

# NEELAKANDAN & NEELAKANDAN

Attorneys-at-Law & Notaries Public *Established 1962*  
*Formerly* MURUGESU & NEELAKANDAN

*Celebrating 50 Years of Trust & Integrity*



## Partners

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## Areas of Practice

- Admiralty, Maritime and Shipping
- Arbitration / Dispute Resolution
- Aviation
- Banking and Finance
- Civil Litigation
- Corporate / M&A
- Construction
- Conveyancing / Real Estate
- Customs and Exchange Control
- Debt Recovery
- Due diligence
- Energy / Power Project
- Foreign Investment
- Labour
- Mergers and Acquisitions
- Intellectual Property
- Infrastructure and Project Finance
- Insurance
- Insolvency / Corporate Restructuring
- International Trade
- Joint Ventures
- Syndicate loans and Structured Finance
- Taxation
- Telecommunication and IT



## THE FIRM

Neelakandan & Neelakandan (formerly Murugesu & Neelakandan) is one of the leading law firms in Sri Lanka and has been in practice for over 50 years. The Firm was founded in 1962 and is recognised as one of the most efficient and professional law firms in Sri Lanka.

The Firm has been satisfying its foreign and local clients with its dynamic approach and high calibre expertise. During almost half a century, the Firm has built a reputation for meeting its clients' needs without compromising ethics, integrity and professionalism.

The Firm was involved in almost all the leading power projects in Sri Lanka. The Firm acted for the senior lenders IFC, CDC and DEG in the Asia Power Project. The Firm acted for the syndicate of six banks which financed two power projects of Aitken Spence. The Firm also advises AES Kelanitissa in their 168 MW power project.

The Firm is acting for a number of leading banks in Colombo in various matters related to banking, including American Express Bank, Citi Bank NA, Habib Bank AG Zurich, Shinhan Bank of Korea, CIMB Investment Bank, Indian Overseas Bank, Union Bank of Colombo PLC, Hatton National Bank PLC and Commercial Bank PLC. It acted for Emirates Bank International when it divested its interests in its Colombo branch to the Hatton National Bank.

The Firm has advised the World Bank in updating its Global Insolvency Database (GILD) in respect of Sri Lanka Insolvency and Creditor Rights.

The Firm advised Nations Trust Bank which took over the business of Overseas Trust Bank branch in Colombo. The Firm's services were also sought by Standard Chartered Bank in its integration of Standard Grindlays Bank and Standard Chartered Bank in Colombo. The Firm advised the American Express Bank on divesting of its commercial banking and foreign exchange services to Nations Trust Bank, and continues to advise American Express Bank on its operations in Sri Lanka.

The Firm advises LankaClear the National Clearing House, in connection with the Inter-Bank Payment Switch and the Cheque Imaging, Truncation System. The Firm also advises Allianz Insurance Lanka Limited and also advised Allianz SE on the formation of its life insurance company, Allianz Life Insurance Lanka Limited.

The Firm advised Next PLC in its global restructuring of its business including the takeover of NV Manufacturing Limited. The Firm recently advised Debenhams PLC in connection with franchising arrangements in Sri Lanka and Samsung C&T Corporation, on its potential entry into the Sri Lankan market and on all matters relating to local laws.

The Firm is also acting for two of the main contractors of the US\$741 Million Southern Transport Development Project for construction of the southern expressway and advising a contractor in the Outer Circular Highway Project.

The Firm continues to advise Keangnam Corporation of Korea Condominium Development Project and is also advising a foreign client which is constructing a five star hotel in Colombo and is also advising various clients on tourism hotel projects throughout the country.

The Firm advises clients on large scale infrastructure projects including two foreign contractors of the Southern Transport Development Project.

The Firm continues to advise many International Law Firms and P&I Clubs on admiralty and shipping matters.

The Firm is also acting for various clients in arbitration involving various issues relating to Construction, Shipping and other matters.

