

INDIA ADR WEEK DAY 3: MUMBAI

IPBA ARBITRATION DAY

06:30 PM To 07:00 PM IST

SPEAKERS

Ms. Shweta Bharti – Managing Partner, Hammurabi & Solomon Partners

Ms. Priti Suri – Founder-Partner, PSA Legal

Ms. Michele Sonen – Head of APAC, Jus Mundi

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1 **VYAPAK DESAI:** Hello, everyone. Just five minutes of attention so that we can formally
 2 launch IPBA Arbitration Day and say this is the reception, welcome reception for IPBA
 3 Arbitration Day. Just two to five minutes of attention before the cocktails start. Good evening,
 4 everyone. Just give us two to five minutes of your attention. Hello. Okay just two to five
 5 minutes of attention. We promise we won't take anything more than that. We just have to do
 6 the ritual that this is the formal opening of IPBA Arbitration Day in Mumbai. And of course,
 7 some of you were present at the IPBA Tokyo, last year, where we suggested that IPBA
 8 Arbitration Day to happen in Mumbai, and here we are with the Host Committee and the Co-
 9 Chair and the Vice-Chair of the IPB Arbitration Committee and Raj and I think Mustafa is also
 10 around and Swee Yen and Neeti. So that's about it. We were just here to say that thank you,
 11 everyone, for joining. We also have the President Elect, Priti who might join us soon. And
 12 Shweta who is the Indian Representative. Shweta, if you can also join us on the stage, and
 13 Neeti. So thank you, everyone, for joining for this Arbitration Day. Shweta, if you want to say
 14 a couple of words on the... or maybe you can just... Okay.

15 **SHWETA BHARTI:** Hi. Good evening, everyone. I'm definitely going to promise you that
 16 I'll be short and crisp. The idea was to introduce IPBA to many of us who are otherwise not
 17 introduced to what IPBA is. IPBA is Inter Pacific Bar Association. It has about, if not less,
 18 about 1500 members associated with it. So, if you see the PPT, who's running the PPT? So
 19 what is IPBA? If you look at the slide here, it's an International Association of Business and
 20 Commercial Lawyers who are focused on the Asia Pacific Region. It was founded in April of
 21 1991 at the inaugural conference in Tokyo with 500, and today we are 1500 members with 65
 22 jurisdictions worldwide. So you can imagine the impact, the size and the magnitude of the
 23 number of people who are associated with IPBA. We are large, but we are not IBA. We are not
 24 huge. We are large enough to be able to gather and have the best talent available across the
 25 different jurisdictions.

26 The origin and history of IPBA is this. I'm not going to run through the slide. I think we have
 27 to save some time, so maybe we can go to the next slide. The purpose and goal for IPBA is to
 28 provide opportunities to contribute to legal development in the Asia Pacific Region. It's an
 29 annual meeting and a conference. We publish the IPBA Journal, which has an excellent
 30 content if you look at it from across the jurisdictions, and it empowers an active committees.
 31 We also enable study and discussion on regional legal issues and we have a regional conference
 32 also happening every year other than the annual event that we have. We share information
 33 about legal developments. We promote the rule of law.

34 So, in terms of the activities and events of IPBA, these are the activities. One is the Annual
 35 General Meeting and Conference, which is hosted in rotating jurisdictions. This year, we are

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1 going to have it in India, in New Delhi from February 24th to 28th. So please take a note of it.
 2 It is from February 24th to 28th of 2026. We have the practice area seminars and workshops
 3 which are organized by different committees. There are quarterly publications which is the
 4 IPBA journal, articles and updates. The active committees are leading in their legal practice
 5 areas and organizing seminars and contribution to publications. And we also, as I mentioned,
 6 have the mid-year council meetings and regional conferences.

7 The committees and specialist areas, if you look at it, these are the number of committees that
 8 we have. I think we cover almost all the areas of practice that is possible under the sun so far
 9 as the law practice is concerned. So all of these are the different committees that are being run.

10 So we also have a scholarship program and a diversity and inclusion program. The scholarship
 11 program is established in the memory of the MS Lane founder, past president, and it is
 12 intended to enable lawyers who might otherwise be unable to attend the annual conference to
 13 do so, bringing both contribution and benefit. The diversity and inclusion is a different section,
 14 which is about inclusiveness in our activities. We have a Women Business Lawyers Event,
 15 which happens every year along with the IPBA Annual event. And we also have the next
 16 generation committee. And also we have an Arbitration Diversity Pledge that has been signed
 17 by the members of IPBA.

