



Madhu Pocha

Partner

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Madhu Pocha, Managing Partner of O'Melveny's Century City office, tackles litigation across a range of industries and legal disciplines as a member of the firm's renowned trial practice. Madhu prides himself on aggressively fighting for his clients' interests and being their voice both in the courtroom and in the court of public opinion. Effective client representation for Madhu means understanding a client's business and tailoring strategies that advance both legal and business goals. During his career, Madhu has taken his broad skill set to defend both companies and individuals facing novel legal issues. Recent matters have ranged from a constellation of complex class actions concerning the former Hunters Point Naval Base in San Francisco to financial restructuring litigation on behalf of the Government of Puerto Rico—the first time a US territory has gone through bankruptcy.

Madhu has led teams at all stages of litigation. Recent successes include managing a trial team that won a unanimous and historic jury verdict in a complex antitrust case and arguing a religious freedom case before the US Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit that resulted in a complete reversal.

Before starting his legal career, Madhu worked as a consultant on projects for the US government concerning the Internet, new media, and social networking.

Experience

- Representing national homebuilder in class action and environmental litigation concerning the redevelopment of the former Hunters Point Naval Base in San Francisco

Admissions

Bar Admissions

California

Court Admissions

US District Court, Central District of California

US Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit

Education

Columbia University, J.D.: James Kent Scholar; Executive Editor, *Columbia Human Rights Law Review*

Yale University, B.A., Literature: *magna cum laude*; Calabresi Writing Prize; DeForest Oratory Prize

- Representing the Puerto Rico Fiscal Agency and Financial Advisory Authority in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico's financial restructuring and bankruptcy proceedings
- Represented US Airways (now part of American Airlines) in antitrust lawsuit seeking to halt anticompetitive conduct in the airline ticket distribution market
- Defended Sirius XM in class action lawsuits over common-law copyright ownership in music recorded before 1972
- Represented creators of the *Call of Duty* and *Modern Warfare* videogames in dispute over creative rights and unpaid nine-figure compensation
- Represented movie studio in successful defense of profit participation dispute over the film *Turner & Hooch*
- Represented Agrium, one of the world's leading agricultural companies, in dispute over organic fertilizer
- Defended AMC Theatres in nine-figure dispute over online movie ticketing
- Defended Skechers against claims of false advertising and personal injuries
- Defended Universal in arbitration over profit participation in a multi-billion dollar film franchise
- Defended Australian company against claims brought under the Alien Tort Statute by citizens of Papua New Guinea
- Represented TMZ in dispute over confidentiality of sources under California and federal law
- Defended Sports Illustrated and Pulitzer Prize winning sports journalist in defense of defamation claims
- Represented chip maker AMD in global antitrust lawsuit that resulted in a US\$1.25 billion settlement
- Argued two cases before the US Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit
- Contributed research for the National War Powers Commission Report under the supervision of former Secretary of State Warren Christopher

Professional Activities

Member

- Association of Business Trial Lawyers
- Minds Matter of Los Angeles, Advisory Board Member (2019-present)
- Western Center on Law and Poverty, Advisory Board Member (2018-present)
- Leadership Council on Legal Diversity 2020 Fellow
- South Asian Bar Association of Southern California, Board Member (2014-2020)

Honors & Awards

- Named to the *Los Angeles Business Journal's* list of "Minority Leaders of Influence: Attorneys" (2021)
- Named a "Rising Star" in Southern California (2018)