The Firm continue to handle a large volume of trademark, industrial design and patent applications for a number of local, as well as foreign clients (including fortune 500 companies), including Rolls-Royce, BMW, Google, Citibank, Marriott, Research in Motion, Samsung, Hilton Worldwide, Audi AG, Panasonic, LG, Hyundai, Levi Strauss, Debenhams, ICI Paints Akzonobel, Visa International, Staedtler, TVS, Kraft, Hermes International and Victoria's Secret.

The Firm recently advised Google Inc on illegal registrations of its domain name. The Firm has also been advising clients in infringement of trade mark and related litigation and acted for Singer (Sri Lanka) PLC in a trademark/tradename infringement matter recently.

## REGULAR CORPORATE CLIENTS OF THE FIRM

- ▶ AES Kelanitissa (Pvt) Limited
- ▶ Agrima Consultants International Private Ltd., Bombay
- ▶ Allianz Insurance Lanka Limited
- ▶ Allianz Life Insurance Lanka Limited
- ▶ Asbestos Cement Industries Ltd.
- ▶ Bennett Coleman & Co., Limited, India
- ▶ BMW Group, Germany
- ▶ China National Technical Import & Export Corporation
- ▶ Citibank N.A, Colombo
- ▶ CleanCo Lanka Limited
- ▶ Combined Insurance Company of New Zealand
- ▶ Commercial Bank of Ceylon PLC
- ▶ Charles Taylor Consulting Plc., United Kingdom
- ▶ English Abrasives and Chemicals Limited, India
- ▶ Hatton National Bank PLC
- ▶ Hilton Hotel, Colombo
- ▶ Hindustan Pencils Limited, India
- ▶ Indian Airlines
- ▶ Indian Overseas Bank, Colombo
- ▶ Itochu Corporation, Japan
- ▶ Janasakthi Insurance PLC
- ▶ J.S. Staedtler GmbH & Co. KG
- ▶ First Capital PLC
- ▶ Kraft Foods Holdings INC, U.S.A.
- ▶ LankaClear (Pvt) Limited
- ▶ MAN B&W Diesel AG
- ▶ Mascons Ltd.
- ▶ Mahindra & Mahindra Limited of India
- ▶ NGB Corporation, Japan
- ▶ North of England P & I Association Limited, United Kingdom
- ▶ Autogrill Lanka Limited.
- ▶ Public Bank Bhd.
- ▶ Regnis (Lanka) Limited
- ▶ Singer (Sri Lanka) PLC
- ▶ Singer Industries (Ceylon) Ltd
- ▶ SWRD Bandaranaike National Memorial Foundation (BMICH)
- ▶ The Prudential Assurance Company Limited, U.K.
- ▶ The Mehta International Ltd., Bermuda.
- ▶ Taisei Corporation of Japan
- ▶ Union Bank of Colombo
- ▶ United India Insurance Co. Ltd., India.
- ▶ Usha International, India.

## REGULAR TRADEMARK CLIENTS OF THE FIRM

- ▶ Google
- ▶ Rolls-Royce
- ▶ Ferrari
- ▶ Lamborghini
- ▶ Bugati
- ▶ BMW
- ▶ Mini
- ▶ Audi AG
- ▶ Nissan
- ▶ Hyundai
- ▶ Kia
- ▶ Honda
- ▶ Yamaha
- ▶ Mitsubishi
- ▶ JCB
- ▶ TVS
- ▶ Hilton Worldwide
- ▶ Research In Motion
- ▶ Citibank
- ▶ Panasonic
- ▶ LG
- ▶ Hoover
- ▶ Dulux
- ▶ Visa International
- ▶ Canon
- ▶ Samsung
- ▶ Nintendo
- ▶ Staedtler
- ▶ Puma
- ▶ Levi Strauss
- ▶ Agoda
- ▶ Philip Morris
- ▶ Marriott
- ▶ Tesco
- ▶ Debenhams
- ▶ Shangri-La
- ▶ Kingfisher
- ▶ Kraft
- ▶ Victoria's Secret

## LISTINGS

**The Asia Pacific Legal 500, *the Guide to Asia's Commercial Law Firms* (2003 edition), states as follows at page 466:**

“The leading firms overall in Sri Lanka, remain the oldest and most established such as F. J. & G De Saram, Julius & Creasy and Murugesu & Neelakandan”.

