



Zia J. Mody
Co-Founder & Managing Partner

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Zia J. Mody, Co-Founder and Managing Partner of AZB & Partners, is one of India's foremost corporate attorneys. Zia is widely acknowledged for her expertise, ranking No. 1 in Fortune India's 'India's 50 Most Powerful Women in Business' list in 2018 & 2019 on which she has consistently ranked in the top 20 since 2011. According to the RSG India Report, clients praise Zia as a "problem solver," who is "meticulous," "thorough" and "accessible," and comes highly recommended for "any complex legal matter." Zia is dually licensed to practice law in India and the United States, holding an LL.M. from Harvard and having passed the New York State bar.

Experience

- Founder and Managing Partner, AZB & Partners (2004 – Present)

Key Practice Areas

- Compliance & Investigation / White-Collar Crime
- Corporate / Mergers & Acquisitions
- Dispute Resolution
- Private Client Practice
- Private Equity & Venture Capital
- Regulatory & Securities

Recent Work Highlights

- HDFC Limited on its US\$ 61 billion merger with HDFC Bank Limited
- Reliance Industries Limited – Jio Platforms on a series of 14 investments from 13 leading global investors, including Facebook, Google, Silver Lake Partners, General Atlantic, KKR, Vista Equity Partners and TPG, the largest FDI transaction into India, amounting to over US\$ 20 billion
- Tata Steel on its US\$ 7.4 billion acquisition of Bhushan Steel, the first resolution of a large defaulter under the Insolvency & Bankruptcy Code
- Larsen & Toubro on its majority share purchase of Mindtree for US\$ 1.5 billion
- Citibank on the sale of its Indian consumer business to Axis Bank for US\$ 1.6 billion
- Total Group on its acquisition in and joint control of Adani Gas for US\$ 850 million
- Advent International on its majority stake acquisition of Bharat Serums and Vaccines
- Carlyle on its largest control deal in India, where it acquired 74% in SeQuent Scientific for US\$ 210 million

Directorships, Memberships & Affiliations

- Member, Maharashtra's Economic Advisory Council (2023)
- Independent Director (2018 – Present), Member of Audit & Risk Committee (2018 – Present) and Member of Investment Committee (2019 – Present)– Ascendas Property Fund Trustee Pte. Ltd., Singapore
- Non-Executive Member of the Governing Board – International Council for Commercial Arbitration (ICCA) (2017 – Present)

- Member – CII National Council (2015 – Present)
- Independent Non-Executive Director and Member of Human Resources & Remuneration Committee of the Board – China Light and Power Holdings Limited , Hong Kong (2015 – 2024)
- Special Invitee – Competition Law Review Committee set up by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (2018)
- Member – Committee on Corporate Governance formed by SEBI, under the chairmanship of Uday Kotak (2017)
- Expert Committee Panel – Law Commission of India on ‘Amendment to the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996’ (2014)
- Vice President & Member – London Court of International Arbitration (LCIA) (2010 – 2013)
- Member – World Bank Administrative Tribunal, Washington D.C. (2007 – 2012)
- Member – Reserve Bank of India Committee on Comprehensive Financial Services for Small Businesses and Low-Income Households, chaired by Dr. Nachiket Mor (2013)
- Member – Godrej Committee on Corporate Governance, set up by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (2012)
- Member – Raghuram Rajan Committee on Financial Sector Reforms, constituted by the Government of India (2007)
- Honorary Fellow, Selwyn College, University of Cambridge (2019 – Present)

Professional Qualifications

- New York State Bar Association (1980)
- LL.M., Harvard Law School, USA (1979)
- Bachelor of Arts (Law), Selwyn College, Cambridge University, UK (1978)
- Bar Council of Maharashtra & Goa (1978)

Recommended for any complex legal matter (2019) and for M&A, Securities Law, Private Equity and Project Finance (2017) by the RSG India Report

