

**Name**

Shefali Lakhani

**Title**

Founder and Managing Attorney

**Company**

Lakhani Legal PLLC

**Website**

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**Short Bio (under 100 words)**

I'm Shefali Lakhani, founder of Lakhani Legal PLLC, a business and intellectual property law firm helping small businesses, startups, and creative entrepreneurs protect and grow their businesses. I take a practical, relationship-driven approach to legal work. My mission is to make legal accessible, strategic, and a true asset to my clients, not just a box to check. In my free time, you can find me exploring the New York City food scene, walking through Prospect Park, traveling, or cooking a new recipe!

**Tell us about your firm or business including: history, specialization, and years in business**

I launched Lakhani Legal in early 2024, after years of working in law firms, as well as in the tech and innovation spaces. My firm focuses on business and intellectual property law - from entity creation, equity grants, commercial contracts, trademarks registration, IP protection, fundraising, all the way to exit, and everything in between. I work with clients at all stages, from businesses just starting out to established businesses preparing for acquisition.

**What's an interesting fact about you or your firm that most people don't know?**

I come from a family of entrepreneurs, so I grew up seeing the challenges and triumphs of running a business firsthand. That perspective deeply shapes how I work with my clients. I understand both the legal and the emotional sides of building something from the ground up.

### **What's a favorite moment of your career so far?**

Building relationships with my clients and hearing their stories has been one of the most rewarding parts of my career. I love learning about the spark that inspired their business, the challenges they've faced, and the vision they're working toward. Being able to support them legally and strategically as they bring something incredible to life is a privilege. Watching an idea grow into a thriving venture, and knowing I played a small role in making that happen, is what keeps me inspired.

### **What challenge are you most proud of overcoming?**

Leaving the stability of a more traditional 9-5 job to build my own practice from scratch. It required a leap of faith, a lot of grit, and the rebuilding of my network in New York City.

### **Tell us about a recent professional accomplishment of yours?**

A client came to me after providing work without a signed contract in place. When it came time for payment, her client refused to pay. I stepped in to assess the situation, develop a strong legal position, and negotiate on her behalf. We were able to negotiate payment for the work she had already completed. It was a great reminder of how important it is to have agreements in place from the start and how effective advocacy can turn a difficult situation around.

### **Tell us about a recent personal accomplishment of yours?**

I recently completed an intense hike up a volcano in the Azores!

### **What advice would you offer new business owners?**

So many things! You never feel completely ready to become an entrepreneur, but you still believe that your hard work, expertise, and ability to put yourself out there will pay off. Also, you should build relationships with trusted advisors early. You'll make better decisions and avoid costly mistakes.

### **How can you help other Women Owned Law members improve their businesses?**

I'm happy to provide referrals to WOL members where they may arise. I'm also happy to be a sounding board as folks think about setting up new systems, bringing on new technology, or even just pitching a new client.

### **How has Women Owned Law been of value to you and your career?**

Women Owned Law has been a space to connect with like-minded professionals who understand the unique challenges of running a business in this field. I've met many

wonderful women who have been generous with support, insights, and opportunities to collaborate.