18 So in terms of the membership eligibility, it is the qualified lawyers in good standing with
 19 interest in the Asia Pacific Region, and the membership categories include individuals,
 20 corporate, counsels, young lawyers, all of it.

21 This is the membership cost for a standard membership. The three year term membership
 22 cost, the corporate counsel cost and the young lawyers, who are less than 35 years of age, have
 23 a different cost. And then the annual dues for the corporate associates is this. The IPBA Annual
 24 Meeting and Conference which is happening in New Delhi. This is the registration fee.
 25 Whoever wants to have further detail. Me, Priti, any of us are all available to provide you with
 26 the information with respect to the costs that is involved in the participation of IPBA, New
 27 Delhi. Membership, the key benefits that we have, and because of which there are many
 28 members of IPBA who are associated with it for more than 30 years. Priti, you would have
 29 completed 30 years association with IPBA? Almost?

30 **PRITI SURI:** Almost.

31 **SHWETA BHARTI:** I have myself been associated since 2012 from the New Delhi
 32 Conference, and since then I have not missed a single annual event. So that is the kind of
 33 impact that IPBA has on the participants. The participation in specialist committees and

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1 knowledge initiatives, it gives an access to the IPBA member directory and speaking and
2 writing opportunities to all the members, and the member discounts or events and
3 publications also are available. And therefore, it makes it more and more lucrative for people
4 to participate in IPBA events.

5 Then the publication and knowledge resources. I mentioned multiple times that we have an
6 IPBA Journal which is published quarterly. Then we have committee reports, surveys, and
7 knowledge bank materials. We have guidelines, playbooks and toolkits developed by different
8 committees in this regard.

9 The global reach and leadership is a preeminent legal association with membership drawn
10 across the world. We have structured leadership with President Council and Committee
11 Chairs. We have the conference locations distributed across the Asia Pacific and beyond. Over
12 65 jurisdictions, 1500 members. I think we have already spoken about the value proposition
13 of joining IPBA. Recent conferences locations have spread across Asia Pacific and other
14 continents. Exposure to legal development across jurisdictions and networking with lawyers
15 in the Asia Pacific and beyond. The opportunities to present, publish, learn, access to events,
16 knowledge, scholarship assistance, helping shape legal practice and law in the region.

17 Any questions or discussions, I'm not the right person. We have the president elect, Ms. Priti
18 who's going to take all your questions with respect to the IPBA, what it entails what is it that
19 we have planned for the next year? What are the events that we have planned? I think there is
20 a lot that we need to talk about, so allow me to introduce Ms. Priti Suri, who's the President
21 Elect.

22 **PRITI SURI:** Thank you. Thanks, Shweta. So, are you all ready to register for IPBA Delhi
23 Conference? Come on. My job is to just say that, okay? But really I think if people are sitting
24 over here today, the whole idea is to get you all to register for IPBA Annual Conference. But
25 before I go down that particular path, I really have to give kudos to this very dynamic host
26 committee of Mumbai that has actually put together... That have successfully managed to get
27 IPBA in India for the Arbitration Day, which is a first. It has never, ever happened before. So,
28 really, thank you so much for doing this.

29 I'm going to keep this short because I know that you guys probably want to start off with the
30 networking piece. What I want to really tell you is about the Delhi event. The dates are from
31 24th to the 28th February, 2026. The event is going to take place at Pullman Novotel, in Aero
32 City area of Delhi, which is very close to the airport, and an area where everybody can walk
33 and choose different hotels. Basically, the conference is coming back to India after 14 years,

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1 and it gives me a lot of pleasure to actually boast a little bit and say that I'm going to be the
2 first Woman President of IPBA in India.

