



Sanjeet Ganjam

PARTNER

sganjam@sflaw.com | (415) 773-7275

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Litigation, Insurance Coverage

Overview

Sanjeet is a trial lawyer, representing private companies, family businesses, technology startups, and their owners and managers in a range of business disputes.

He specializes in fiduciary disputes among founders, investors and managers of corporations, LLCs and partnerships. He provides pre-litigation counselling to owners and managers to secure their rights as to each other, including as to management fees, profit sharing, control of operations and finances, and access to financial information. If litigation is necessary, he aims to litigate forcefully, but efficiently, to achieve the best result for his client.

He also litigates insurance coverage cases (on behalf of policyholders), contractual disputes and business torts, including solicitation of employees and customers, theft of trade secrets and usurpation of business opportunities. He takes a pragmatic approach to such disputes to achieve sensible, cost-effective results.

Sanjeet represents clients in pretrial and trial proceedings in a variety of forums, including in mediation, arbitration and state and federal court. He has substantial courtroom experience, has argued (and prevailed) before the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, and has tried several cases. His wins on behalf of clients include:

- A \$3.2 million settlement with an insurer for bad faith denial of defense and indemnity (in excess of the policy limit). The client, who suffered significant physical injuries, ultimately recovered over \$7 million from defendants who collectively had only \$2 million in insurance coverage.
- A \$4.25 million settlement with several insurers who contested coverage on a liability claim for physical injury and property damage, including with an excess carrier who purported to rescind coverage based on alleged misrepresentations in the insurance application and filed a rescission action in federal court, as well as with the liability carrier for the insurance broker responsible for preparing the application for excess coverage.
- In a valuation dispute over the buyout of a minority shareholder, secured an arbitration award increasing the final buyout price by \$36 million.
- A favorable, court-approved settlement on behalf of investors against the manager of a prominent restaurant in San Francisco, who embezzled company funds, which resulted in the manager giving up his ownership of the Company (worth millions) and paying \$500,000 in additional damages. The settlement followed a two-week bench trial in San Francisco Superior Court, one of the early fully-remote civil trials held in that court.
- A \$1.6 million settlement for a property developer for negligent destruction of property by a contractor, which was collected in full from liability insurer.
- A \$2 million award in arbitration for the owners of a restaurant against a manager who embezzled company funds. The award issued after a multi-day arbitration involving several witnesses and experts. The award was confirmed by the Superior Court and the case settled on terms favorable to his client.
- A court order removing a director who breached his fiduciary duty to the company by secretly usurping a business opportunity for himself. The Court issued the order following a multi-day, expedited bench trial involving several witnesses and experts.
- Preliminary injunction returning day-to-day control of a company to its Board of Directors. The manager had

taken over complete control of the company's finances, refused to obey Board decisions, refused to allow the Board to inspect the accounts, and stopped distributing profits to shareholders.

- A pre-litigation buyout of a minority shareholder in a technology startup before significant legal expenses.
- A \$3.5 million default judgment against a solar energy contractor, following a prove-up hearing in federal court.
- A \$200,000 court judgment in favor of a real estate developer against a contractor who failed to perform.
- \$100,000 in refunds for an event organizer from several vendors who failed to deliver on their commitments, before significant litigation expenses.
- \$100,000 in liquidated damages for his client under a multi-year supply contract, before significant litigation expenses.

Publications/Speaking

Securing A Bench Trial In Cases Involving Both Legal And Equitable Claims, Association Of Business Trial Lawyers Northern California – See more at <https://abtl.org/northerncalifornia/abtreport/1228/>

Litigating Fiduciary Duty Claims: Claims Against a Majority Shareholder (Chapter 4), American Bar Association Practice Guide – See more at <https://www.americanbar.org/products/inv/book/419072477/>

Breaking Up Is Hard To Do: A Primer on Business Divorce Litigation in California for Transactional Attorneys – See more at <https://research.ceb.com/posts/breaking-up-is-hard-to-do-a-primer-on-business-divorce-litigation-in>

“Let’s Call the Whole Thing Off”: Pleading, Prosecuting and Defending Insurer Rescission Claims, American Bar Association Section of Litigation — See more at https://www.wiley.law/media/publication/457_rescission.pdf

Protect Your Privilege With Federal Rule of Evidence (FRE) 502(d): Lessons From Great-West Life & Annuity Ins. Co. v. tem Am. Econ. Ins. Co. – See more at: <https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=22526b35-4946-4dce-a4b5-20d44fbea26e>

Professional Activities

Board Member, Aids Legal Referral Panel (2022 to Present)

Board Member, South Asian Bar Association Foundation (2024 to Present)

Education

University of California, Davis

B.A., *with honors*, 2008

University of Michigan Law School

J.D., *cum laude*, 2012

Admissions

California State Bar

U.S. District Court for the Northern, Central, Eastern and Southern Districts of California

Accolades

One of the Shartsis Friese Attorneys named “Rising Star” (2022) and “Super Lawyer” (2025) in *Super Lawyers*, Northern California

RATED BY
Super Lawyers

Rising Stars

Sanjeet Ganjam

SuperLawyers.com