



INDIALAW

Competition Investigations & Enforcement defence

Competition Investigations and Enforcement Defence Law Firm in India

PRACTICE PROFILE • MAY 2026

Overview

Our team offers comprehensive representation to businesses facing competition law scrutiny in India. With deep expertise in the Competition Act, 2002, and procedural nuances of Competition Commission of India (CCI) investigations, we provide strategic guidance from the initial stages of dawn raids through appeals before the highest courts. Our team combines specialized regulatory knowledge with litigation expertise to defend clients effectively against allegations of anti-competitive conduct, ensuring robust protection of business interests while navigating complex enforcement proceedings.

Our Services

- Response to dawn raids, information requests, and director general investigations
- Representation in CCI investigations and inquiries related to anti-competitive agreements and abuse of dominance
- Defence against cartel allegations, including leniency applications and settlement negotiations
- Handling of cease and desist proceedings and penalty adjudications
- Appeals before the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) and Supreme Court

Key Professionals



Rahul Sundaram

Partner

Frequently Asked Questions

Q1 What does competition investigations and enforcement defence involve in India?

It covers representing businesses that face scrutiny from the CCI for alleged anti-competitive conduct. This includes defending against cartel allegations, abuse of dominance inquiries, responding to dawn raids, managing Director General investigations, and handling penalty proceedings and appeals before the NCLAT or Supreme Court.

Q2 When should a company engage competition enforcement defence counsel?

Ideally, the moment you receive a CCI notice, an information request, or face a dawn raid. Early engagement is critical because statements made and documents produced in the initial phase shape the entire investigation. Delays in seeking counsel often result in avoidable procedural missteps that weaken your position.

Q3 Which statute and regulator govern competition enforcement in India?

The Competition Act, 2002 is the primary statute. The CCI investigates and adjudicates cases involving anti-competitive agreements and abuse of dominance. Its investigative arm, the Director General, conducts detailed inquiries. Appeals from CCI orders lie first to the NCLAT and then to the Supreme Court.

Q4 What is the typical timeline for a CCI investigation and enforcement proceeding?

CCI investigations vary widely but commonly take 18 to 36 months from a preliminary inquiry to a final order. Director General investigations alone may span 12 to 18 months. Appeals before the NCLAT can add another 12 months. Penalties, interim orders, and leniency applications influence both pace and cost.

Q5 What documents and information should a company prepare for its defence team?

Key materials include all CCI and Director General correspondence, internal pricing and market strategy documents, commercial agreements with competitors or distributors, board minutes referencing market conduct, prior compliance audit reports, and any leniency or settlement communications already submitted.

Q6

What common mistakes do companies make during CCI investigations?

The most frequent error is producing documents or making statements during dawn raids without legal oversight, which can inadvertently create admissions. Another is failing to assert legal privilege early. Companies also sometimes delay leniency applications, losing priority status that could significantly reduce penalties.