & Securities
- Tax
- Technology, Media & Telecommunications

Recent Work Highlights

The sheer diversity and depth of Ajay's experience, which his clients depend on, applies across practice areas and sectors. They include advisory, tax and tax litigation, dispute resolution, regulatory and policy review, transaction structuring and restructuring, succession planning, change of residential status and overseas relocation planning and implications under different laws including in the country of relocation.

Marquee Clients include Amazon, Discovery, Bain Capital, Dentsu, Varde and ACCA.

Directorships, Memberships & Affiliations

- Chairman, the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Task Force on Judicial Reforms (2021 – 2022, 2020 – 2021 and 2018 – 2019)
- The Study Group constituted for the research project on 'Classification of Errors: An analytical study based on the decisions taken in disciplinary cases' under the aegis of the Research Committee of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) (2020)
- High Level Committee, constituted by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs to prepare the investigation manual for the serious fraud investigation office (2020)
- Company Law Committee, constituted by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Government of India (2019)
- Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Economic Growth and Investments Council (2012 – Present)
- Board of Governors of the Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA), nominated by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Government of India (2017 – Present)

- Appellate Panel, formed by the Institute of Insolvency Professionals of ICAI (IIIPI), set up to address disciplinary issues pertaining to insolvency professionals (2017 – Present)
- Committee to review the offences under the Companies Act, 2013, constituted by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Government of India (2018)
- Committee to simplify the provisions of the Income Tax Act, 1961, constituted by the Ministry of Finance, Government of India (2015)
- Bar Council of Delhi (1985)

Professional Qualifications

- Bachelor of Law, University of Delhi (1985)
- Chartered Accountant, Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (1978)

Recognized as an 'Eminent Practitioner' (2019 – 2025), a 'Senior Statesman' (2016 – 2018) for Corporate / M&A by Chambers Global

Recognized as an 'Eminent Practitioner' (2016 – 2026) for Corporate / M&A; an 'Eminent Practitioner' (2016 & 2019 – 2026) and a 'Senior Statesman' (2017 & 2018) for Private Equity; 'Eminent Practitioner' (2022 – 2026) for Tax; and a 'Band 2' lawyer for Tax (2015 – 2020) by Chambers Asia-Pacific

Recommended for Litigation (2017), Tax (2017 & 2019), Transactional (2017) and Regulatory Advice (2019) in the RSG India Report

Recognized as 'Highly Regarded' for M&A and Private Equity by IFLR1000 (2018 – 2025)

Recognized as an 'Elite Practitioner' for Corporate / M&A, Private Equity and Tax (2020 – 2025) and 'Market Leading Lawyer' for Corporate / M&A (2016 – 2019) by Asialaw Profiles

Inducted into the 'Hall of Fame' for Corporate/M&A and Tax by Legal 500 Asia Pacific (2021 – 2025)

Named a 'Leading Individual' for Corporate/M&A and Tax (2011 – 2020) and 'Recommended Lawyer' for Private Equity & Investment Funds (2021 – 2025) and Private Client Practice (2021 – 2024) by Legal 500 Asia Pacific

Recognized as 'EG Tax Leading Advisor' by ITR World Tax (2023)

Recognized as a 'Litigation Star of the Year' by Benchmark Litigation Asia Pacific (2020)

Recognized as a 'Thought Leader' for M&A and Recommended for Corporate Governance by Lexology Index (2025)

Recommended for M&A and Governance (2024), Named a 'Thought Leader Global Elite' for M&A (2021), Thought Leaders – Firm Management (2021), Recommended for Corporate Governance and M&A (2021), 'Thought Leader' for Corporate Governance and M&A (2019 – 2020), Thought Leader – India (2020), Recommended for Corporate Tax-Controversy (2020), 'Leading Practitioner' for M&A, Governance (2013 – 2019) and Corporate Tax (2019 – 2020) by the International Who's Who Legal

Featured in IBLJ's 'A-List of India's Top 100 Lawyers' (2015 – 2024)

Named a Leading Lawyer Champion for Private Equity and Tax (2022) and 'Leading Lawyer Legend' for Corporate/ M&A (2023) in the Legal Era Leading Lawyer Rankings