**The Asia Pacific Legal 500, *the Guide to Asia's Commercial Law Firms* (2005 edition), states as follows at page 490:**

“Since Murugesu & Neelakandan was formed in 1962 it has garnered a reputation as one of the foremost IP practices in Sri Lanka. The firm was recently instructed on a major trade mark infringement case”.

**Chambers Asia Pacific, *Asia-Pacific's Leading Lawyers for Business*, (2010 edition) states as follows at page 557, 558, 559, 561 & 562 as follows:**

“This four partner firm is highlighted for its strength in banking, where it has extensive experience of working with multinational players. Clients say that they especially appreciate the personal approach that the firm adopts. Kandiah Neelakandan is particularly noted for his work on behalf of foreign banks. Sources describe him as “very strong - one of the leaders in this market”.

“This firm continues to do well in banking, corporate and IP matters, its key areas of expertise. Sources admire the team for its "understanding of the way that transactions are run in Sri Lanka". The firm notably advises leading tea and rubber plantation company Horana Plantations on a range of corporate matters. It also acts as company secretary for domestic conglomerates and publicly listed companies. Kandiah Neelakandan is the key figure here for corporate matters. He offers a "refilled and carefully considered approach" to a range of local and international clients”.

“This team is renowned for its knowledge of this area, expressed through its much respected Compendium of Law. It offers expertise in IP litigation and in copyrights, designs, patents and trademarks”.

“This esteemed firm has a long track record of working with Sri Lankan telephone Operators. It has particular expertise on the corporate side of the sector, including project financing and the incorporation and development of telecoms ventures. Kandiah Neelakandan is the first port of call for the practice”.

**Asialaw Profiles, *the Guide to Asia-Pacific's Leading Law Firms*, (2011 edition) states as follows at page 497:**

“With over half a century of experience, the firm provides responsive service to a number of esteemed clients, such as banking entities HSBC, Citibank and Standard Chartered Bank. A highlight banking transaction was its role of local counsel to Korean institution Shinhan Bank with regards to a project loan to a local Sri Lankan interest”.

**The Legal 500, *the Client's Guide to the Asia Pacific Legal Profession* (2012 edition), states as follows at page 474:**

“Murugesu & Neelakandan’s team is appreciated for its ‘excellent response times’, and has ‘sufficient depth to handle complex situations’. The group acts for clients such as Citibank, Indian Overseas Bank, The ‘Meticulous’ Kandiah Neelakandan is the key figure in the group”.

**IFLR 1000, *the Guide to the World Leading Financial Law Firms* (2012 edition) states as follows at page 2/219:**

“The team of lawyers at Murugesu & Neelakandan provide excellent legal counsel to us. The firm has applied its broad legal knowledge pertaining to company law to provide practical business solutions to any legal issues we have faced,” says a client. The firm remains an important stalwart in the Sri Lanka legal market and consolidates its position in the rankings this year”.

“Preeminent partner Kandiah Neelakandan is well respected by clients: “He has demonstrated his ability as a vastly knowledgeable and very proactive legal counsel. His time management skill to make himself available to us at the shortest notice stands out in particular”.

**Chambers Asia Pacific, *Asia-Pacific's Leading Lawyers for Business*, (2012 edition) states as follows at page 971:**

“The Firm is a popular choice with major domestic financial institutions who value its dynamic approach. Peers note that the team is especially strong in inbound investment and regulatory issues. Of note was its representation of Shinhan Bank as local counsel in a project loan to a Sri Lankan company. Other key clients include Citibank, Indian Overseas Bank and Public Bank”.

“Murugesu & Neelakandan act for a range of domestic and international clients on corporate matters. Of note was its representation of Debanhams in a franchise agreement with a Sri Lankan company and its advice to a Singaporean company on



the proposed acquisition of a biomass plant. It also assisted a foreign company with the planned acquisition of a property development company”.

