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Nina **Ebkar** JD '02

Corporate Counsel, Legal Affairs, IP
Husqvarna AB
Huskvarna, Sweden



With knowledge of English, Danish, French and German, along with her native Swedish, Nina Ebkar JD '02 can easily converse with her clients throughout world. "But, the working language, both spoken and written, is exclusively English," says Ebkar who serves as corporate counsel for Husqvarna AB in Huskvarna, Sweden.

"Legal affairs has a central role in the Husqvarna Group business," explains Ebkar. I work mainly with IP, marketing law, domain names infringement and corporate issues. I also work closely with the Husqvarna sales companies, R&D, various business units, design and central marketing departments on a global basis."

A world leader in outdoor power products for forestry and lawn and garden care, Husqvarna had sales of SEK 33.3 billion ($4.3 billion) in 2007 and employs an average of 16,000 worldwide. North America and Europe are the company's major markets, and Husqvarna maintains production and sales facilities in more than 100 countries.

"I have contacts with international law firms but do, as far as practically possible, the 'bread and butter' legal counseling autonomously. I work proactively and mainly independently, but also on various team projects," Ebkar explains. "For example, my work may involve various product development projects, marketing campaigns, preparations for new advertising materials or brochures and product catalogues."

An avid athlete, Ebkar didn't decide to go to law school until the early 1990s. In the late 1980s, she worked at the Safir Table Tennis Club in Orebro, Sweden, where she trained junior players while attending high school. She went on to play table tennis full-time in Halmstad, by the Swedish west coast.

"Legal issues interested me a lot," says Ebkar. "My mother's cousin was a judge and at the time I wanted to become a judge. My dad who is a radiologist thought that I would be a perfect children's doctor, but I was not at all interested. He wanted, of course, that at least one of his children to carry on his profession!"

In 1994, Ebkar enrolled at Lund University Faculty of Law in Lund, Sweden. "I became interested in intellectual property in 2000 through Professor Gudmundur Alfredsson, whom I had worked for as a teaching assistant. He introduced me to the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and later that year I was accepted into a six-week intensive summer training course at the WIPO Academy. In 2001, I was accepted as an intern at the Academy," explains Ebkar.

"At WIPO, I conducted research work for Dr. Mpazi Sinjela, regarding the relationship and interplay between human rights and intellectual property," says Ebkar. "I put together course materials for a new master's program, an LLM in International Human Rights Law and Intellectual Property Rights, to be offered at the Faculty of Law, Raoul Wallenberg Institute in Lund."

After completing the LLM program at Pierce Law, Ebkar worked for two years as a clerk in the district court and later accepted an associate position at Foretagsjuristerna in Stockholm, where she worked on commercial agreements, civil disputes and intellectual property matters. In early 2006, she moved to her current post at Husqvarna.

"Pierce Law gave me a profound and broad knowledge of intellectual property rights, which gave me a good base as well as the ability to appreciate clients needs and to provide them with good legal advice," says Ebkar. "I had the opportunity to study with JD students and the professors encouraged us to be interactive in class. These courses and various social activities held at the school helped me to improve my written and spoken English skills."

The LLM program gave me a unique education, one geared toward success in obtaining a job at a multinational corporation. I gained an understanding of United States laws as well as other international legal concepts that I have found very useful in my post at Husqvarna. The friendships and contacts I made during my time in Concord are an invaluable asset."

Ebkar resides in Huskvarna, but maintains an apartment in Stockholm as well. She enjoys the gym, running, golf, tennis as well as travel, movies and cooking. She has a Rhodesian Ridgeback dog (her mother is a breeder). She was a member of the Table Tennis Team of Sweden from 1987-1993. She was also Swedish team silver medalist in 1990 and team champion in 1991 and 1992.