

Shivani Honwad, Esq.

Shivani Honwad, Esq. is a passionate advocate for the rights of women and children. As a student at New York University's Stern School of Business, Shivani spent the Summer of 2005 interning in Bollywood in Mumbai, India, where she witnessed first-hand the massive destruction of property and extreme devastation caused by the July 26, 2005 monsoon floods. Since then, Shivani has dedicated her education and career to helping those in need obtain the services they deserve. For instance, during law school, Shivani filed an affirmative asylum brief on behalf of a victim of domestic violence abroad as a student attorney with the International Human Rights Law Clinic, taught constitutional law to Ballou Senior High School students as a teaching fellow with the Marshall-Brennan Constitutional Literacy Project, and served as a comment mentor for the American University Journal of Gender, Social Policy, and the Law. In addition, she served as a legal research assistant to Ms. Stephanie Ortoleva, Esquire and has maintained a working relationship with Ms. Ortoleva as the Legal and Policy Consultant to Women Enabled since that time by researching, writing and presenting at the United Nations and other forums about violence against women and girls with disabilities.

Upon graduation from law school, Shivani clerked for the Honorable Chief Judge Chandlee Johnson Kuhn of the Family Court of the State of Delaware, where in addition to researching and drafting numerous Family Court orders and decisions, she presented with and on behalf of Chief Judge Kuhn in several local and national forums on issues pertaining to juvenile justice. Shivani also successfully lobbied the State Representatives of Delaware to amend Delaware's state laws to provide better protections to juvenile victims of prostitution. In October of 2013 Shivani presented on a panel at an International Law conference at Fordham Law School on the importance of access to equal justice and appropriate education and healthcare to eliminate violence against women and girls with disabilities and their vulnerability to human trafficking. Since then, she has served on numerous panels advocating for women's rights and been interviewed for several articles as well, including the recent Spotlight feature in The Boston Globe on the fashion industry.

In New York, Shivani worked as an associate at a small law firm where she focused on criminal defense, personal injury and immigration law. Prior to opening her own law firm, she served as Of Counsel to several local and multi-national immigration law firms handling all aspects of family and business immigration law cases. Shivani founded The Law Firm of Shivani Honwad, LLC in August of 2014. The Firm focuses on start-up business and immigration law for companies in the fashion, tech and entertainment realms and also represents entrepreneurs and small businesses in a variety of fields. She primarily handles artist and entertainer visas for models, designers and artists, employee work or transfer visas for start-up and tech companies, and all types of entrepreneur and investor visas. She also files marriage based immigration cases. In addition to immigration services, Shivani provides business legal services such as incorporating businesses, preparing partnership agreements, filing initial trademark registrations with the USPTO, drafting business plans, and reviewing/negotiating contracts and NDAs. She also provides quite a few services to

bloggers and others in social media marketing regarding compliance as Of Counsel to Law on the Runway.

Shivani dedicates a considerable amount of her time actively advocating for improved transparency in the modeling industry and pro bono representation of children fleeing violence, abuse and human trafficking. In furtherance of her anti-human trafficking advocacy work, she has served on the Young Executive Board of the Nomi Network, the Young Professionals Board of Girls Educational and Mentoring Services (GEMS) and been a member of the New York State Anti-Trafficking Coalition. She has also been a member of the South Asian Bar Association of New York, serving as the Vice President of Public Interest in 2015 and was selected as the 2017 Pro Bono Attorney of the Year, with the Award being presented to her by the Honorable Judge Denny Chin; the American Bar Association, including being appointed by the ABA President as the Young Lawyer's Delegate to the ABA Human Trafficking Task Force in 2013, the New York State Bar Association, receiving the Diversity Scholarship in 2013 to attend the NYSBA Trial Academy at Cornell Law School, and is currently an active member of the American Immigration Lawyers Association. In 2018, Shivani co-founded The Legal Unicorn Society, a 501(c)(6) non-profit trade association as a network of socially-conscious lawyers humanizing the practice of law. Shivani understands what it takes for entrepreneurs and companies to be successful and thus blends her passion and expertise to help people achieve their dreams.