



Pallavi Mehta Wahhi

Co-United States and Seattle Managing Partner,
Chair of Firmwide Diversity Committee

Seattle
+1.206.370.6648

pallavi.wahi@klgates.com

OVERVIEW

Pallavi Mehta Wahhi serves as co-managing partner of the United States, managing partner of the Seattle office, chair of the firmwide Diversity Committee, and co-chair of the firmwide India practice.

As an experienced litigator, Pallavi practices complex commercial litigation with an emphasis on corporate and intellectual property litigation. She works regularly on complex contractual breach matters and has also represented Fortune 50 companies in plaintiff or defense counsel capacity. She has argued before various tribunals and courts in hearings and at trial with success. She has represented clients across the country in multiple jurisdictions in commercial and intellectual property disputes. She regularly represents clients in high-volume and high-stakes litigation. In this role, she is used to enforcing her client's rights along with a team of attorneys trained specially in high-volume litigation utilizing cutting-edge technology and resources.

Pallavi also acts as global coordinating counsel for litigation for several clients across a wide range of jurisdictions, countries, and subject matter areas. In this role, she has developed litigation programs for clients to drive efficiencies of costs and consistency of approach across multiple engagements and jurisdictions.

In 2020, Pallavi was ranked in *Chambers USA: America's Leading Lawyers for Business* in the Litigation: General Commercial category in Washington State. She was again selected for inclusion in the *Puget Sound Business Journal's* "Power 100", a spotlight on the 100 most influential business leaders in the Puget Sound area. Pallavi was named to the Washington Super Lawyers list; the "IP Stars" list published by *Managing Intellectual Property* in the U.S. and Washington categories; and included in Acritas Stars, a database of more than 13,000 client-nominated, stand-out lawyers in private practice. Also in 2020, Lawyers of Color named Pallavi to their fifth annual "Power List", which recognizes the most influential minority attorneys and allies in the nation. She was similarly included in "The A List: International", a list of the top India-focused lawyers at international law firms, compiled by *The Indian Business Law Journal* for 2019-2021. Pallavi is an active member of the International Women's Forum.

Previously, Pallavi has been named one of the 100 most influential lawyers in the U.S. by editors and writers across The Business Journals' network of more than 40 publications. *The Puget Sound Business Journal* also recognized her as a "Woman of Influence" and a member of the first-ever group of 40 Under 40 "All-Stars". Pallavi has been included in the inaugural "Nation's Best" List, published by Lawyers of Color, which recognizes noteworthy accomplishments and a commitment to diversity and inclusion. She was selected by the National Diversity Council as one of Washington's "Top 15 Business Women" and selected to the Indian Corporate

Counsel Association's "Most Trusted Corporate Lawyers" list. Pallavi is also a past recipient of the Outstanding Young Lawyer Award from the King County Bar Association.

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

Prior to joining the firm, Pallavi was associated with the Seattle firm of Stokes Lawrence P.S. She was also a Rule 6 law clerk to the Hon. Commissioner William H. Ellis at the Washington State Court of Appeals, Division I.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Named to "The A List: International", a list of the top India-focused lawyers at international firms, compiled by *The India Business Law Journal* (2019-2021).
- Selected for inclusion in the *Puget Sound Business Journal's* "Power 100", a spotlight on the 100 most influential business leaders in the Puget Sound area (2019-2020).
- Featured profile in King County Bar Bulletin, August 2020.
- Ranked in *Chambers USA: America's Leading Lawyers for Business* in the Litigation: General Commercial category in Washington State (2020; Recognized Practitioner 2017-2019).
- Named to the "IP Stars" list by *Managing Intellectual Property* in the United States and Washington categories (2016-2020).
- Selected for inclusion in Acritas Stars, a database of more than 13,000 client-nominated, stand-out lawyers in private practice (2018-2020).
- Named to Lawyers of Color's Power List, which is presented with the support of the Diverse Partners Network and recognizes the most influential minority general counsel, managing partners, and law school deans, as well as legal media and nonprofit leaders in the nation. (2019, 2020).
- Selected for inclusion in the *Washington Super Lawyers* list (2017-2020).
- Named to Lawyers of Color's Inaugural "Nation's Best" List which recognizes noteworthy accomplishments and a commitment to diversity and inclusion in the legal profession (2019).
- Featured in "Women Who Lead" special report by the *Puget Sound Business Journal*, (2019).
- Selected as one of the "Women of Influence" by the *Puget Sound Business Journal* (2018).
- Included in "The Influencers: Law" list, a spotlight on 100 attorneys across the nation who are having an impact on business and legal matters in their communities, published by The Business Journals (2018).
- Recognized in the first-ever group of 40 Under 40 "All-Stars" by the *Puget Sound Business Journal* (2018).
- Selected to the Indian Corporate Counsel Association's Most Trusted Corporate Lawyers list (2017).
- Selected by the National Diversity Council as one of Washington's "Top 15 Business Women" (2017).

