

Sourav Chunder

Advocate, The Hon'ble High Court at Calcutta

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Advocate at the Calcutta High Court since 2018, with a focused practice in Taxation, Constitutional, and Media Laws. Chamber Junior to J.P. Khaitan, one of India's foremost tax lawyers and a designated Senior Advocate. Combines courtroom experience with institutional advisory roles and a growing public presence. Founder-Member, Governing Body Member, and Legal Advisor to the Bengal Business Council and Legal Committee Member of the Indian Football Association, West Bengal. An active writer, speaker, and commentator on legal and cultural issues, with sustained engagement across academic, legal, and civic platforms.

EDUCATION

- **Postgraduate Diploma in Media Laws (PGDML)**
NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad — 2021
- **LL.B**
Vidyasagar University — 2014–2017
- **B.Com (Hons. in Accounting & Finance)**
St. Xavier's College, Kolkata — 2010–2013
- **Schooling**
Birla High School, Kolkata — *Class of 2010*

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Advocate, Calcutta High Court
2018–Present

- Regularly argues matters involving constitutional interpretation, fiscal legislation, and regulatory rights.
- Appears in both appellate and original jurisdiction matters.
- Represents individuals, institutions, and associations in complex litigation.

Chamber Junior to Mr. JP Khaitan, Senior Advocate

- Mentored under one of India's most respected tax lawyers.
- Exposure to high-stakes constitutional and revenue litigation.
- Involved in strategy and drafting in matters before High Courts and Tribunals.

Founder-Member, Governing Body Member & Legal Advisor Bengal Business Council

- Advises the Council on institutional law, compliance, and member governance.
- Leads drafting of internal rules and dispute mechanisms.

Member, Legal Committee Indian Football Association, West Bengal

- Provides regulatory and compliance advice in the field of sports law.
- Supports legal strategy for organizational matters.

SELECT LANDMARK CASES & LEGAL WORK

- **Fabian Ricklin @ Ranabir v. State of West Bengal & Ors. (W.P.A. No. 3792 of 2023)**
Represented Respondent No. 5 in a landmark ruling where the Calcutta High Court upheld the right to privacy of an unwed biological mother over the root search right of an adoptee. A significant development in Indian adoption and privacy law.
- **Section 14A Disallowance Limitation**
Successfully argued for a limited interpretation of disallowances to exempt-income yielding investments only — an important ruling under the Income Tax Act.
- **Recognition of Poultry Feed Production as Manufacturing**
Achieved judicial recognition for poultry feed production as 'manufacturing' under Section 80-IB(5), securing manufacturing-linked tax deductions.
- **Defense Against Adverse Inference from Non-Response by Directors**
Defended clients against penal inference in tax assessments where company directors failed to respond — prevented miscarriage of justice.
- **Validation of Capital Receipt Under Unregistered MoU**
Secured favourable ruling treating receipt under an unregistered MoU as capital receipt, based on the Supreme Court's ratio in *CIT v. Balbir Singh Maini*.

WRITING & PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

- Contributor to The Telegraph, The Times of India, and legal journals.
- Invited judge and speaker at school and college-level moot courts, debates, and seminars.
- Engaged in public legal education through accessible commentary on law, policy, and society.
- Patron of *Padaboli Kirtan*, a devotional tradition rooted in Bengal's spiritual and musical heritage.

PHILANTHROPY & SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT

- Actively involved in legal literacy campaigns and cultural awareness projects.
- Supports educational initiatives and heritage preservation efforts through family-run and community-based philanthropy.

FAMILY & LEGACY

Sourav hails from a distinguished North Calcutta family associated with Bengal's intellectual and cultural renaissance.

- Father: Eminent Chartered Accountant, Past Chairman of the Eastern India Regional Council (EIRC) of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India, and current Managing Committee Member of the Calcutta Club.
- Mother: From the Raja Rajendra Mullick family of Marble Palace, known for its artistic and philanthropic legacy.
- Wife: Nayanikaa, also an Advocate.
- Forefather: Baboo Subol Chand Chunder, a textile baron and philanthropist of the Bengal Renaissance.
- The family's Durga Puja has been celebrated without interruption since 1761, reflecting a living tradition of spiritual and social leadership.

MEMBERSHIPS

- Calcutta Club
- Calcutta High Court Bar Association
- High Court Club
- Mohun Bagan Athletic Club

SKILLS & INTERESTS

- Legal Drafting | Litigation Strategy | Constitutional Law
- Taxation (Direct & Indirect) | Contract Law | Negotiable Instruments Act | Media & Regulatory Law
- Public Commentary | Cultural History | Policy Interpretation
- Heritage Conservation | Devotional Arts | Classical Music
- Formally trained in Sitar; independently skilled in Piano;

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