

2023 - 2024

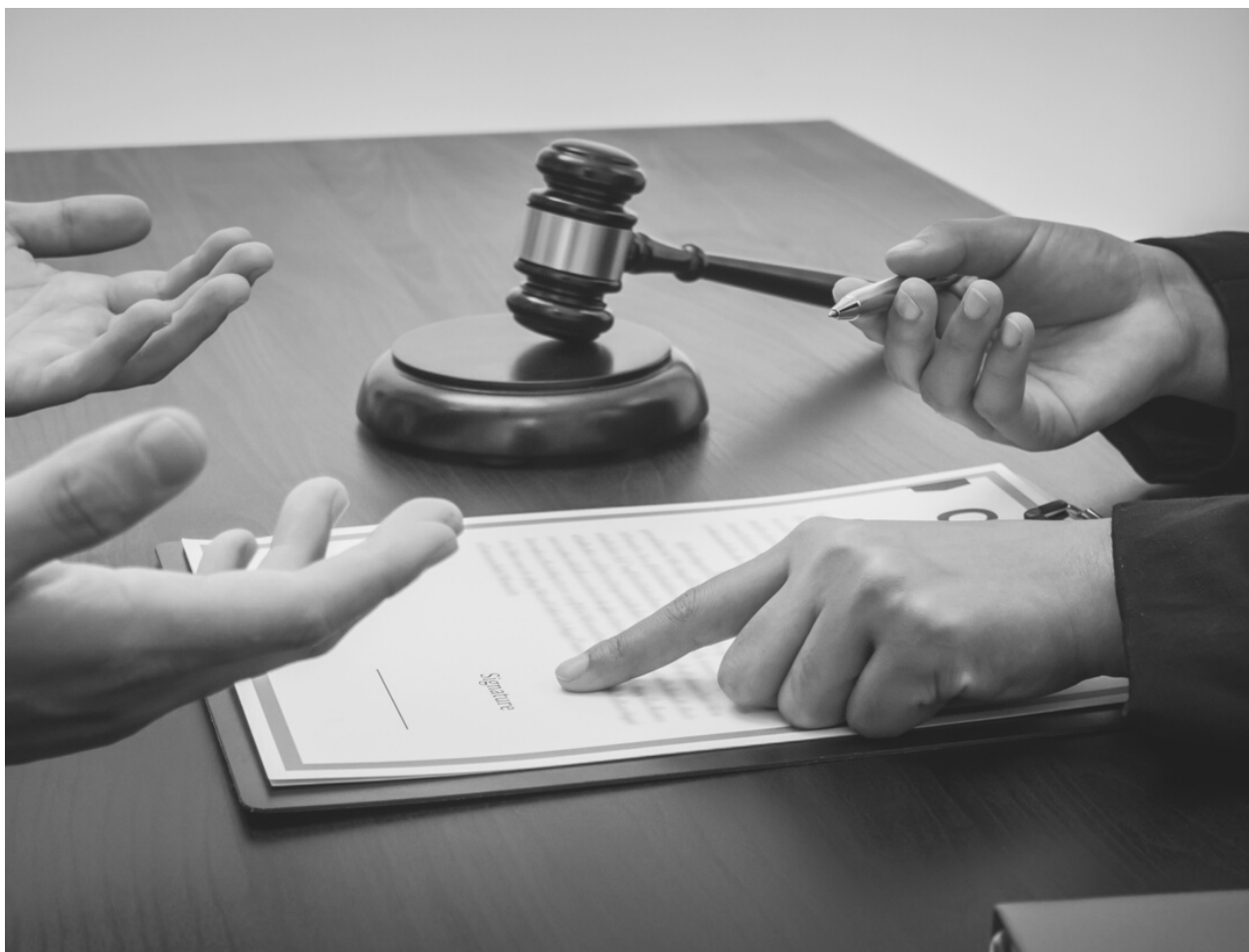


# CIRCLE OF COUNSELS

ADVOCATES & SOLICITORS

[www.circleofcounsels.com](http://www.circleofcounsels.com)