- Recognized as one of “Washington's Top 20 Business Women,” by Washington Diversity Council and the National Women's Council (2016).
- Featured in Minority Powerbrokers Q&A by Law360, January 2015.
- First Woman President of the South Asian Bar Association of Washington.
- Selected to serve a three-year term as lawyer representative to the Ninth Circuit for the United States District Court for the Western District of Washington.
- Recipient of the 2009 Outstanding Young Lawyer Award from the King County Bar Association.

PROFESSIONAL / CIVIC ACTIVITIES

- Member, Board of Directors, Seattle Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce
- Member, Seattle Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce's Community Development Roundtable (CDRT)
- Member, Advisory Board of Directors, Washington Council on International Trade - Seattle
- Member, Board of Directors, Woodland Park Zoo
- Member, Industry Advisory Board, Global Business Law Institute at the University of Washington School of Law
- Member, Martin Luther King, Jr. Committee, King County Bar Association
- Member, Board of Trustees, King County Bar Foundation
- Member, International Women's Forum
- Member, Advisory Board, South Asian Bar Association of Washington (past president and first woman president)
- Past Trustee, Seattle Repertory Theatre (2015-2018)
- Past Member, Board of Trustees, Washington State Bar Association Young Lawyer Division (King County Trustee, 2005-2008)
- Past Member, Washington State Young Lawyer Division Committee for Diversity (Chair 2005-2006, Co-Chair 2006-2007)
- Chaya, South Asian domestic violence prevention organization (Board Member (2001-2005), Auction Chair (2003) and Auction Co-Chair (2004))

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- Panelist, International Women's Forum, Washington Chapter. Presentation and discussion – Year in Review with IWF WA Leaders: Business and Industry, How 2020 has affected broad sectors of our community, 7 December, 2020

