



Bharat Budholia

Senior Partner

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Bharat Budholia has over 17 years of experience and specializes in Competition / Antitrust matters. He advises clients on the full spectrum of competition issues, including cartel enforcement, abuse of dominance and merger control. Bharat has represented domestic and multinational clients across diverse sectors, including financial services, aviation, pharmaceuticals, consumer goods, cement, banking, healthcare, insurance, sports, media, energy, transport and telecom.

Experience

- Senior Partner, AZB & Partners (2025 – Present)
- Partner, AZB & Partners (2019 – 2025)

Key Practice Area

- Competition / Antitrust

Recent Work Highlights

- Bodhi Tree Systems on its US\$ 1.78 billion acquisition of Viacom 18
- Tata Group on its US\$ 2.4 billion acquisition of Air India Limited
- Holcim Group on the US\$ 10 billion sale of its shareholding in Ambuja Cements Limited and ACC Limited to Adani Group
- HDFC Limited on its merger with and into HDFC Bank
- Abu Dhabi Investment Authority's investment into Intas Pharmaceutical
- Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) on its two abuse of dominance cases before Competition Commission of India and National Company Law Appellate Tribunal

Directorships, Memberships & Affiliations

- Bar Council of Maharashtra & Goa (2009)

Professional Qualifications

- BA, LL.B. (Hons.), Hidayatullah National Law University, Raipur (2009)

Ranked for Competition/Antitrust by Chambers Global (2021 – 2026)

Ranked for Competition/Antitrust by Chambers Asia-Pacific (2021 – 2026)

Recognized as a 'Distinguished Practitioner' for Antitrust & Competition by AsiaLaw Profiles (2024 – 2025)

Named a Next Generation Partner (2025, 2026) and Recommended (2020 – 2024) for Competition/Antitrust by Legal 500 Asia Pacific

Litigation Star of the Year for Competition/Antitrust by Benchmark Litigation Asia Pacific (2026)

Named a Leading Lawyer for Antitrust & Competition in the Legal Era Leading Lawyer Rankings (2022 – 2023)

Recommended Lawyer for Competition Law by Who's Who Legal (2024)

Recommended for Competition in the Who's Who Legal Global Guide (2022)

Recognised as a 'Competition Lawyer' (2022) and 'World's Leading Competition Lawyer and Economist' (2021) by Who's Who Legal

Recognized as a 'Future Leader' in Who's Who Legal – Competition Future Leaders (2019 – 2020)

Recognized as an 'Up and Coming' Competition lawyer by Chambers Asia-Pacific (2018 – 2019)
