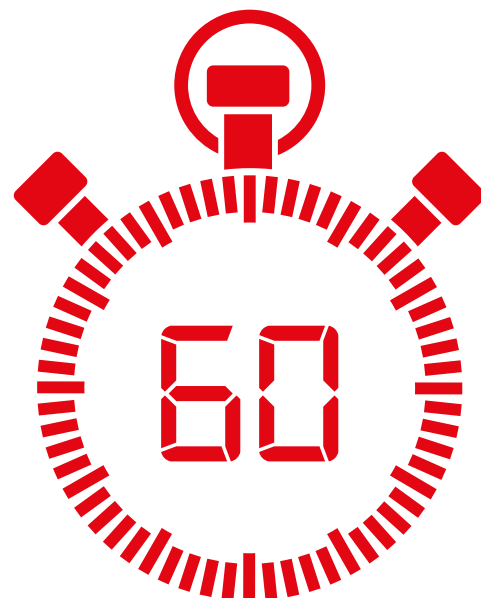


60-SECONDS WITH:

SUSHMITA GANDHI PARTNER INDUSLAW



Q Imagine you no longer have to work. How would you spend your weekdays?

A I cannot really imagine a time where I will not have to work. It is so much a part of my life. But never say never. So, when such a day arrives, I would want to do all those things which I may have missed doing in the years of working. I would want to spend time more time with my family, get back to drumming, paint professionally, travel, start my own cookery class and just laze around. The list would be never ending.

Q What do you see as the most important thing about your job?

A The ability to face and overcome challenges every day is the most important thing about my job. I am a disputes lawyer and the job is extremely client facing, where I am in fire-fighting mode almost every day. There are good days and bad days but, in that journey, what is most important is how I evolve as a lawyer with each matter and take that as an opportunity to learn something new.

Q What motivates you most about your work?

A The impact I make on the lives of people who trust me and engage me to represent them in their legal battles and the impact I make on the lives and future of every team member who works with me, is what motivates me the most about my work. My reputation as a lawyer and burning desire to do better in each assignment also motivates me as it defines the lives of people who I work for and who work with me.

Q What is one work related goal you would like to achieve in the next five years?

A I would like to see all the young lawyers whom I have mentored succeed in their lives and be equals alongside me.

Q What has been the best piece of advice you have been given in your career?

A Disputes practice is dynamic, and we learn something new every day. You are always a student and never a master.

Q What is the most significant trend in your practice today?

A When I started my practice, we only knew that there were two kinds of practice for lawyers – litigation (court work) and corporate laws (firm/ companies work). Then we saw the emergence of arbitration and a whole new practice opened as an alternate dispute resolution practice. In recent times, it is the contentious insolvency practice which is most trending and rightly so as the world is seeing debt and defaults in unimaginable numbers. Mediation coupled with Arbitration is also on rise and seems to be future of disputes practice.

Q Who has been your biggest role model in the industry?

A Everyone around me inspires and motivates me. Young or old, each lawyer has her own story of struggle and success and therefore all of them are my role models. I learn from each one of them.

Q What is one important skill that you think everyone should have?

A In the legal profession, it is important to have critical/analytical thinking, deep understanding of domain law and have clear and effective communication. These are the pillars of success in any matter.

Q What cause are you passionate about?

A I am passionate about child education and helping indigent people in their legal battles. Every child must have a basic education and there cannot be compromise on

that. For me, helping indigent people in their legal battles is a small way of showing gratitude to the life and success I have gained from my profession.

Q Where has been your favourite holiday destination and why?

A I live in India. I have travelled the world. It is therefore impossible to choose one favourite holiday destination. Some of the most loved destinations are London, Paris and Darjeeling (in the northeastern part of India). I can never get bored of London and that's the beauty about that city. Paris is full of life, moves at its own pace and has some great food. Darjeeling is simply beautiful and calm with some breathtaking Himalayan views.

Q Dead or alive, which famous person would you most like to have dinner with, and why?

A I would have loved to dine with Abraham Lincoln. It would have been the most insightful, engaging, educative and intelligent dinner.

Optional, if relevant:

Q What aspect of FIRE International are you most looking forward to as an attendee/speaker?

A I am speaking at FIRE International and this is my second year in a row. I am looking forward to great legal and business minds coming together for some of the most engaging sessions and great networking with people from across the globe!

L