- Panelist, Seattle Metro Chamber's Regional Leadership Conference 2020: A Competitive, Equitable and Resilient Region: What does it mean for our region's economy to be resilient? 22 October 2020
- Opening remarks, South Asian Bar Association of North America Leadership Retreat Welcome Reception, 25 September 2020
- Moderator, Facetime with Rachel Gonzalez, EVP, General Counsel and Secretary for Starbucks Coffee Company, hosted by Young Jewish Professionals, 5 August 2020
- Panelist, Women In Law Dialogue series: Is COVID-19 taking Women Lawyers' careers back to the 1950's? hosted by The Law Society, 6 August 2020
- Panelist, "Action From the Top: A conversation with law firm leaders about implementing positive change" hosted by Chicago Committee on Minorities in Large Law Firms, 8 July 2020
- Panelist, Elevating Women Virtual Event: "Create Success in the midst of a Crisis", hosted by Northern Trust, 24 June 2020
- Panelist, Global Lawyers' Colloquium, "Diversity in the Legal Profession & Judiciary: What's the Hope for the Future?" International Webinar, 23 May 2020
- Panelist, Celebrating Success: The Elevation of Women to Leadership Positions in Big Law presented by Women in Law Empowerment Forum, Chicago; 4 November 2019
- Panelist, Fostering Diversity and a Culture of Inclusion within Legal Leadership at Women, Diversity & Change Summit, Seattle; 14 November 2019
- Panelist, Emerging Through Bias in the Legal Profession: Gender and the Legal Profession - Washington Leadership Institute Session III "The Nuts and Bolts of Law Practice", Seattle; 22 March 2019
- Panelist, "#BalanceForBetter" International Women's Day panel, UWKC Emerging Leaders Speaker Series, Seattle; 6 March 2019
- Keynote Speaker, "When Saying Yes IS the Best Plan", *Women's Business Exchange*, Seattle; 14 February 2019
- Panelist, "Building Client Relationships - Do You Have What it Takes?", Chiefs in IP (*ChIPs*) *Pacific Northwest Chapter*, Seattle; 18 September 2018
- Keynote speaker, *WSBA Diversity and Inclusion Celebration! CLE - The Path Forward*, Seattle, 6 June 2018
- Panelist, Washington Leadership Institute (WLI) "*Emerging Through Bias in the Legal Profession*", Seattle, 23 March 2018
- Panelist, "Dean's Leadership Panel", *University of Washington School of Law*, Seattle, 20 September 2017
- Panelist, "Beyond the Dialogue, Women, Race and Age Part 2: The Role of Allies," *WSBA Diversity Program and Washington Women Lawyers*, Seattle; 8 June 2017

- Panelist, "Global Biz: Staying Ahead in Changing Times," *Washington Trade Conference: The Outlook for the 2017 Trade Agenda*, Seattle; 13 March 2017
- Speaker, *2016 ASIL Midyear Meeting - International Trade Seminar*, Seattle; 10 November 2016
- Speaker, "Mediation Strategies," *Chiefs in IP (ChIPs) Pacific Northwest Chapter*, Seattle; 10 May 2016
- Speaker, "India's IP and Innovation Policies," *University of Washington School of Law and National Bureau of Asian Research Workshop*, Seattle; 10 April 2015

EDUCATION

- B.A., University of Cambridge, *University of Cambridge Tripos Law, Magdalene College, Cambridge University, Automatic Conversion to M.A., Rotary Clubs International Ambassadorial Scholar, Leslie Wilson Scholarship*
- B.A., University of Delhi, *St. Stephen's College, New Delhi, India*

ADMISSIONS

- Bar of Washington
- United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit
- United States District Court for the District of Colorado
- United States District Court for the Eastern District of Washington
- United States District Court for the Western District of Michigan
- United States District Court for the Western District of Washington

LANGUAGES

- Hindi

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP POWERED BY HUB

- June 2018, *Diversity Propels Us Forward (Alerts/Updates)*
- 18 May 2016, *Investing in India? Take a Look at the Amended India-Mauritius Tax Treaty Before You Do (Alerts/Updates)*

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- Opinion piece, "I Am Proud to Lead as My Authentic Self", *Puget Sound Business Journal*, April 2021

- “Top 5 Summer Tips: Navigating Racial Diversity,” *LexisNexis Summer Associate Resource Kit*, July 2020
- “Investing In India? Time To Rethink Structures,” *Law360*, 3 June 2016
- Co-author, "Internet Law Chapter," *Washington Lawyer's Practice Manual*, 2010
- Co-author, "Protecting Your Online Brand," presented at the *National South Asian Bar Association Annual Convention*, June 29, 2007
- Co-author, "Navigating the Uniform Domain Name Dispute Resolution Policy," Chapter 4, *WSBA 11th Annual Intellectual Property Institute*, Cutting Edge Updates, Opportunities and Issues, March 2006

