

GARDI & HAUGHT, LTD.

Attorneys-At Law

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COMMUNITY

Young attorney vows to provide legal services with a human touch

By J.V. LAKSHMANA RAO

Chicago: To cure an ailment is more expensive than to prevent it. Therefore prevention is better than cure. If this maxim is true with medicine, same is the case with judiciary also. To avoid litigation is much easier than to get into it, if one takes care of oneself and consults an attorney. To come out of a litigation successfully is more expensive than a pre-consultation with an attorney.

There may be a good understanding between friends or partners before they venture into a partnership to start a business or an enterprise. Today things might look very normal between them, but tomorrow, if something goes wrong, there arises litigation. The best way for friends, partners or even relatives to avoid such situations is to consult an attorney and have a written agreement, which will be of a legal standing. In the absence of an agreement, a dispute gets into prolonged litigation in a court of law resulting in heavy expenses and loss of time for both the parties. Therefore, consulting an attorney before a venture and getting a legal document signed by the partners is mutually beneficial. But most people, including Indians, avoid consulting an advocate and later land in a deep litigation resulting in prolonged legal battles in courts.

"My best advice to all is to consult an attorney before they take up any venture involving trust, money or property," says Hiten R. Gardi, a young Indian American, who owns a law firm called Gardi & Haught,

Ltd., in Schaumburg, a suburb of Chicago. Two more attorneys - Thomas E. Haught and Stacey E. Williams are working with the law firm.

Hiten Gardi says that an attorney charges much lower fee for legal consultation and drafting a legal agreement than fighting a lawsuit. "Therefore is it not wiser for partners to consult an attorney than fight lawsuit?" he asks.



Hiten Gardi says the philosophy of his law office is to help the Indian and Asian communities in preventing and solving their legal issues at an affordable fee. It aims at protecting their legal rights. They must zealously deal with their legal issues with dignity and honor. "I want to be a bridge between the Indian community and the American judicial system," he adds.

In an interview to **India Tribune**, he says as a young attorney of Indian origin, he understands the community very well and as a young man who had all his education, including law studies in the US, he understands the legal system of this country very well. "I come from a family of attorneys of three generations. I received my general and legal education in this country. I want to be a bridge between the Indian community and the American judicial system," he adds.

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"We firmly believe in the philosophy that we are problem solvers and not problem creators. We treat all clients

equally. We are not here to intimidate them or exploit them. We are here to help them. We are here to protect their rights. We are compassionate and sympathetic to all clients without any discrimination. We value their privacy and integrity. Our fees are competitively reasonable, depend on case by case, and in some cases we take our fee only after the case is won. Our legal consultancy, advocacy and advices are sound and backed by the law of the land. We deal our clients with a human touch and approach. Our philosophy is that every client deserves to be treated professionally and with dignity," he says.

Asked what type of cases his firm deals with, he says: "We deal with all civil and criminal litigations, including personal injury cases, commercial and real estate deals, property and partnership issues, immigration and divorce cases. We try to deal with all legal needs of

our clients."

Hiten Gardi vows to serve the community through personal and professional organizations. He attended Loyola University where he received his undergraduate degree in finance. Following in his family tradition, he had decided to pursue a legal career and attended John Marshall Law School from 1996 to 1999 and obtained JD law degree and worked as a junior for an

Marshall Law School, he received a CALI award for superior knowledge and understanding of Tort Law. Since graduating from law school in June of 1999 his area of expertise has been civil litigation, including but not limited to personal injury action and contract disputes. He has recently asked to be a keynote speaker at a Dental Conference addressing the issues of professional malpractice avoidance. His legal philosophy is that every client whether an individual or a Fortune 500 company, deserves and will receive zealous legal representation.

Another associate of Hiten Gardi is Stacey E. Williams. After graduating from Edgewood College in Madison, WI, with a degree in Art Therapy, she moved to Michigan to pursue a law degree. While attending Thomas M. Cooley Law School, she received an award for higher achievements in her immigration law class. Stacey has attended both CLINIC family based immigration law conference and AILA family based immigration law Web conference. She has also completed a two-semester externship with the Washtenaw County Public Defender's Office in felony court. Her areas of legal expertise include immigration, criminal, family and real estate law. She strives to help every client realize his or her legal goals. Hiten Gardi's law firm, Gardi & Haught, Ltd., is located at 939 N. Plum Grove Road, Ste. C., Schaumburg, IL 60173. Telephone (847) 944-9400 and fax (847) 944-9401.

attorney for sometime. Again back in John Marshall Law School, he did a master's degree in law in real estate and obtained an LLM degree in 2001. Since achieving his degrees his areas of expertise has been real estate law along with corporate law.

He founded his law firm in 2003 primarily focusing on commercial and residential real estate. He has since worked to establish credible reputation serving hundreds of clients in the Chicagoland area.

In 2004, Thomas E. Haught joined the firm bringing with him five years of litigation experience. Since its inception, the philosophy of Gardi & Haught, Ltd., has been based upon a dedication to protecting and preserving the dignity and the rights of all individuals.

Thomas Haught received his undergraduate degree from Southern Illinois University. While attending John