

PARTNER

Sarmad M. Khojasteh

New York

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PROFILE

Sarmad is a first chair trial lawyer and crisis manager. He previously served in leadership in the Civil Division at the U.S. Department of Justice, where he supervised more than 70 criminal and civil federal prosecutors in the Enforcement & Affirmative Litigation Branch. He represents companies and executives in high-stakes commercial litigation, criminal and civil investigations and enforcement actions, and congressional investigations.

Sarmad's practice focuses on the resolution of business disputes across a broad range of substantive areas, including securities and credit-related matters, contract disputes, corporate governance issues, and general commercial disputes. He also advises clients on sensitive matters, corporate crises, regulatory litigation, and other disputes involving the U.S. federal and state governments, including the DOJ, FTC, and FDA. His clients include public and private companies, private equity and other investment firms, partnerships, and individuals in industries including financial services, real estate, pharmaceuticals, insurance, media, technology, and manufacturing.

Prior to joining the firm, Sarmad served as deputy assistant attorney general in the Civil Division at the DOJ, where he supervised criminal and civil prosecutions and investigations involving food, drugs, medical devices, tobacco products, consumer goods, social media, internet commerce and marketing practices, and violations of the Controlled Substances Act, Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, the Federal Trade Commission Act, Children's Online Privacy Protection Act, the Restore Online Shoppers' Confidence Act, and the Consumer Product Safety Act. Sarmad also supervised all affirmative litigation initiated by the U.S. to enforce compliance with federal statutory or regulatory programs or to challenge state or private interference with federal



PRACTICES



Commercial Disputes
Crisis Management
Financial Institutions and Private Funds
Global Investigations and White Collar Defense
Government Litigation
Life Sciences and Health Care
Real Estate Disputes
Technology

EDUCATION



University of Chicago Law School, J.D.; *University of Chicago Law Review*; Clinic Staff, Criminal and Juvenile Justice Project
Colgate University, B.A., *cum laude*, International Relations; Harvey Picker Award for Outstanding Performance in International Relations Leadership

ADMISSIONS



Bars

New York
U.S. District Court: Southern District of New York
U.S. District Court: Eastern District of New York
U.S. Court of Appeals: Second Circuit

AWARDS AND ASSOCIATIONS



Rising Star, *The New York Law Journal* (2021)

constitutional or statutory mandates. His work included spearheading the first-of-its-kind nationwide civil seizure operation for illicit vaping products; successfully resolving False Claims Act and Controlled Substances Act opioid-related prosecutions against certain of the country’s largest pharmacies; obtaining the largest Children’s Online Privacy Protection Act-related resolution ever attained against a leading social media company; and obtaining the largest criminal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act-related resolution ever attained against a leading global online marketplace. Additionally, he served as the inaugural deputy assistant attorney general for Special Litigation, leading high-profile civil litigation involving administration priorities or senior administration officials. In this role, he prepared senior administration officials to testify before Congress, in district court, and in depositions.

Before entering government, Sarmad spent nearly 20 years as a commercial litigation partner at two global law firms. *The New York Law Journal* recognized him as a “Rising Star” (2021), and *Benchmark Litigation* named him a “Future Star” (2024 and 2025) and included him on its “40 & Under Hot List” (2018).

Future Star, *Benchmark Litigation* (2024 and 2025)

40 & Under Hot List, *Benchmark Litigation* (2018)

Board Member, Legal Services of the Hudson Valley (2018-2024)

Board of Directors, Abraham House (2013-2024)

CLERKSHIPS	×
Hon. Terrence W. Boyle, U.S. District Court: Eastern District of North Carolina	