3 I think the conference, the theme of the conference is the future of law, agility, creativity and
4 change. And the whole idea is to set the stage for topical legal issues that impact the region
5 and that which are extremely important for the next generation of the legal practitioners. What
6 I will promise you for Delhi, we will have 56 concurrent sessions with cutting edge content.
7 IPBA has 27 specialist committees, as Shweta has already pointed out and they cover pretty
8 much every area, whether it is the traditional ones or whether it is anything that's new,
9 upcoming, whether it is ESG or Fintech, it's all there. We will also have a lot of bold themes,
10 and there's going to be a lot of diversity in the participation and in the selection of the panels.
11 Beyond the legal events and these concurrent sessions, we will have a fair bit of opportunity to
12 network. We have three different receptions on the first day. And then we have a gala dinner
13 and a farewell dinner in continuation with the usual IPBA tradition. All of the receptions will....
14 There'll be a showcase for our heritage, culture and, of course, the famous Indian hospitality.
15 And for those of you who are registering, I urge you to start practicing your dance moves,
16 because we expect everybody to be on the floor over there. I think simply because IPBA, the
17 road to Delhi actually has started over here in Mumbai. And I would really urge all of you to
18 register to make sure that you attend the Delhi conference. All the Indian delegates, it's part
19 of your job to make sure that we showcase India on the global platform. The details are there
20 on the website. Shweta has already talked about the registration fees. Early bird continues till
21 31st October. And before that, we also have... I will have some flyers circulating tomorrow,
22 which you can all see. And QR Code you can scan. There is a special rate for SAARC Country
23 Members. So, join me in getting IPBA back to Delhi and in ensuring that it's going to be a huge
24 success. Thank you very much.

25 **LARS MARKERT:** All right. Sorry, another speaker. But I have no notes, so that will be short.
26 Hello, my name is Lars, together with Koh Swee Yen.

27 **KOH SWEE YEN:** Hi, everybody.

28 **LARS MARKERT:** We're the Co-Chairs of the dispute Resolution Arbitration Committee,
29 and the Arbitration Day is organized by the Dispute Resolution Arbitration Committee and it's
30 usually one of the biggest IPBA events outside the annual event. An annual event, remember
31 to register. I don't have to say much. I just want to thank our National Committee, who have
32 been amazing in putting this event together and who, incredibly, he surprised us by starting
33 actually almost a year ago to put this event together, so it's really a great job. Thank you so
34 much. I think we have one of the largest Arbitration Days coming up tomorrow. Again, thanks

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1 to our National Committee. And thanks also to our sponsors, so you can see them here. I want
2 to point out particularly two institutions. First of all, the MCIA, who has really been
3 tremendous support in putting this together. So, thank you very much.

4 **KOH SWEE YEN:** And I wanted to add that how MCI came to be involved was like, several
5 years when I was in Delhi, Neeti came to me and said we must have IPBA in Mumbai. And so
6 this was many years in the making.

7 **LARS MARKERT:** Good. And last not but last but not least, our dinner and cocktail sponsor
8 from Jus Mundi. So, Michele Sonen if you could come up on the stage for a couple of words.
9 So, thanks a lot from me, and the words go to Michelle.

10 **VYAPAK DESAI:** So, the last speaker.

11 **LARS MARKERT:** Last speaker, I promise.

12 **KOH SWEE YEN:** There's no drinks and no dinner...

13 **MICHELE SONEN:** Alright, so I'm going to keep you here for another 20 minutes. No
14 kidding. I just wanted to come up and introduce myself and introduce Jus Mundi. My name is
15 Michelle. I'm the head of APAC at Jus Mundi, and it's really a pleasure to be here at India ADR
16 week, and for Jus Mundi to be supporting the IPBA Arbitration Day. For those of you that
17 aren't familiar with us, we are a platform that offers AI powered legal intelligence in
18 international law and arbitration. We bring together the world's most comprehensive
19 collection of arbitral awards, enforcement decisions, treaties and more, all in one platform.
20 Our AI agent what you see on the screen is built specifically for international arbitration, and
21 it can help you locate and analyse relevant cases, ground your arguments in reliable sources,
22 and draft with confidence, with complete control, full transparency and safeguards you can
23 trust. So, this means you can really spend your time less on combing through documents and
24 more on focusing on your strategy, your advocacy, and your clients. So, I'm really interested
25 to speak with all of you today about how you use technology in your practice, particularly AI.
26 So, please come find me throughout the evening. I'd be glad to speak with you. Thank you very
27 much. I wish you all a wonderful evening.

28 **HOST:** We shall be expecting Honourable Justice Revati Dere to come here any moment. So
29 I would request everyone to kindly be seated.

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~~~END OF SESSION~~~

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