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With over 20 years of work experience, Soumit G. Nikhra co-heads AZB & Partners' Compliance & Investigation Practice. He is a qualified Chartered Accountant with a Masters in Economics and Bachelors in Commerce. Prior to joining AZB, Soumit worked in the Forensics / Risk Advisory department of the Big Four accounting firms. Being a seasoned professional, Soumit regularly advises domestic / international organizations on their complex, internal corporate investigations, involving fraud, bribery, corruption, financial misstatement, infringement of IPRs and anti-trust matters. Additionally, he assists his clients with regulatory disclosure requirements resulting from investigations, instituting ABAC compliance frameworks, conducting proactive fraud risk assessments, conducting training / awareness programs on bribery and corruption, as well as pre-investment diligence and background checks.

Experience

- Practice Head – Compliance and Investigation Practice, AZB & Partners (2018 – Present)

Key Practice Areas

- Compliance & Investigation / White-Collar Crime

Recent Work Highlights

- A Global Life Science Manufacturing Company on a forensic investigation with respect to bribery and corruption allegations
- A Global Private Equity Firms on anti-bribery and anti-corruption due diligence, background checks and forensic reviews of investee companies
- A Global Pipe Manufacturing Company on a regulatory investigation of allegations regarding improper payments to government officials
- A Global Footwear Manufacturing Company on an anti-counterfeit investigation into, and subsequent litigation on, counterfeiting of its Indian products
- A US-based large medical coding company in investigating a large-scale data breach incident in relation to its Indian subsidiary
- An Investment Banking and Asset Management Company on whistle blower allegations of employees involved in front-running and tipping stockbrokers and acquaintances

Professional Qualifications

- Masters in Economics (MA Eco), University of Pune (2010)
- Chartered Accountant, Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) (2005)
- Bachelor of Commerce (B Com), University of Pune (2001)

Leading Partner (2025), Leading Lawyer (2022 – 2024) and Recommended (2021) for White-Collar Crime by Legal 500 Asia Pacific

Named a Leading Champion for White-Collar Crime in the Legal Era Rankings (2022)
