



Onkar Sharma

Partner

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Practices:

Indirect Tax
Alco-Bev laws

Education:

B.A., LL.B. (Hons.), Gujarat
National Law University,
Gandhi Nagar (2011)

Professional Affiliations:

Bar Council of Delhi

Onkar is a lawyer with nearly 12 years of experience, specializing in advisory, investigations, litigations (across all levels), tax optimization and allied aspects apropos indirect taxes (Including GST, customs, pre-GST indirect taxes, State Excise laws affecting alcoholic beverages sector).

Onkar works with clients across a wide range of sectors spanning new economy sectors like online gaming, crypto/NFTs, metaverse, e-commerce etc. as well as traditional sectors like alcoholic beverages, automobile, oil & gas, metal, renewable energy, etc. He is a trusted advisor to reputed clients like Diageo/ USL, Beam India, AbinBev, Gameskraft Technologies, GSPL, HCC, BPCL, BALCO, Vedanta Ltd, etc.

Onkar has been deeply involved in many high-profile GST, VAT and state excise litigations and has conceptualized and filed several precedent-setting writ petitions on various tax issues for various Indian and MNC clients. He is currently handling 2 of the biggest litigations in the history of indirect taxes in India:

- He has been instrumental in obtaining and repeatedly defended favorable interim orders from Delhi High Court and Andhra Pradesh High Court in a Rs 60,000 crore (around 7.8. Billion USD) matter for 20 banks in a service tax/GST issue affecting the whole banking sector.
- A Rs 21,000 crore (around US\$ 2.5 Billion) GST matter affecting the entire online gaming sector in India, before Karnataka High Court

Onkar has also represented various multinational companies in excise, custom, service tax and VAT matters and argued before various adjudicating and appellate forums in India including CESTAT, High Courts and the Supreme Court of India.

On the advisory side, Onkar renders transactional support to the M&A team in form of indirect tax due diligence, review of

necessary documentation from an indirect tax perspective and structuring/ restructuring of operating models to make them tax efficient.

Onkar has been instrumental in undertaking GST impact assessment and implementation for various clients in the mining, oil & gas and FMCG and providing end to end GST solutions.

He was instrumental in carrying out the GST assignment for the Uttarakhand State Government and had the privilege to conduct multiple training sessions and awareness program for the State Officials including Commissioners, Deputy Commissioners, Superintendents and other staff members and the industry associations and consumers at Dehradun, Haridwar, Rudrapur, Haldwani and Roorkee which also included assessment of the officials at the end of the training session.

Onkar regularly speaks at various prestigious conferences and has moderated panels on key indirect tax issues.

International Experience

Onkar in his earlier stint was seconded to KPMG Lower Gulf in Dubai for providing support to the VAT team in Dubai in the year 2017 on account of the impending VAT implementation (implemented in 2018) and successfully delivered on key mandates which included conducting VAT training sessions for companies in the FMCG sector, financial sector and other general training session at Dubai Financial Center, etc.

Onkar led the VAT impact assessment and implementation team for one of the largest conglomerates in the Gulf region, consisting of 28 entities in more than 15 sectors across Kuwait, Bahrain, UAE and India. He conducted more than 15 training sessions all over Kuwait and Lower Gulf in connection to this assignment and drafted qualitative and financial VAT impact assessment reports for 22 entities – 15 sectors and prepared VAT implementation plan and training modules.