

MANISH SHARMA

Toronto, Ontario

ARTICLING CANDIDATE

Internationally trained law student called to the Bar in India in 2007 and pursuing qualification in Alberta, with practical knowledge and experience in civil, criminal and family law, land acquisition, and motor accident claim cases. Skilled in client interviewing, advising, legal research, contract drafting and negotiation.

EDUCATION

Practice Readiness Education Program (PREP) , CPLED	Jun. 2025 – Present
NCA Certificate of Qualification (CQ) , Federation of Law Societies of Canada	2024
Protection of Children's Rights Program , IIDH University Strasbourg, France	2015
LLB , Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar, India	2007
BA (Hons) Law , Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar, India	2005

EXPERIENCE

District Courts Fazilka, India Aug. 2007 – Dec. 2009, Jan. 2010 – Feb. 2021

Subordinate court under supervision and control of state Honourable High Court. Principal court of original jurisdiction at the district level, headed by the District Judge with jurisdiction over civil and criminal cases.

Lawyer (Jan. 2010 – Feb. 2021)

- Established new independent practice chamber within the court.
- Collaborated with clients and legal staff to develop case strategies in criminal, civil, and claims matters, focusing on effective cross-examination and precise application of law.
- Consulted senior lawyers on complex matters, including drug charges, and assisted colleagues with legal issues such as bail applications and miscellaneous legal filings.
- Conducted client interviews for criminal, civil, and claim matters, assessing legal situations and providing guidance on law and procedural options.
- Drafted case law files and miscellaneous legal applications for submission to the court.
- Negotiated dispute resolutions for clients in civil and claim cases including property, family, motor accident and land acquisition claims to facilitate settlement.

Associate Lawyer (Intern to Senior Lawyer) (Aug. 2007 – Dec. 2009)

- Researched case law to support strategies in criminal, civil, and family law matters, including assault, theft, drugs, property disputes, divorce, spousal support, child support and claim cases.
- Observed senior lawyer in court to learn strategies of questioning and cross examination in criminal and civil cases.
- Inspected disputed properties upon direction of the court, coordinating with parties, witnesses, and court officials to ensure accurate documentation of reports.

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District Legal Aid Services Authority Fazilka, India

May 2014 – Apr. 2018

Government organization under direct control of the Secretary of District Legal Aid Services with staff of 12 and ~25 panel lawyers providing free legal aid to under-represented sectors of society.

Panel Lawyer (May 2014 – Apr. 2018)

- Interviewed litigants on criminal and civil matters, including assault, theft, rape, and property, actively listening to concerns, assessing legal needs, and advising on next steps.
- Drafted legal documents and applications including pleadings, affidavits, and motions.
- Collaborated with colleagues and court staff to efficiently manage criminal, civil, and claims cases by coordinating case filings, preparing legal documents, and ensuring timely court submissions.
- Tracked chargeable hours and expenses for billing purposes and financial transparency.

Front Office Lawyer (Aug 2014 – Apr. 2018)

- Gathered client and dispute information, drafted reports on eligibility for Legal Aid, and submitted for approval for free legal services.
- Collaborated with staff to address pension and billing disputes, conducted issue analysis, coordinated with relevant authorities, and ensured timely resolution.
- Maintained privacy in all documentation and communication.
- Organized and securely stored hard copies of case files for quick and convenient access.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Member, District Bar Association Fazilka, India

2007 – 2021

- President (2018) and Secretary (2014).

VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES

District Legal Aid Services Authority Fazilka, India

Aug. 2013 – Apr. 2018

Government organization under direct control of the Secretary of District Legal Aid Services with staff of 12 and ~25 panel lawyers providing free legal aid to under-represented sections of society.

Legal Aid Awareness Camp Organizer

- Planned and conducted awareness camps for economically disadvantaged individuals, persons in custody, and their relatives to educate them on legal rights and access to free legal aid services.
- Gave information about victim compensation and government schemes providing 100 days' wage employment for rural households and promoting education and protection of female children.
- Facilitated access to justice by filling Legal Aid applications for individuals and relatives.
- Drafted monthly reports regarding seminars conducted, topics covered, and key issues raised by participants and submitted to Secretary Legal Aid Services.

INTERESTS

Reading: Enjoy reading books, journals and newspapers. Currently reading a book titled *1491: New Revelations of the Americas before Columbus*.

Volleyball: Played volleyball on a college team and won intercollegiate tournament.