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Delhi 110021



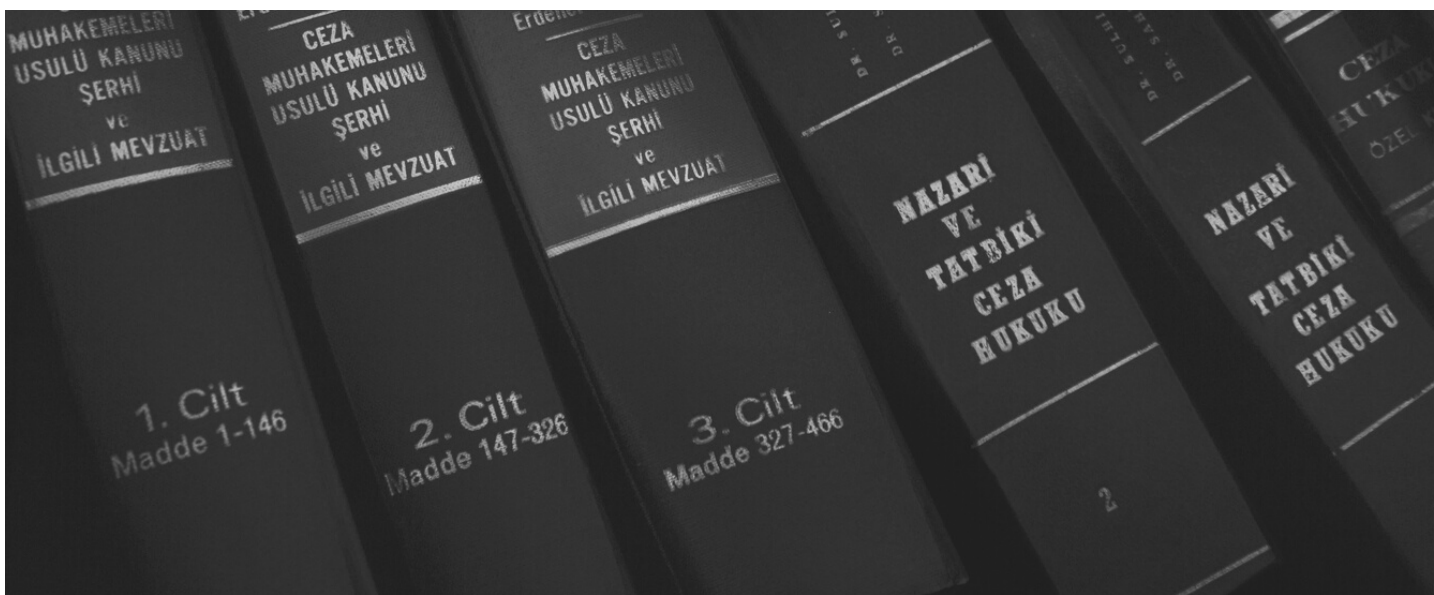
## ABOUT US

Circle of Counsels is a leading law firm established by union of reputed and seasoned professionals with decades of experience in various practice areas, including white collar defence, foreign exchange management laws, insolvency & bankruptcy, cyber crime defence & advisory corporate-commercial disputes, internal investigations, anti-corruption, regulatory & compliance, litigation and blockchain & cryptocurrency advisory.

We pioneer in advisory and dispute resolution process across industry sectors, with a pan-India practice. We frequently advise and represent our clients in some of the most complex and difficult domestic and multi-jurisdictional issues, providing creative and original solutions by drawing from our leadership's rich and diverse experience.

At Circle of Counsels, we provide our clients with meticulous and practical strategies to deliver the greatest impact and value, critical to achieving the objectives of our clients. We are veteran strategists who excel at providing legal defence and calculated solutions to our clients.

We pride ourselves in our inclusive and approachable way of working, and ability to understand and reduce complex issues into simpler holistic solutions. We believe in the power of teams and synergies to give effective advice to our clients and develop commercial and effective solutions to secure optimum outcomes.





