

Five Bird Marella Partners Recognized in Benchmark Litigation's 40 & Under List

Bird Marella partners Gopi Panchapakesan, Oliver Rocos, Fanxi Wang, Elliot Harvey Schatmeier, and Ashley Bowman have all been named to *Benchmark Litigation's* 40 & Under list. The honorees were selected through peer reviews and an extensive nationwide research process, reflective of their accomplishments in high-stakes and precedent-setting cases. Recently named one of the "best California lawyers under 40" by the *Daily Journal*, **Mr. Panchapakesan** is an expert in defending class actions, as well as cases brought under the civil RICO statute and False Claims Act. Mr. Panchapakesan has an active trial practice. Last year, he tried a three-month white collar case to verdict; and this year, he is co-lead counsel in connection with both an upcoming trial involving \$60 million in alleged fraudulent transfers and a complex FINRA arbitration hearing involving mortgage-backed securities. **Mr. Rocos** regularly succeeds in high-profile litigation, recently winning a highly complex and contentious anti-SLAPP motion for clients Lauren Sanchez and her fiancé, Amazon founder Jeff Bezos. He also secured a complete and final dismissal of all amended counterclaims against client Word Collections, Inc., a performing rights collection agency representing songwriters and comedians, in an antitrust action brought by subscription-based audio streaming service Pandora. In 2023, Mr. Rocos was named a winner of the California Legal Awards' Lawyers on the Fast Track award, which recognized California attorneys under 40 who are considered the next generation of legal leaders. A second-year honoree, **Ms. Wang** has achieved significant victories in recent years, including as part of a trial team that won a complete defense verdict in a nine-figure false advertising jury trial for healthcare apparel and lifestyle brand FIGS. Her invaluable work on the case contributed to recognition from the *Daily Journal*, earning the Bird Marella team the Top Defense Verdict of 2022. Continuing her winning streak, she partnered with the ACLU in a pro bono victory to terminate the government's deportation proceedings against her client, an asylum seeker from Guatemala. **Mr. Harvey Schatmeier**, also recognized for the second year in a row, has led several complex business dispute cases and achieved notable wins for industry-leading clients. He secured a complete dismissal of all claims asserted against top real estate brokerage Compass in a federal trade secrets lawsuit, won a complete defense victory for a prominent securities brokerage firm in a FINRA arbitration involving over \$40 million in alleged damages, and secured a multimillion-dollar verdict in the highly publicized trial against real estate developer Mohamed Hadid regarding his illegally-constructed hillside mansion in Bel Air.

An experienced commercial litigator, **Ms. Bowman** recently won a complete defense verdict in a federal jury trial for Pentius, LLC, involving trademark and unfair competition claims following a nearly two-week jury trial and just a few hours of deliberations. She previously won a federal trial on behalf of KST Data, Inc. in a breach of contract suit, in addition to obtaining recovery of tens of millions of dollars in cash and valuables on behalf of scores of clients in the high-profile U.S. Private Vaults seizure case. This fall, Ms. Bowman will serve as lead trial counsel in an entertainment contract dispute on behalf of a top Hollywood producer. Click [here](#) to view *Benchmark Litigation's* 2024 40 & Under list.