



# DIVYA SUBRAMANIAN

**Call to Bar:** Nova Scotia – 2017; India – 2008

**Firm/company:** Stewart McKelvey

**Area of Practice:** Corporate/Commercial, Intellectual Property

**Describe your professional experience to date:**

I was called to the Bar in India in 2008, and began my practice as a Research Associate with a New Delhi based IP Boutique called Lex Orbis IP Practice. In 2010, I took an academic sabbatical to pursue my LL.M. in Intellectual Property from the University of New Hampshire School of Law (then, a private law school called Franklin Pierce Law Centre). As an extension to my LL.M., I also had the chance to work on an Externship with the Washington DC offices of Birch Stewart Kolasch and Birch.

I completed my LL.M. in 2011 and returned to Lex Orbis, where I worked in the firm's Trademarks and Contentious IP Practice team until October 2013. I then took some time off to prepare for my wedding and to travel. I landed in Halifax in February 2014, on a Wednesday night that witnessed one of our worst snow storms!

**Describe your current practice:**

I am currently working with the Corporate Commercial group at Stewart McKelvey and am involved in the Business Organizations, general corporate advisory, and Intellectual Property groups. I am also interested in legal issues surrounding new areas such as cryptocurrencies.

**Describe the unique qualities you bring to your practice:**

I think the most unique quality I bring to the table is my exposure to law and



business outside of Canada. In my practice in India, I had the opportunity to deal with law firms, in-house counsel and corporations of varied sizes, located across the globe. As Canada (and Nova Scotia in particular) becomes even more multi-cultural, vibrant and diverse, it will be necessary to be sensitive to cultural nuances, since businesses and working styles are often driven by culture.

**What other activities and volunteer pursuits occupy your time?**

I volunteer as a Board Member of the South India Cultural Association of the Maritimes. I am involved in organizing cultural as well as fundraising activities and celebrating various Indian festivals.

I am also keen on mentoring and helping other international law graduates like me make a career here in Halifax.

I am very interested in music – of all forms and genres. I have recently resumed training in Indian Classical music, since I find it to be a great stress buster! I also enjoy the summer here, since I love driving and heading into the lap of nature's beauty.

**What do you consider to be the greatest challenges facing young lawyers?**

The greatest challenge for young lawyers is the fact that there are too many unanswered questions – I think the only way to go about it is to reassure yourself that you will figure it out, even though one will never know everything.

**What words of wisdom do you have for new lawyers?**

Take each day as it comes and each opportunity to learn. Own up to your mistakes and never make the same mistake twice. Also, don't be afraid to admit that you don't know something, but do your best to find an answer!

In addition, I think it is also important to keep in touch with what you love to do – your hobbies, hanging out with friends, keeping up with fitness. I think it is important to be a happy person to perform well in such a demanding profession.

**What are your goals for your career as you become a more seasoned lawyer?**

I have always wanted to take the road less travelled. I hope to build a unique and niche practice in an area that excites me and gives me something new to learn. I also hope I will have the opportunity to work with clients across the world and on a variety of interesting enterprises.

I also hope to remain connected with my previous work in IP, since I find it to be an extremely exciting space.