NEWS & EVENTS

- 10 May 2021, K&L Gates Strengthens Technology Transactions and Privacy Practice Group with Seattle Partner Addition (*Press Release, Practice & Regional News*)
- 13 April 2021, Two K&L Gates Partners Again Included on India Business Law Journal's A-List 2021 (*Rankings & Recognitions*)
- 31 March 2021, K&L Gates Selects 2021 Leadership Council on Legal Diversity Fellow and Pathfinders (*Press Release*)
- 28 January 2021, K&L Gates Earns 11th Consecutive Top Rating in HRC's Corporate Equality Index (*Rankings & Recognitions*)
- 11 November 2020, K&L Gates, Ms. JD Launch Virtual *Pathway to Success* Business Training Program for Firm's Women and Diverse Associates (*Press Release*)
- 2 November 2020, Numerous K&L Gates Diverse and Women Lawyers Recognized for Leadership and Legal Accomplishments (*Press Release, Rankings & Recognitions*)
- 19 October 2020, K&L Gates Continues California Growth with Addition of Los Angeles Litigation Partner (*Press Release, Practice & Regional News*)
- 14 September 2020, K&L Gates Further Bolsters Intellectual Property Practice with Addition of Orange County Team (*Press Release, Practice & Regional News*)
- 21 August 2020, *India Business Law Journal* Names K&L Gates Among Top Firms for India-Related Work (*Rankings & Recognitions, Practice & Regional News*)
- 19 August 2020, K&L Gates Mourns Passing of Longtime Of Counsel, Former U.S. Senator and Washington State Attorney General Slade Gorton (*Press Release, Practice & Regional News*)
- 30 July 2020, K&L Gates Further Strengthens Orange County Office with Real Estate Partner Addition (*Press Release, Practice & Regional News*)
- 27 July 2020, K&L Gates to be Honored with Liberty and Hope Award from Oregon League of Minority Voters (*Rankings & Recognitions*)

- 10 July 2020, K&L Gates Receives Ninth WILEY U.S. Gold Standard Certification (*Press Release*)
- 29 June 2020, K&L Gates, Lawyers Ranked as Trademark and Patent 'IP Stars' by *Managing IP Magazine (Rankings & Recognitions)*
- 23 April 2020, K&L Gates, Lawyers Recognized in 2020 Chambers USA Guide (*Rankings & Recognitions*)
- 17 March 2020, K&L Gates Continues Seattle Office Growth with Addition of Government Contracts Partner (*Press Release, Practice & Regional News*)
- 9 March 2020, K&L Gates Celebrates International Women's Day 2020 with Events Around the Globe and Sponsoring Pledges for Diversity and Inclusion (*Press Release*)
- 24 February 2020, K&L Gates Adds Experienced Corporate Partner in Seattle Office (*Press Release, Practice & Regional News*)
- 19 February 2020, K&L Gates Newark Partner Chosen as 2020 Leadership Council on Legal Diversity Fellow (*Press Release*)
- 3 February 2020, K&L Gates Engages in Five-Year Sponsorship of Charlotte Pride (*Press Release*)
- 21 January 2020, For Tenth Consecutive Year, K&L Gates Earns Top Rating in Corporate Equality Index (*Press Release*)
- 4 October 2019, K&L Gates, Numerous Lawyers Honored for Diversity, Legal Leadership (*Press Release*)
- 9 September 2019, K&L Gates Partners with Clients to Expand Diverse Student Recruiting Program (*Press Release*)
- 10 July 2019, Three K&L Gates Partners Named to Lawyers of Color's Inaugural "Nation's Best" List (*Press Release*)
- 26 April 2019, Chambers USA 2019 Guide Ranks K&L Gates, Lawyers Among Leaders (*Press Release*)
- 12 November 2018, K&L Gates Seattle Managing Partner, Diversity Committee Chairwoman to Be Honored Among Region's Women of Influence (*Press Release*)
- 10 July 2017, K&L Gates Appoints Seattle Office Administrative Partner as Chairwoman of Firm's Diversity Committee (*Press Release*)
- 13 September 2016, K&L Gates Enhances Intellectual Property Litigation Practice with Seattle Group Hire (*Press Release*)
- 12 September 2016, K&L Gates Recognized for Excellence in Diversity and Inclusion (*Press Release*)
- 23 June 2016, K&L Gates, Lawyers Recognized as Leaders in Chambers USA 2016 Guide (*Press Release*)
- 16 June 2016, K&L Gates Continues Growth of Corporate/M&A Practice with Seattle Partner Addition (*Press Release*)

