



GOPI K. PANCHAPAKESAN

ASSOCIATE

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EDUCATION

Harvard Law School, J.D., 2011

Northwestern University, B.A., 2006

OVERVIEW

Gopi K. Panchapakesan's practice focuses on the litigation of complex business disputes, including commercial fraud, breach of contract, unfair business practices, and class action matters. Gopi has successfully tried, mediated, and settled numerous cases. Gopi has represented companies and individuals across a wide variety of industries, including retail, healthcare, software, biomedical, real estate, and consumer products.

Gopi has particular experience defending companies and individuals in quasi-criminal actions, including cases brought under the federal civil RICO statute. He has been named a "Southern California Rising Star" by *Los Angeles Magazine*. Gopi currently serves as the co-President-Elect of the South Asian Bar Association of Southern California, and also serves on the board of the Los Angeles Metropolitan Debate League. Prior to joining Bird Marella, Gopi practiced litigation at Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan, LLP.

EXPERIENCE

Represented large Taiwanese conglomerate and other lead defendants in a 34-defendant civil RICO, fraud and alter ego action, stemming from the alleged “bust out” of flat screen television company Westinghouse Digital Electronics. Plaintiff sought over \$80 million in trebled RICO damages. After successfully obtaining summary adjudication of certain claims and procuring victories on several key motions in limine on the eve of trial, the case was successfully resolved for a nominal amount.

Successfully represented Labor Commissioner of the State of California by defeating motion to compel arbitration brought by motor carrier and restoring the Commissioner’s jurisdiction to hear wage and hour claims brought by the carrier’s employees.

Second-chaired arbitration hearing in connection with a dispute involving profit participation rights in a real estate venture.

Obtained final approval of a class action settlement on behalf of a major multinational nutritional and personal care product corporation, defeating objections made collectively by several class members, as well as a motion for reconsideration brought by these same objectors.

Represented publicly traded company through final arbitration hearing in a multi-million dollar accounting malpractice case.

Successfully settled several cases involving complex warehousing disputes on behalf of global supplier of consumer products.

Successfully settled case brought by the government under the Federal Program Fraud Civil Remedies Act for less than one-sixth of the damages initially demanded by the government.

Successfully represented several families living in dilapidated housing on skid row in Los Angeles. In a partnership with the Inner City Law Center, Gopi helped procure a \$750,000 settlement on behalf of the tenants.

Defended big-box retailer in action brought by the South Coast Air Quality Management District, L.A. City Attorney’s Office, and the district attorneys of Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino counties, in which the government alleged the retailer sold paint and other coatings in violation of air quality standards. The case was settled on favorable terms.

Defended large retail bookseller in a wage and hour class action, in which plaintiffs alleged they had been misclassified as “exempt” employees, and successfully defeated class certification.

HONORS & AWARDS

Southern California Rising Stars, *Los Angeles Magazine*, 2018-2019

AFFILIATIONS

Member of the Executive Board (co-President-Elect), South Asian Bar Association of Southern California

Member of the Board of Directors, Los Angeles Metropolitan Debate League

PUBLICATIONS

Co-Author, "The Changing Scope of Arbitrability and Appealability," *National Law Journal*, August 2019

Co-Author, "The Far-Reaching New Domestic Injury Rule Under Civil RICO," *Law360*, June 2017

FORMER POSITIONS

Associate, Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan, LLP, 2011-2014

ADMISSIONS

California, 2011