

Acknowledgments

This study began as a part fulfillment of the requirement for a Doctoral Degree in Law (Ph.D.). My interest in the subject has been nurtured over the last few years by a project carried out for an overseas client in the field of Intellectual Property Rights. I acknowledge the continuous guidance and motivation of my research guide Professor (Dr.) Syed Maswood, Head & Dean, Faculty of Law, M.S.University of Baroda. The interest and pains taken by Prof. Syed to provide valuable inputs for the study cannot be acknowledged by mere words. I hereby express my sincere gratitude to my guide for his help and guidance.

Considerable other material, ideas, and inspiration for this volume have come from people, some of whom are mentioned in the text and references, but many of whom would never be named because the origins of much of the material are simply not known. It is, so to speak, public property, part of the 'intellectual commons', in the public domain. Most of what goes into a person's 'original' ideas is based on the output of other people, contemporaries or ancestors. In this sense, private rights to ideas (Intellectual Property Rights) are a fundamental mistake. I make no claim to such rights for what is contained in this volume.

Throughout the duration of the study, the two terms IPRs and Biodiversity dominated all discussions at home, not sparing even

the dining table. This made my wife remark that the only place that has escaped from the effect of IPRs and Biodiversity is the kitchen. However, if the study had continued for a little longer, there would have been a dish named 'IPR' or 'Biodiversity'. I thank my wife Pinaky for her infinite patience who smilingly sacrificed several of her outings and weekends. I am also thankful to my fifteen year old son Anshul for whom the meaning of the words IPRs and Biodiversity are loss of his play time with his dad. How can I thank my mother who made a face every time I mentioned the words IPRs or Biodiversity; my father who always encouraged me to take the less travelled path; and my friends who yawned every time I mentioned these words but were always supportive?

All this gave me the feeling that in this study *I was not alone.*

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