

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **BAGCHI LAW LAUNCHES BAGCHI GROUP - WELCOMES NEW CEO & COO**

Ravila Gupta takes the helm with Ben Blankenship as her second

April 6, 2020 [Chapel Hill, NC] - Bagchi Law broadens their client support services through the formation of Bagchi Group, offering global and domestic business strategy, financial, and board and business coaching services. "I believe clients working with commercial and transactional lawyers require a better solution that is some part legal, some part financial, and some part business. We are poised to meet this challenge," stated Neil Bagchi. "While Bagchi Group's new website is under development, its expanded services are now available to existing and new clients."

Ravila Gupta joins Bagchi Group as its Chief Executive Officer and brings over 30 years of experience in engineering, legal and executive leadership roles. Most recently, Gupta was President and CEO of Council for Entrepreneurial Development (CED). CED is the largest and longest-running network for entrepreneurs in the country and Gupta will assume its Board Chair position in July. Prior to CED, Gupta served as president of Umicore USA, a multinational materials technology company. Prior to Umicore, Gupta worked as a chemical engineer at several companies, consulting firms and government agencies. After obtaining her Juris Doctor from North Carolina Central University, she began her professional career as an attorney for Ogletree Deakins in Raleigh. "I am very excited to join Neil and Ben as we combine our collective professional experiences to create exceptional value for our clients."

Ben Blankenship joins Bagchi Group as its Chief Operating Officer and president of its Financial Services Division. He joins the team with over 27 years of financial and operational leadership in the for-profit and non-profit sectors including restaurant and food services, wireless communications, and lighting technology as well as community foundations, museums, and land trusts. He holds a BSBA in Finance from The University of Denver, Associates in Culinary Science from The Culinary Institute of America, Project Management Professional (PMP) certification, and experience as an Entrepreneurial Operating System (EOS)<sup>®</sup> implementer and sustainer. Blankenship will support and grow a wide range of local and global businesses, while continuing to provide advisory services to Hargett Hunter, a private equity firm in Raleigh.

Sonya Rikhye joins Bagchi Law as an Associate. Sonya received a JD from UNC Chapel Hill and has focused her practice primarily on corporate, commercial and transactional law. She brings six years of strong experience to the team.

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