

Kal K. Shah

Chair, Intellectual Property Litigation Practice Group

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Overview

Representing clients ranging from industry-leading multinational and global enterprises to new and emerging entities, business founders and inventors, Kal works closely with his clients to resolve complex commercial disputes including significant intellectual property matters both in and out of court.

Kal excels in finding a path forward to achieve his clients' goals and has secured wins time and again in cases that decisively impact the viability or success of his clients' businesses.

Complex Commercial Disputes

Trained as a commercial litigator with IP issues as just one realm of litigation, Kal has broad-based knowledge and experience in a variety of business disputes ranging from alleged fraud to breach of contract, breach of fiduciary duty, derivative actions, business divorces, trade secret misappropriation cases, and a host of other matters. He advises clients holistically considering how best to position them for the future but is versed in building a record for trial should it be necessary to go the distance.

Intellectual Property Cases

As chair of the firm's Intellectual Property Litigation Group, Kal leads the firm's efforts in representing clients in copyright, trademark, trade secret, and patent matters spanning a variety of scientific disciplines. He has successfully handled multimillion-dollar trials for clients on both sides of the "v.", including in cases involving medical devices, computer science and internet applications, bioengineering products, chemical substances, semiconductors, lighting circuits and systems, mechanical devices, and wireless technologies to name a few. Additionally, he advises clients not only in litigation but also in licensing deals, joint venture arrangements, and other transactions.

A former engineer at Abbott Laboratories with a background in bioengineering and chemistry, Kal readily understands even the most complex innovations and is adept at presenting clear and persuasive arguments that drive success.

Clients regularly retain Kal because he is a creative problem solver who knows how to find a way to resolve even the most contentious, complex disputes. He helps his clients evaluate the facts and determine the best course of action to accomplish their objectives whether through hard-fought litigation, mediation, arbitration or a negotiated settlement.

Kal previously taught patent litigation as an adjunct professor at Loyola University Chicago School of Law. He maintains an active pro bono practice and was a recipient of the Award for Excellence in Pro Bono Service from the Northern District of Illinois judges and the Federal Bar Association's Chicago Chapter.

Kal began his legal career at Kirkland & Ellis LLP, where he worked his way up from associate to partner trying cases in both the intellectual property and commercial litigation departments. He later found his way to Benesch where he has grown his practice for nearly a decade.

Representative Matters

- Lead counsel for Feit Electric, a global leader in first-to-market lighting innovations, in a jury trial in the Central District of California. Defended the client against claims of patent infringement by a Japanese conglomerate resulting in a jury verdict of no infringement.
- Represented Gamon as Plaintiff in a jury trial against Campbell's Company. After a week-long trial the jury returned a finding of infringement, no invalidity and awarded Gamon $17,000,000 even without the benefit of a damages expert.
- Lead counsel for a portfolio manager for multiple auto dealerships in a confidential breach of contract and misappropriation arbitration against the dealership conglomerate. After two three-day sessions and post-arbitration briefing, obtained a positive result for the client.
- Lead counsel for ComEd, an Exelon company, against claims of breach of contract stemming from a series of disputes following termination of a significant construction relationship. After a week-long trial, the Court found for ComEd on virtually all issues.
- Lead counsel for Cooper Lighting in a week-long trial in the Northern District of Illinois relating to breach of contract and patent infringement. The parties presented over a dozen witnesses over the span of a single week ranging from technical issues to damages.
- Defended Abbott Laboratories against claims of patent infringement involving coronary catheters in the District of Minnesota. Secured full dismissal through summary judgment, including findings of sanctions against Plaintiff's counsel.
- Defendant Teradata, a leading analytics company, against claims of patent infringement by Berkeley*IEOR in the Northern District of Illinois. After years of litigation, obtained a summary judgment determination of no infringement.

Credentials

EDUCATION

- Loyola University Chicago School of Law, 2001, J.D., *cum laude*
- University of Illinois, 1995, B.S., Bioengineering with a Chemistry minor

BAR & COURT ADMISSIONS

- Illinois
- U.S. Patent & Trademark Office
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit
- U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois
- U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Texas
- U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Wisconsin
- U.S. District Court for the Western District of Tennessee
- U.S. District Court for the Western District of Texas

Memberships

- Member, South Asian Bar Association (SABA)
- Member, Asian American Bar Association (AABA)

Awards & Recognition

- Listed, *The Best Lawyers in America®*, Litigation – Intellectual Property; Patent Law, 2023-2027
- Listed, Illinois Super Lawyers, 2015-2025
- Listed, Illinois Super Lawyers, Rising Star, 2011, 2012
- Acritas Star - Independently Rated Lawyer

News & Insights

- 126 Benesch Attorneys Recognized in 2027 Best Lawyers® Rankings
  August 20, 2026 | Press Releases

- Law360 Mentions Benesch Team for Major Trial Win for Cooper Lighting
  March 27, 2026 | Media Mentions
- 16 Benesch Attorneys Selected to 2026 Illinois Super Lawyers and Rising Stars Lists
  January 27, 2026 | Press Releases
- Law.com Mentions Benesch Partner Kal Shah in Coverage of $17M Patent Verdict
  October 28, 2025 | Media Mentions
- Law360 Mentions Benesch Attorneys in $17M Patent Verdict
  October 21, 2025 | Media Mentions
- 129 Benesch Attorneys Recognized in 2026 Best Lawyers® Rankings
  August 21, 2025 | Press Releases
- Benesch Mentioned in Law 360 | "Campbell's Soup Store Racks Infringe Patents, Judge Says"
  January 23, 2025 | Media Mentions
- 17 Benesch Attorneys Selected to 2025 Illinois Super Lawyers and Rising Stars Lists
  January 23, 2025 | Press Releases
- 132 Benesch Attorneys Recognized in 2025 Best Lawyers® Rankings
  August 14, 2024 | Press Releases
- Kal K. Shah and Katie Burnett mentioned in Law360 | "Chicago Cubs Say Private Jet Co. 'Ghosted' Sponsorship"
  February 27, 2024 | Media Mentions

Speaking & Events

PAST EVENTS

- Women in Law Summit 2019 | Kal K. Shah
  April 5, 2019 | Speaking Engagement