Recognized as an ‘Eminent Practitioner’ (2023 – 2025) and ‘Star Individual’ (2012 – 2022) for Corporate / M&A by Chambers Global

Recognized as an ‘Eminent Practitioner’ (2023 – 2025), ‘Star Individual’ (2018 – 2022) for Corporate / M&A and an ‘Eminent Practitioner’ for Private Equity by Chambers Asia-Pacific (2018 – 2025)

Eminent Practitioner (2022 – 2024) and Ranked (2021) for Private Wealth Law in the Chambers High Net Worth Guide

Recognized as a ‘Market Leader’ for M&A (2017 – 2024) and Private Equity (2024) by IFLR1000

Named to the ‘IFLR1000 Women Leaders’ list, in recognition of Zia’s contribution to the field of M&A (2020 – 2024) and Private Equity (2024)

Recognized as an ‘Elite Practitioner’ for Corporate / M&A and Private Equity by Asialaw Profiles (2020 – 2024)

Inducted into the ‘Hall of Fame’ for Corporate and M&A (2020 – 2025) and Private Equity Funds (Including Venture Capital) (2025) by Legal 500 Asia Pacific

Named to the ‘A List of Top 100 Lawyers & 50 Legal Icons’ published by the India Business Law Journal (2014 – 2025)

Featured in ‘Super 30 - Most Influential Law Firm Professionals’ by LawWiser (2024)

Featured in ‘Hall of Fame: 100 Most Influential Women in Law’ by BW Legal World (2024)

Awarded ‘Asian Law Firm Leader of the Year’ at the Asia Legal Awards (2024)

Named ‘Woman Lawyer of the Year’ by ALB India Law Awards (2021)

Recognized as one of ‘Asia’s Best Lawyers’ by IFLR1000 (2020 – 2021)

Awarded ‘Freedom of the City’ honor by the City of London Corporation (2020)

Recognized as 'Leading Individual' for Private Equity & Investment Funds (2021 – 2024), Corporate/M&A and Investment Funds (2020), Banking & Finance, Corporate/M&A, and Investment Funds (2013 – 2016 & 2018 – 2019) and Recommended Lawyer for Private Client Practice (2022 – 2024) and White-Collar Crime (2021 – 2023 & 2025) by Legal 500 Asia Pacific

Awarded 'Woman Lawyer of the Year at a Law Firm' at the Asian Legal Business India Law Awards (2019)

Awarded 'Corporate Governance Lawyer of the Year' by Who's Who Legal (2022)

Received Special Jury Recognition as 'Leader of the Year' at the News Corp VCCircle Awards (2019)

Recognized as a 'Thought Leaders – India' for Commercial Litigation, Corporate Governance, M&A and Project Finance (2023 - 2024), 'Leading Professional' for M&A and Governance (2022), 'Global Elite Thought Leader' for Corporate Governance (2021, 2024) and M&A (2021), Thought Leader for Litigation (2021), 'Global Leader' for Arbitration and Project Finance (2021) and Litigation (2020), Selected as 'the world's highest-ranking Project Finance lawyers' (2020); 'Thought Leader – Global Elite' for M&A and Governance (2019 – 2020); and 'World's Leading Practitioner' for Litigation (2016 – 2021), M&A (2008 – 2020), Corporate Governance (2012 – 2020) and Project Finance (2019 – 2020) by the International Who's Who Legal

Recognized amongst the '300 Leading Female Transactional Experts' list published by IFLR1000 Women Leaders (2018 – 2019)

Awarded 'Lawyer of the Year' for M&A (2020 – 2021) and 'Legal Icon of the Year' (2018 – 2019) at the Legal Era Awards

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

Recognized as a 'Market Leading Lawyer' for Corporate / M&A by Asialaw Leading Lawyers (2016 – 2019)

Recognized as one of 'India's Most Influential Women Leaders' by Businessworld (2019)

Awarded 'Professional of the Year' at the inaugural UK India Awards (2017)