“This mid-sized practice acts on trademark, industrial design and patent applications for both domestic and international companies. The team is also recommended for its strength in general trade mark matters. Key clients include Research In Motion, Rolls-Royce, Google, Audi and Levi Strauss”.

**Asialaw Profiles, *the Guide to Asia-Pacific’s Leading Law Firms*, (2012 edition) states as follows at page 471:**

“Murugesu & Neelakandan provides excellent legal advice,” says one client. Name partner Kandiah Neelakandan is highly regarded by clients. “He is demonstrably a vastly knowledgeable and proactive lawyer,” says one. One client says: “The lawyers know they’re good but are open-minded at the same time, which makes it a pleasant and insightful experience working with them”.

**The Legal 500, *the Client’s Guide to the Asia Pacific Legal Profession* (2013 edition), states as follows at page 504, 505, 506 & 507:**

“Neelakandan & Neelakandan is ‘very highly’ thought of in the profession, and advises foreign clients on the formation of joint venture companies and offshore companies based in Sri Lanka. Managing partner Kandiah Neelakandan is currently advising Samsung C&T Corporation on its potential entry into the Sri Lankan market. Neelakandan is ‘very thorough, and one of the best in the country on company law’.” “The ‘excellent’ Neelakandan & Neelakandan acts for local and foreign clients in arbitration disputes. Saravanan Neelakandan is currently advising Taisei Corporation in relation to a dispute with the Sri Lankan government”.

“Neelakandan & Neelakandan recently provided advice to Google on illegal registrations of its domain name. The firm continues to act as correspondent for a number of international law firms, including Bird & Bird and HallMark IP Limited. Clients include Panasonic, Hermes International and Victoria’s Secret”.

“Neelakandan & Neelakandan advises local and international clients on projects and energy matters. Saravanan Neelakandan is leading a team in providing advice to Chinese and Japanese contractors in relation to the Southern Transport Development Project. The firm is also currently advising Taisei Corporation of Japan on phase one of the Greater Colombo Urban Development Project, involving the construction of the outer circular highway”.

“Neelakandan & Neelakandan provides advice on a range of property development and infrastructure projects.....Other highlights include advising the Keangnam Corporation of Korea on its US\$ 60m condominium development project”.

“Neelakandan & Neelakandan is noted for its ‘dedication to the client’s cause’. The firm advises shipping companies, P&I clubs and international law firm, including Clyde & Co and Jackson Partron. The firm has recently advised on the possibility of bunker arrests”.

“The ‘excellent’ team at Neelakandan & Neelakandan continues to provide tax advice to Taisei Corporation (International) of Tokyo in relation to the Bandaranaike International Airport development project”.

**IFLR 1000, *the Guide to the World Leading Financial Law Firms* (2013 edition) states as follows at page 2/243:**

“The corporate practice was highlighted by clients: "Murugesu & Neelakandan has the best corporate lawyers. Kandiah Neelakandan has a very good understanding on corporate matters and his team is also supporting him well. It's our preferred firm for corporate work," says one and another agrees: "Murugesu & Neelakandan is straight ahead of anyone else in the mergers and acquisition space in terms of giving practical and accurate advice. They have strong expertise in company law and they apply that to give clients commercial solutions”.

**Asialaw Profiles, *the Guide to Asia-Pacific’s Leading Domestic Law Firms*, (2013 edition) states as follows at page 613:**

“The firm has seen an increasing involvement in the corporate space in recent years. A client praises the firm, saying, “Neelakandan & Neelakandan” is streets ahead of anyone else in the mergers and acquisition space in terms of giving practical and accurate advice. They have strong expertise in company law and they apply themselves to give clients commercial solutions.” Saravanan Neelakandan and Kandiah Neelakandan head the mergers, acquisitions and corporate practice of the firm. The firm acted as Sri Lankan counsel to an overseas telecommunications group in their US\$ 34.9 million bid to purchase a local telecommunications company. The firm carried out due diligence and advised on the share purchase agreement and structuring of the local special purpose vehicle”.