## OUR STRENGTHS

At Circle of Counsels, we provide our clients with meticulous and practical strategies to deliver the greatest impact and value, critical to achieving the objectives of our clients. We are veteran strategists who excel at providing legal defence and calculated solutions to our clients. Our team consists of distinguished litigators who are proficient at navigating investigations and do not shy away from representing clients at trials and before appellate Courts & Tribunals if the need arises.





# LEADERSHIP



**KARNAL SINGH**

Chairman & Managing Partner



**VIKRAM SINGH**

Senior Partner &  
Head of Litigation



**JASMINE DAMKEWALA**

Senior Partner



**RUSSELL A. STAMETS**

Partner



**ARCHIT SINGH**

Partner



## KARNAL SINGH

*Chairman & Managing Partner*

Karnal Singh is the driving force behind the dispute resolution practice at Circle of Counsels. He specializes in advising clients and formulating intricate strategies for some of the most complex and challenging litigations in the country. He is an ex-IPS officer who retired as the Chief of the Enforcement Directorate where he dealt extensively with investigations pertaining to white-collar crimes. He advises clients, on anti-money laundering, anti-corruption, Insolvency & bankruptcy, restructuring, compliance, economic crime defense, issues related to cryptocurrency & blockchain technology, cyber-crime & cyber security, and investigations.

With over three decades of distinguished years of experience being an IPS officer, Karnal has extensive knowledge of governance, anti-money laundering investigations, foreign exchange regulation, and criminal investigations. His long tenure as a decorated IPS officer has been commended by the government with distinguished medals like President Police Medal for Distinguished Service in 2008, President Police Medal for Meritorious Service in 2002 and Satyendra K. Dubey Memorial Award in 2021 which was given by IIT Kanpur to recognize his exemplary service to humanity while serving as an IPS officer.

During his tenure as the Director of the Enforcement Directorate, he also held an additional charge as Director of the Financial Investigation Unit of India (FIU) and contributed to the preparation of the draft Fugitive Economic Offenders Act. Karnal also represented the Government of India before the Financial Action Task Force and Interpol. He led investigations under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act relating to the 2G scam, Vijay Mallya, Nirav Modi, Bank of Baroda, Augusta Westland, Panama paper leaks, bank frauds, coal blocks, and iron ore, and cases under Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA). Karnal Singh also led the Special Cell of Delhi Police which cracked several terrorism cases during his leadership.

The experience of Karnal as a civil servant brings in the viewpoint of an investigations expert and enables him to impart unique and critical strategic advice to tackle investigations and trials led by various enforcement agencies and provide guidance to clients in relation to compliance requirements.

Karnal often writes articles and is invited to speak at various seminars, public events & conferences on topics pertaining to anti-corruption, anti-money laundering, the foreign exchange management act and leadership. He has also authored the books – Batla House: an encounter that shook the nation and Internal Security





## VIKRAM SINGH

*Senior Partner & Head of Litigation*

Vikram Singh began to practise law in 2001. Graduating from St. Stephen's College, Campus Law Centre (Delhi University), he completed his master's from England. Vikram previously spearheaded his firm Law People for over a decade and now leads the dispute resolution practice at Circle of Counsels. From the launch, he found himself drawn to litigation, trials, investigations, and defence work. He has extensive experience in defending depositions and concentrates on conducting investigations and trials. Vikram has more than two decades of experience in the legal profession, which spans across a wide spectrum, including expertise in Dispute Resolution, Investigations, Fraud Detection, Economic Offenses, Anti-Money Laundering, Anti-Corruption, Foreign Exchange Management Laws, National Security Act, Real-Estate and General Criminal Law Trials including Insolvency and Bankruptcy and Domestic and International Arbitration.

Vikram has led several cases, advising and representing clients during inquiries, investigations and before the Courts in matters involving the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), Enforcement Directorate (ED), Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO), Internal Security, Economic Offense Wing (EOW), National Investigation Agency (NIA), Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO) and other investigation agencies.



