

# Bruce G. Vanyo

Partner and Co-Chair, Securities Litigation Department

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## Practices

FOCUS: Securities Litigation

Pharmaceutical and Life Sciences Litigation

White Collar and Internal Investigations

## Industries

Pharmaceutical and Life Sciences

Technology

## Education

JD, Columbia Law School

BS, Miami University, *summa cum laude*

## Bar Admissions

New York

California

## Court Admissions

US Court of Appeals, First Circuit

US Court of Appeals, Second Circuit

US Court of Appeals, Third Circuit

US Court of Appeals, Fourth Circuit

US Court of Appeals, Eighth Circuit

US Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit

US Court of Appeals, Eleventh Circuit

US District Court, Central District of California

US District Court, Eastern District of California

US District Court, Northern District of California

US District Court, Southern District of California

US District Court, District of Arizona

US District Court, Western District of Texas

US Court of Appeals, District of Columbia Circuit

Bruce Vanyo is one of the most experienced and accomplished securities litigators in the United States. In the words of one client, he "is the dean of the securities class action defense bar" (*Chambers USA 2022*). In his distinguished career, Bruce has defended over 200 securities class actions and has handled over 80 Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) investigations.

His clients have ranged in size from small cap, emerging growth companies to established Fortune 50 giant companies. The National Association of Corporate Directors noted he has "defended more major securities cases than any other lawyer in America."

Bruce has represented companies in a vast array of industries including life sciences (biotech and medtech); a wide variety of software companies; computers and other high technology; aerospace; airlines; restaurant chains; donuts; a Las Vegas resort; banks; investment banks; venture capital funds; geothermal mining; waste management; electronic devices made from silicon carbide; internet; engineering and construction; insurance; and motion pictures. His clients have been headquartered in 18 different US states, Israel, China, UK, Canada, and Kazakhstan.

## A champion in battle against meritless securities claims

Early in his legal career before joining Katten, Bruce positioned himself as champion for corporate America in preventing and defending what he saw as meritless securities cases.

In collaboration with Silicon Valley companies, he advocated to reform the law regarding securities class actions. That collective effort produced the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 (known as the Reform Act). Bruce drafted the new pleading standard in the Reform Act which has led to a sea change in the number of cases dismissed at the pleading stage. He also advocated for the widely-used Safe Harbor provisions in the Reform Act.

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US District Court, District of Colorado  
US District Court, District of Nevada  
US District Court, Northern District of Illinois  
US District Court, District of Oregon  
US District Court, Western District of Washington  
Third Judicial Department, New York State Court of Appeals

**Bruce Vanyo's  
"strengths are his  
brilliant intellect,  
extreme creativity and  
remarkable oral  
advocacy."**

- *Chambers USA 2021  
survey response*

A few years later, Bruce argued the first appellate case to construe the Reform Act's requirement that plaintiffs plead a "strong inference" of intent to defraud and established a high hurdle that appellate courts around the country have largely followed.

Clients rely on Bruce's advocacy to prevent unjust results for public companies. He recently earned the dismissal (affirmed on appeal) of an \$800 million securities class action and, in the process, established precedent that broadly limits a company's disclosure requirements with regard to the FDA's drug approval process.

Another prominent example is in the defense of Section 11 cases in California state courts. Starting in about 2018, numerous Section 11 cases were filed in California state court, especially in Northern California. Although defendants were meeting with little success in getting those cases dismissed at the pleading stage, in Bruce's first case there during that wave, he successfully obtained dismissal for his client on the basis of a failure to plead a valid claim. Upheld on appeal, the decision made strong law supporting future such dismissals. Not surprisingly, after the decision, there were far fewer filings in California state court.

## **An unmatched record at the pleading stage**

Bruce is an "old school" lawyer who was trained to get the best result for his clients without maximizing representation fees. Indeed, he strives to minimize fees by a creative strategic approach to every case, bespoke staffing, and leveraging his decades of experience. Clients have praised him for his "strategic advice tailored to clients' goals and needs," noting he is "pragmatic and client oriented." (*Chambers USA 2021*, New York, Litigation survey responses). They also praise him for his "calm and reassuring manner." (*Chambers USA 2022*)

In every case, Bruce's first priority is to get the matter dismissed at the pleading stage. He puts tremendous effort and creativity into accomplishing that goal. His approach has met with enormous success. Over the past 22 years, he has won cases at the pleading stage nearly 80 percent of the time.

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For decades, Bruce has consistently ranked as one of the top securities litigators in the United States by *Chambers USA*, *Legal 500*, *Best Lawyers in America* and others. Most recently, he was ranked by *Chambers* in New York and California — the only securities litigator so recognized — and was installed in *Legal 500*'s Hall of Fame, one of only 11 attorneys so honored nationwide.

## Recognitions

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*Recognized or listed in the following:*

- *Chambers USA*
  - Litigation: Securities
    - California, 2006–2019, 2021–2023
    - New York, 2021–2023
- *The Legal 500 United States*
  - Hall of Fame, 2022–2023
  - Leading Individual, 2017–2021
  - Recommended Attorney, 2013–2016
- *National Law Journal*
  - Litigation Trailblazer, 2018
- *Best Lawyers in America*
  - Litigation - Securities, 1987–2024
- *Super Lawyers*
  - Southern California, 2023

## News

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- Katten Attorneys Distinguished by *Best Lawyers*® (August 17, 2023)
- Katten Lauded in *The Legal 500 United States 2023* (June 9, 2023)
- Katten Boosts Rankings in *Chambers USA Guide 2023* (June 1, 2023)
- Katten Attorneys Selected to 2023 Southern California Super Lawyers List (January 11, 2023)
- Katten Expands NYC Securities Litigation Group with Sarah