

## Vineet Bhatia Partner

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VINEET BHATIA, admitted to bar, 1991, New York and 1996, Texas.



### EDUCATION

- Rice University (B.A. 1987)
- Columbia University School of Law (J.D. 1990)

### HONORS & DISTINCTIONS

- Law Clerk to The Honorable Jack B. Weinstein, United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York
- Notes and Comments Editor, Columbia Law Review, 1989-90
- Harlan Fiske Stone Scholar (1987-90)

### PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- State Bar of Texas
- American Bar Association; Litigation Section, Antitrust Section
- New York State Bar Association
- New York City Bar Association
- Texas Bar Association
- Houston Bar Association

Mr. Bhatia started his career at Wachtell Lipton Rosen & Katz in New York City in 1991 and joined Susman Godfrey in 1996. He became a partner in the firm in 1997 and is the youngest partner to have served on the firm's Executive Committee.

Over the last 15 years, Mr. Bhatia has had tremendous success handling a wide variety of complicated, high-stakes commercial disputes for plaintiffs and defendants. Mr. Bhatia is experienced in antitrust litigation, contract disputes, intellectual property cases, insurance coverage litigation, first amendment litigation, product liability litigation and many other types of cases.

Mr. Bhatia has a nationwide practice and has handled lawsuits in California, New York, Florida, Mississippi, Oklahoma, Texas, Virginia and Washington. His cases, which have arisen under domestic and foreign law, have taken him to Brazil, England, Russia, and Venezuela. Mr. Bhatia has also handled a number of disputes arising out of corporate transactions, such as purchase price adjustment arbitrations and tax sharing agreement arbitrations. He has been hired to try lawsuits for a number of Fortune 500 companies, including ACE Limited, Lyondell Chemical Company, Philip Morris, Kmart, and Western Resources.

In the last five years alone, Mr. Bhatia has recovered over \$300 million for plaintiffs by either settlement or judgment. In addition, Mr. Bhatia made a major contribution to one of the Top Ten Verdicts in the United States in 2005, when Steve Susman and he obtained a \$140 million jury verdict (automatically trebled to \$420 million) in an antitrust case against Tyco Healthcare Group. The case was tried in federal court in Los Angeles.

In addition to winning money for plaintiffs, Mr. Bhatia successfully has defended clients facing multi-million and multi-billion dollar claims. Philip Morris placed Mr. Bhatia on a National Steering Committee to organize the defense of tobacco litigation brought by dozens of foreign countries and placed him in charge of the cases brought in Texas. The cases in Texas and throughout the country were dismissed, and those dismissals were upheld on appeal. Philip Morris ended up paying nothing. Two of the world's largest insurers – ACE Property and Casualty Co. and Equitas – have also hired Mr. Bhatia to handle coverage disputes involving hundreds of millions of dollars of exposure throughout the United States.

If you are interested in contacting Mr. Bhatia's clients to find out about how he handles cases, call Joe Speelman at Lyondell Chemical Company, (713) 652-7402, Steve Rissman at Philip Morris, (917)-663-3310, or Simon Wright at Equitas 011-44-207-342-2678. You can also speak to opposing counsel from some of Mr. Bhatia's trials such as Steve Neal at Cooley Godward (650) 843-5182 or Ronald Redcay at Arnold & Porter, (213) 243-4002.

The results in some of Mr. Bhatia's recent cases are described below.

**March 2005:** A federal jury in Los Angeles California awarded Masimo Corporation, \$420 million in damages (after trebling) against Tyco Health Care Group and its affiliate, Mallinckrodt, Inc. The claims had been brought under the federal antitrust laws based on Tyco's anticompetitive practices that prevented Masimo from selling its competing pulse oximetry products to hospitals located in the United States. The case was tried by Mr. Bhatia, Steve Susman, and two other partners in the firm's Los Angeles office. Mr. Bhatia selected the jury and presented and cross-examined the majority of witnesses at trial.

**March 2005:** A federal district court in San Antonio dismissed all claims by 53 plaintiffs suing ConocoPhillips and Rio Grande Resources, alleging that defendants' uranium mining and milling operations caused cancer and other medical ailments. Plaintiffs sought damages in excess of \$50 million plus punitive damages; they recovered nothing.

**December 2003:** Several large financial institutions paid more than \$100 million to settle consolidated class actions brought in Los Angeles on behalf injured people whose reserves for future medical care and living expenses had been looted from trust funds. The suit was filed after the trustee stopped paying disbursements of settlement proceeds to approximately 250 seriously injured people and wrongful death claimants. The plaintiffs recovered 100% of their losses. Mr. Bhatia worked extensively on this case with co-lead class counsel, Marc M. Seltzer, in Susman Godfrey's Los Angeles office.

**August 2002:** An arbitrator rendered an arbitration decision in favor of our client, Lyondell Chemical Company, against Atlantic Richfield Company. The arbitration involved the breach of a long-term agreement to supply MTBE. After the arbitration decision, the parties agreed that ARCO should pay Lyondell \$21.5 million. Mr. Bhatia served as lead counsel in this

case, and the result was featured in an article in the National Law Journal on the top plaintiffs firms in the United States.

**June 2002** Mr. Bhatia concluded two cases arising out of ACE Limited's acquisition of Cigna Corporation – a tax sharing agreement arbitration and a lawsuit filed in New York. Mr. Bhatia represented ACE in both cases. The settlement agreement in the case is confidential.

**November 2000:** Mr. Bhatia served as lead counsel for Western Resources in a purchase price adjustment arbitration and related litigation against Westinghouse Electric Corporation. The arbitration and related case involved Western Resources's purchase of Westinghouse's home-monitored security business in December 1996. The terms of the settlement were confidential, although Western Resources disclosed, as required by the SEC, that it received \$37.5 million to resolve all the claims.

**April 2000:** After an extensive evidentiary hearing, a state judge in Texas dismissed a \$15 billion lawsuit against Unocal brought by Bidas Corporation, an Argentine oil & gas company. Mr. Bhatia worked on the case with partners Randy Wilson and Eric Mayer. The case was dismissed based on choice of law and summary judgment briefing prepared by Mr. Bhatia. The ruling was upheld on appeal by the Court of Appeals, and Bidas recovered nothing on its claims.

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