Prominent cases of investigation and trials include 2G Spectrum, Coal-Gate, Augusta-Westland, Satyam, Kingfisher Airlines, P Chidambaram, Seagate Technologies, Rolls Royce PLC UK, Rheinmetall, Sumitomo, GAP, Thermofisher Inc, Boeing, Johnson Controls, Richemont ZTE, A. Lange & Sohne, Grant Thornton, Shaft Sinkers Mauritius, and among many other fortune 100 corporations. Such cases have contributed extensively to the evolution of law and practice of anti-money laundering and economic offences in the country.

Vikram has attained numerous credits in representing clients in civil and criminal disputes, before the Trial Courts and High Courts of several states across India and also before the Supreme Court of India. Vikram is frequently engaged by clients for representation before Domestic and International Arbitral Tribunals, Debt Recovery Tribunals and National Company Law Tribunals. He has also been appointed as court commissioner by the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi to execute complex commissions across India for companies such as Nestle, and Microsoft, among others. Vikram has also been on the board of the Delhi Legal Aid Service Authority and has actively participated in the recruitment of Legal Aid Counsels and has contributed many years to the cause of the Delhi Legal Aid Service Authority.





# JASMINE DAMKEWALA

*Senior Partner*

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Jasmine is a senior partner at Circle of Counsels and is part of the firm's dispute practice. Jasmine has over two decades of experience and leads the firm's Civil and Corporate Commercial Litigation Practice. She holds expertise in managing a diverse portfolio while specialising in Commercial Litigation, Insolvency & Bankruptcy laws, Arbitrations, Company Law related compliance & disputes and Employment Law.

Jasmine is an Advocate on Record on the rolls of the Supreme Court of India and practices across all major forums with a focus on disputes before the Supreme Court of India. She has also handled arbitrations for domestic and multinational clients. Jasmine is also an empanelled Arbitrator at the prestigious Delhi High Court International Arbitration Centre.

Jasmine's practice has accumulated a vast experience in dispute resolution and she routinely handles high profile and complex disputes, in sectors ranging from aviation, banking, construction, fintech, information technology & telecom, real-estate and pharmaceutical to name a few. With over two decades of experience.

Jasmine ably imparts strategic inputs and unique insights in matters which is frequently appreciated by clients.



## RUSSELL A. STAMETS

### *Partner*

Russell A. Stamets is an Indian advocate and U.S. lawyer with distinctive experience helping foreign companies navigate the intricacies of doing business in India and Indian promoters and companies at home and abroad. He routinely advises entrepreneurs, companies and individuals on commercial transactions, market entry planning, state and central government relations, regulatory issues and all types of dispute resolution, from arbitration to white collar crime investigations. Mr. Stamets focuses on practical, reality based solutions to help advance and protect clients in the attractive and challenging Indian market.

Mr. Stamets has particular expertise in compliance matters including investigations and litigation concerning the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, World Bank integrity investigations and similar anti-corruption investigations involving corporate bodies. He writes and speak frequently on the subject internationally and is a contributing editor to the FCPABlog, the most widely read electronic resource for integrity and compliance.

Mr. Stamets brings more than 15 years of diverse legal experience in international business and financial transactions in Asia and the United States. Mr. Stamets is a keen left-handed opening batsman and the Founder President of the American Cricket Club of India.



# ARCHIT SINGH

*Partner*

Archit Singh is part of our dispute resolution team. Archit's practice focuses on White Collar Defence, Anti-Money Laundering, Anti-Corruption and Insolvency & Bankruptcy advisory and practice. In addition, he has extensive knowledge in the field of Foreign Exchange Management laws as well as Commercial Litigation. Prior to joining the firm Archit has also worked as a clerk with a judge at the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.





