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SUPREME COURT

Corporate Lawyers Outside the Shield

Supreme Court Rules In-House Counsel Not Entitled to Attorney–Client Privilege

Sheikh Rayees • November 1, 2025

PUBLISHED REPORT

In a defining clarification on the limits of professional privilege, the Supreme Court has ruled that full-time, salaried legal advisors employed by companies do not qualify as “advocates” under Indian law—and therefore cannot claim the protection of attorney–client privilege under Section 132 of the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (BSA).

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