



Ms. Melanie D'Souza

Program: International Intellectual Property Law

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Ms. D'Souza comes from Mumbai, India, with a bachelor's degree from the Government Law College, University of Mumbai. Ms. D'Souza's core area of work is civil litigation specializing in commercial litigation, product liability and employment issues.

Prior to coming to Chicago Kent, Ms. D'Souza established an independent practice at the High Court in Mumbai in Civil Litigation attached to the Chamber of Chander Uday Singh. From September 2001 till October 2006, Ms. D'Souza independently handled admission and final hearings at the High Court in Mumbai after being selected by leading solicitor firms in Mumbai to represent major corporations in India. During this time, Ms. Dsouza has worked on several environmental public interest concerns that were litigated in the High Court.

In November 2006, Ms D'Souza joined India's largest corporation, Reliance Industries Limited, where she was appointed as Lead Litigation Counsel. With this assignment, Ms. D'Souza worked on initial corporate structuring, regulatory compliance issues for a large business entity, and business agreements related to the on newly developed business strategy of the retail business. In almost two years with Reliance Industries, Ms. D'Souza managed a portfolio of Retail Litigation on an all-India level, including civil suits, criminal complaints and commercial litigation.

Ms. D'Souza is a member of the Bar Council of Maharashtra & Goa, India since 2001. She is actively involved in Chicago Kent, as the LL.M. representative of the Intellectual Property Law Society. Ms.D'souza has also been named Fellow for the 2009 Chicago IP Colloquium to be held in the Spring.

Ms. D'Souza speaks English, Hindi, Mharati and Gujarati