



PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

A highly skilled and experienced corporate commercial lawyer with 29 years of experience working with public and private companies and financial institutions in developed and emerging markets. I have been recognized by multiple clients as an expert in legal due diligence and structuring, drafting, negotiation and closing of complex commercial matters in the areas of mergers & acquisitions, private equity, venture capital, trade finance, structured project finance and international investments

SKILLS

Business acumen	Key client relationships
Problem-solving	Coordination
Teamwork	Legal service supervision
Excellent communication and interpersonal skills	

EXPERIENCE

Founder and Legal Consultant, Sonal Raval Advocate practicing as an advocate and legal consultant, Jan 2018 - Current

- Founded and managed a highly successful law firm specializing in various areas of law, including arbitration and civil litigation, banking and securities, corporate and commercial law, conveyancing, company secretarial services, data protection audits and compliance, e-commerce, employment law, family trusts, immigration law, intellectual property, mergers and acquisitions, private matters (wills, probate, trust law, offshore tax planning), and real estate developments
- Managed and supervised a team of legal professionals, ensuring efficient and effective delivery of legal services to clients
- Developed and implemented legal strategies and solutions for clients, resulting in favorable outcomes in complex legal matters and disputes
- Established and maintained strong relationships with clients, resulting in a high retention rate and numerous referrals
- Participated in pro bono legal work, providing legal representation and advice to disadvantaged individuals and organizations
- Implemented and leveraged technology solutions to enhance the delivery of legal services, resulting in increased efficiency and improved client satisfaction
- Developed and implemented a system to streamline the company secretarial process, resulting in a reduction in turnaround time
- Advised clients on regulatory compliance, data protection, and privacy laws in

connection with the use of emerging technologies.

- Analyzed complex legal issues and provided practical solutions that aligned with clients' business objectives
- Conducted legal research to stay up-to-date with new laws and regulations, and advised clients accordingly
- Built strong relationships with clients, colleagues, and stakeholders, resulting in repeat business and referrals.

Partner, (Partner) Raffman Dhanji, Elms and Virdee Advocates , Jan 2011 - Jan 2018

- Led a team in successfully completing a company restructuring, involving the transfer of business and employees between associated companies, resulting in a more efficient organizational structure
- Managed and supervised the team ensuring due diligence exercises for mergers of private firms in the UK and Africa, were successfully conducted resulting in successful transactions and compliance with legal requirements
- Oversaw legal transactions being undertaken by the firm for takeovers by international and offshore companies in Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania, that resulted in successful acquisitions
- Managed and supervised a team of legal professionals, in an estate development of sixty units, that resulted in successful completion of the project and satisfied clients.

Founding Partner, Havelock Muriuki & Raval Advocates , Jan 2005 - Dec 2010 Kenya

- Led a team of junior lawyers in advising clients on complex legal matters, including fintech regulatory compliance and cross-border transactions
- Provided legal opinions and recommendations to clients based on extensive legal knowledge and expertise
- Drafted and negotiated complex commercial agreements, including licensing and distribution agreements
- Conducted due diligence in connection with mergers and acquisitions and advised clients on potential legal risks and liabilities
- Mentored and trained junior lawyers, resulting in increased productivity and efficiency
- Managed a portfolio of high-profile clients in the fintech industry, providing legal advice and solutions that helped clients achieve their business objectives
- Negotiated and drafted complex commercial agreements, including joint venture agreements and technology licensing agreements
- Worked closely with clients' senior management teams to understand their business needs and provide legal solutions that aligned with their objectives.

Partner, Daly & Figgis Advocates Daly & Figgis Advocates , Jan 1994 - Dec 2004

- Successfully handled and closed real estate transactions, including sales, purchases, mortgages, and leases
- Developed and maintained a strong network of contacts within the local real estate industry, resulting in a consistent flow of new business opportunities and referrals
- Conducted due diligence investigations on numerous properties, identifying and resolving potential legal issues before they could jeopardize transactions

- Advised clients on the legal implications of various types of property ownership, such as leasehold versus freehold, and helped them choose the option that best meet their needs
- Drafted and reviewed a wide range of real estate-related contracts and agreements, including sale and purchase agreements, tenancy agreements, and construction contracts
- Conducted legal research on complex issues related to land and property law in Kenya, staying up-to-date on changes to relevant laws and regulations
- Maintained accurate and up-to-date records of all client interactions and legal work performed, ensuring compliance with all relevant regulations and professional standards
- Contributed to the development of best practices and standards in the field of conveyancing and land law in Kenya, through participation in industry associations and events, and through publishing articles or presenting at conferences.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Commissioner of Oaths in Nairobi, Kenya (1999)
- Notary Public (2000)
- Certified Public Secretary - (2000)

EDUCATION

Advocate of the high court

Admitted as an Advocate of the High Court of Kenya.

Diploma, Law

Kenya School of Law - Nairobi

College of Law - London, UK

Passed the Law Society of England & Wales (Solicitors)

LLB Honours

University of London

LANGUAGES

English, Gujarati, Hindi - Fluent

French, Kiswahili, Punjabi Advanced

AFFILIATIONS

Member of the Law Society of Kenya.

Commissioner of Oaths in Nairobi, Kenya (1999).

Notary Public (2000).

Certified Public Secretary - (2000)