MEDIA MENTIONS

- Featured interview in *Americas Women Magazine (Seattle Edition)*, November 2020
- Featured profile in King County Bar Bulletin, August 2020
- Featured in “Women Who Lead” special report by the *Puget Sound Business Journal*, April 2019
- Interview, “How This K&L Gates Attorney Overcame Discrimination, Self-doubt on Her Way to the Top,” *Puget Sound Business Journal*, 21 August 2017
- Featured in Minority Powerbrokers Q&A by Law360, January 2015

AREAS OF FOCUS

- Complex Commercial Litigation and Disputes
- IP Litigation

INDUSTRIES

- Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning
- Data Analytics
- Technology

REPRESENTATIVE EXPERIENCE

- Represented an international software company in multiple litigation matters worldwide, including litigation for recovery associated with software license compliance.
- Global coordinating counsel for an international advice program for an international publicly traded corporation in multiple countries.
- Represented a large company in a far-reaching licensing and contractual dispute that included breach of contract and copyright infringement issues. The matter was favorably settled and the proceedings were closed to any further claims.
- Represented the bankruptcy trustee in over 50 fraudulent transfer actions against investors in a Ponzi scheme in federal Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of Washington.
- Represented owner of a company in a multi-party fraud case arising out of a multi-million dollar sale of a hi-tech company which was successfully settled.
- Successfully obtained judgment on coverage for offshore environmental liabilities for a policyholder, under an energy package policy, in federal court in Louisiana relating to Hurricane Ivan.

- Represented a public entity in two multi-million dollar complex multi-party environmental litigation cases on the Duwamish River which were settled.
- Represented a mobile communications company against breach of contract and trademark infringement claims by an independent mobile network testing firm. The matter was favorably settled. a national wireless carrier in federal court in California in a case involving technology and publicity rights.
- Represented a medical equipment manufacturing company in a fraud cause which was dismissed as a result of a successful motion to dismiss in federal court in Kentucky.
- Represented a large international company in state trial court in a complex contractual cross border dispute with an international vendor relating to Master Services and related agreements. Case involved complex contractual issues as well as cross border discovery with issues of first impression.
- Represented companies, online market research firm, online retail companies, financial firms and their employees in multiple trade secrets, non-compete and unfair competition disputes in court and in arbitrations.
- Represented a large international client in a nationwide litigation rights enforcement campaign involving multiple state and federal lawsuits across the United States. Represented companies, online market research firm, online retail companies, financial firms and their employees in multiple trade secrets, non-compete and unfair competition disputes in court and in arbitrations.
- Global coordinating counsel for a shipping company in multiple matters in Asia, Australia, Europe, and the United States.
- Represented the personal representative of an estate in a bench trial and obtained judgment after trial in a complex estate litigation matter in Washington State Superior Court.
- Successfully represented the developer of the world's tallest structure in reclaiming its domain name and reaffirming its common law trade name rights in accordance with ICANN's Uniform Domain Name Dispute Resolution Policy.
- Represented online market research firm in defense of claims brought by a competitor for alleged misappropriation of trade secrets and violations of non-solicitation agreements. Case settled for far less than the costs of defense following a motion for summary judgment.
- Represented wireless telecommunications company in malpractice action involving cell phone patent rights and technology in a federal jury trial. Obtained favorable federal court jury verdict and settlement.