

V . U M A K A N T H

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V. Umakanth is an assistant professor at the Faculty of Law, National University of Singapore (NUS). He specializes in corporate law and governance, mergers and acquisitions, and cross-border investments. He has co-authored a book on Singapore corporate governance, published articles in international journals, and founded the Indian Corporate Law Blog. He has also taught on a visiting basis at the Fordham Law School, New York, and the National Law School of India University, Bangalore. He is the recipient of several academic awards: The Lee Kong Chian Scholarship and the Wang Gungwu Medal & Prize at NUS, the Hauser Global Scholarship at the New York University School of Law, and eight gold medals from the National Law School of India University. Prior to his foray into academia, Umakanth was an attorney in India with the leading corporate law firm of Amarchand Mangaldas, where he was also a partner.

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Present (since April 2010)

Faculty of Law, National University of Singapore, Singapore

- **Assistant Professor**

Previous

Fordham Law School, New York City

- **Visiting International Professor of Law:** Taught a course on “Doing Business in India” during Spring 2009

Editorships

- Articles Editor, Singapore Journal of Legal Studies

TEACHING & RESEARCH INTERESTS

Company/Corporations Law, Corporate Governance, Business Law in India, Mergers & Acquisitions, Cross-border Investments

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

1995 – 2006 Amarchand Mangaldas

- Associate and then Partner
- The firm has been consistently rated as the top corporate law firm in India by various international professional organizations, and has received several awards.

Ranking

- 2006 and 2007 – Ranked as a leading corporate/mergers & acquisitions lawyer in India by the *Chambers Global Guide*

LEGAL EDUCATION

2007 – 2010 *Faculty of Law, National University of Singapore*

- **PhD:** Topic for the thesis: “*The Role of Independent Directors in Corporate Governance*”, which focuses on board structure and independence from an emerging markets’ perspective (particularly China and India)
- **Awards:** Lee Kong Chian Scholarship; Wang Gungwu Medal and Prize for the best PhD thesis in the Social Sciences/ Humanities.

August 2006 – May 2007 *New York University School of Law, U.S.A*

- **Masters’ (LL.M) program in Corporations Law**
- **Awards:** Hauser Global Scholarship by the NYU School of Law.

1990-1995 *National Law School of India University, Bangalore, India*

- **B.A., LL.B (Hons.)**
- **Awards:** 8 gold medals, including for First Rank, Highest Marks in the B.A., LL.B (Hons.) Degree Program, Best Outgoing Student of 1995 and Meritorious Student

PUBLICATIONS

Books

- *Casebook on Corporate Governance in Singapore* (Sweet & Maxwell, 2009) (with Chew Heng Ching, Tan Chong Huat, Tan Lay Hong & Long Hsueh Ching).

Book Chapters

- “A Dose of Sunlight Therapy: Using Corporate and Securities Laws to Treat Climate Change” in the *Indian Yearbook of International Law & Policy* (Satyam Law International, 2009).
- “Sovereign Debt Documentation and the *Pari Passu* Clause” in Robert W. Kolb (ed.), *Sovereign Debt: From Safety to Default* (John Wiley & Sons, 2011).
- “The Rarity of Derivative Actions in India: Reasons and Consequences” (with Vikramaditya Khanna) in Dan W. Puchniak, Harald Baum & Michael Ewing-Chow (eds.), *The Derivative Action in Asia: A Comparative and Functional Approach* (Cambridge University Press, 2012).

Articles

- “A Cautionary Tale of the Transplant Effect on Indian Corporate Governance”, (2009) 21(1) *National Law School of India Review* 1 (2009);
- “Corporate Criminal Liability and Securities Offerings: Rationalizing the Iridium-Motorola Case”, 23(1) *National Law School of India Review* 109 (2011) (with Mihir Naniwadekar).
- “Corporate Criminality and the Law”, 38 *Journal of the Indian Law Institute* 218 (1996) (with T.K. Bhaskar);
- “Evolution and Effectiveness of Independent Directors in Indian Corporate Governance”, 6 *Hastings Business Law Journal* 281 (2010);
- “Independent Directors and their Constraints in China and India”, 2 *Jindal Global Law Review* 127 (2011)
- “India’s Corporate Governance Voluntary Guidelines 2009: Rhetoric or Reality?”, 22 *National Law School of India Review* 1 (2010).
- “Regulation of Hazardous Substances: Law and Policy” (1995) 37 *Journal of the Indian Law Institute* 508;
- “Sovereign Debt Documentation: Unraveling the Pari Passu Mystery”, 7 *DePaul Business & Commercial Law Journal* 119 (2008)
- “Strategies for Host Country Regulation of Hedge Funds: Lessons from India’s Approach”, 11 *Australian Journal Asian Law* 113 (2009);
- “The Idea of a Professional Independent Director”, 2010(2) *The Director’s Bulletin* 15.

Blog

- Indian Corporate Law (<http://indiacorplaw.blogspot.com>)

CONFERENCE PAPERS/PRESENTATIONS

- “Analysing India’s Approach to Hedge Fund Regulation”, at the 5th Asian Law Institute Conference, 22-23 May 2008, Faculty of Law, National University of Singapore, Singapore.
- “Analysis of the Companies Amendment Bill, 2003” – Cochin Chamber of Commerce, Cochin (2003);
- “Beyond Satyam: Analysing Corporate Governance in India”, at a panel discussion organized by the Jindal Global Law School, 4 Feb 2009, University Club, New York.
- “Crossborder Mergers & Acquisitions and the Legal Profession”, at the Globalization, Lawyers and Emerging Economies: Academic Conference, 8 Oct 2011, New Delhi, India.
- “Derivative Actions in India”, at the 3rd Biennial HKU-NUS-SMU Symposium, 15-16 Nov 2010, University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong SAR.

- “Independent Directors and Their Constraints in China and India”, at the Michigan-Jindal International Conference on *Global and Comparative Corporate Governance*, 3-4 Mar 2011, Jindal Global Law School, Sonapat, India.
- “Legal Aspects of Real Estate in India” - Suminfra, Summit on Public Private Partnerships in Infrastructure, Bangalore (2004);
- “Limitation of Liability in IT Contracts” – Consilience – Conference on Technology Laws, Bangalore (2004);
- “Mergers, Acquisitions & Corporate Restructuring” - Annual Conference of the Institute of Company Secretaries of India, Bangalore (2004) and Hyderabad (2005);
- “Mergers & Acquisitions in the Technology Sector”, MAIT (2003);
- “Microfinance and the Corporate Governance Conundrum”, at the 8th Asian Law Institute Conference on *Law in a Sustainable Asia*, 26-27 May 2011, Kyushu University, Fukuoka, Japan.
- “Recent Reforms to Corporate Governance in India: An Analysis”, at the 3rd NLSIR Symposium on *Corporate Law and Governance*, 10-11 Apr 2010, National Law School of India University, Bangalore.
- “Regulation of Derivatives” – National Roundtable on Securities Regulation, National Law School of India University, Bangalore (2002).
- “Securitization” – National Roundtable on Regulation of Financial Sector Regulations, National Law School of India University, Bangalore (2004);
- “The Rarity of Derivative Actions in India: Reasons and Consequences”, at *Derivative Actions in Asia’s Miracle Economies*, 23-24 Jul 2010, Faculty of Law, National University of Singapore, Singapore.