# KEY AREAS OF EXPERTISE

## (Indicative List)



### White Collar Crime Defence

- Advising and representing a health insurance company in investigation under Prevention of Corruption Act and Prevention of Money Laundering Act.
- Advising a leading pharmaceutical company on investigation against them under Customs Act.
- Advising a leading fintech company in their investigation under general criminal laws pertaining to economic offences and under Prevention of Money Laundering Act.
- Advised and represented a leading road constructions company in investigations under Prevention of Corruption Act and Prevention of Money Laundering Act.
- Advised a leading liquor wholesaler in a case pertaining to Prevention of Corruption Act and Prevention of Money Laundering Act.
- Advising a leading payment gateway in investigations and litigation by ED, SFIO and local police.
- Advising and representing a leading U.K. based company in the energy and defence sector, in investigations under Prevention of Corruption Act and Prevention of Money Laundering Act in India.





## **Compliance & Investigations**

- Advised a unicorn fintech start-up on their policy formulations and compliances.
- Represented Indian company in the market's first acquisition of a multi-billion-dollar U.S. asset manager, including Indian regulatory approval for the transaction
- Advised Indian private equity fund on direct investments in life science and technology companies in India and the United States
- Advised Indonesian tire manufacturer on acquisition in Thailand and IP dispute in Korea
- Represented U.S. offshore oil and gas support company in negotiations with Indian exploration company



## **Commercial Litigation**

- Represented a global investor services and credit rating corporation in a defamation suit by a financial services company before the High Court of Bombay.
- Advising and representing the Indian subsidiary of a global conglomerate in the energy sector in several litigations and arbitrations.
- Represented U.S.-based media and educational company in commercial and IP litigation across India
- Advised Indonesian tire manufacturer on acquisition in Thailand and IP dispute in Korea
- Represented U.S. offshore oil and gas support company in negotiations with Indian exploration company.



## **Foreign Exchange Management Laws**

- Advised and represented a company engaged in money transfer service on their investigation under Foreign Exchange Management Act.
- Advised a crypto-currency exchange on investigation under Foreign Exchange Management Act
- Advised an NBFC on policy issues concerning Foreign Exchange Management Act, issues pertaining to Prevention of Money Launder Act and general criminal law
- Led a multinational e-commerce company on their strategy to deal with investigation under Foreign Exchange Management Act
- Advised an HNI on complex issues pertaining to inheritance and Foreign Exchange Management Laws.



## **Insolvency and Bankruptcy**

- Advised and represented an Asset Reconstruction Company before the NCLT for its claims against debtors.
- Advising and formulating strategies for an Education company for claims against it before the NCLT.
- Advised Resolution Professionals on various interplays between the Insolvency & Bankruptcy Act and Prevention of Money Laundering Act.
- Advised successful resolution applicants on post CIRP claims by creditors to the subject company.
- Successfully assailed the order of the NCLAT, before the Hon'ble Supreme Court in favour of IIFC where it was held by the Supreme Court that the financial creditors / lender Banks of one debtor cannot be considered as the Financial Creditors of another company offering mortgage as Guarantor



## Land and Real-Estate Laws

- Advised and represented a renowned real-estate developer in various land acquisitions licensing and retail.
- Advised and represented a South-African mining company in their litigations in India.
- Advised and represented leading real-estate developers in the affordable group housing and townships sectors.
- Negotiated hotel operation agreements on behalf of owners with leading hotel operators.
- Represented clients before revenue courts and advised them under land reforms and acquisition laws.
- Advised and conducted land related due diligence across various sectors for clients seeking consolidation of land in India.







## OTHER PRACTICE AREAS

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- Governance & Ethics
- White Collar Crime Defence
- Anti-Money Laundering
- Anti-Corruption
- Compliance & Internal Investigation
- Anti Trust / Competition Law
- Foreign Exchange Management Laws
- Blockchain & Cryptocurrency Advisory
- Cybercrime, Cyber Security & IT
- Law of Crimes
- Real Estate
- Commercial Litigation & Civil Litigation
- Domestic & International Arbitration
- Restructuring, Banking & Insolvency
- Media & Intellectual Property Litigation
- Corporate Finance



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