Santosh Aravind

PARTNER

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Overview

Santosh Aravind, a former federal prosecutor, is an experienced trial and appellate lawyer who represents individuals and companies in white-collar criminal investigations, regulatory enforcement proceedings, cyber-security matters, and complex commercial litigation. Santosh has represented individuals and companies in proceedings brought by the Securities and Exchange Commission, the United States Department of Justice, the Office of Attorney General in Texas, Massachusetts Attorney General's Office, and various state agencies in Texas. He has chaired or co-chaired 15 trials, including nine as a former federal prosecutor in New York City, and has briefed and argued numerous appeals before the Second Circuit Court of Appeals and Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, as well as state appellate courts in Texas. Santosh also regularly advises start-up technology companies, oil and gas companies, and individuals and companies involved in business disputes.

Before joining Scott Douglass & McConnico, Santosh served as an Assistant United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York for over five years. While a federal prosecutor, Santosh investigated and prosecuted a variety of offenses including securities fraud, bank fraud, tax fraud, murder, racketeering, weapons and international narcotics trafficking, international money laundering, public corruption, and organized crime.

From 2005 to 2009, Santosh was an associate in the litigation department in the New York office of Latham & Watkins, LLP. At Latham, Santosh represented individuals and defendants in securities and complex commercial litigation and government investigations.

After graduating from Yale University and the University of Michigan Law School, Santosh served as a law clerk for the Honorable Julian Abele Cook, Jr. in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan from 2003 to 2005.

Experience

Representative Criminal and Enforcement Matters

Represented an individual employee of software company in U.S. Department of Justice ("DOJ") investigation into compliance with export control regulations relating to certain business transactions with Chinese company and affiliates. DOJ declined prosecution of employee.

Represented president of construction company in DOJ investigation of wire fraud and conspiracy in connection with the Small Business Administration's ("SBA") program.

Represented a former CFO of an import company in parallel criminal and civil investigations brought by the United States Attorney's Office for the District of South Carolina and Western District of Texas involving claims of evading anti-dumping duties.

Represented a real estate developer in an Securities and Exchange Commission investigation relating to alleged Securities Act and Exchange Act violations by developer's business partner.

Represented a student loan company in an investigation by the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office arising from the company's origination of loans for students attending a technical college.

Represented a former mayor of a Mexican city in civil forfeiture action by the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Texas involving allegations of public corruption.

Representative Commercial Litigation Matters

Counsel for global online travel company and affiliates in multiple actions pending in Florida and Delaware involving claims under the Helms-Burton Act for alleged trafficking in real property confiscated by the Cuban government. Santosh argued against class certification in one matter, leading the district court to deny plaintiff's motion for partial class certification.

Trial counsel in representing a publicly-traded oil and gas company in a jury trial in Karnes County, which resulted in a comprehensive jury verdict for the company.

Part of team that prevailed in Fifth Circuit appeal on behalf of oil and gas company in dispute over interpretation of an area of mutual interest provision.

Represented an Austin technology company in a case involving theft of trade secrets by a rival company.

Represented a leading national forensic laboratory in administrative proceedings before the Texas Forensic Science Commission.

Represented a foreign hedge fund in connection with a lawsuit filed in New York state court against a financial institution in connection with billions of dollars of purchases of residential mortgage-backed securities.

Represented a publicly traded oil and gas company in defending a putative class action and other royalty disputes.

Part of team that secured the dismissal of all charges in a defamation suit filed against a former Board of Regents member for a university in Texas.

Represented multiple companies in cyberfraud investigations and related litigation.

Awards

- Selected for The Best Lawyers in America® in Commercial Litigation, by BL Rankings, 2022-2025

Articles & Presentations

- Panelist, "Best Practices When the Government Comes Knocking," 2024 Asian Pacific Interest Section of Texas State Bar CLE & Conference, April 2024
- Santosh Aravind, "Scammers Delight: The Legal Cost of Phishing Schemes," Best Lawyers 2020 Fall Business Edition.

News & Insights

- Fortune 500 Oil & Gas Company - jury trial regarding breach of joint operating agreement
- SDM prevails in jury trial regarding breach of joint operating agreement
- EnerQuest Oil & Gas, L.L.C. - Area of Mutual Interest Agreement, Fifth Circuit Appeal
- SDM Wins Fifth Circuit Appeal in Oil and Gas Case
- SDM Defeats Application for Temporary Injunction
- Santosh Aravind writes about recent Business Email Compromise attacks
- SDM Lawyers Recognized in The Best Lawyers in America, 2022 Edition
- 13 SDM Lawyers Recognized in Best Lawyers® 2023 Honors
- SDM Lawyers Recognized In Best Lawyers® 2024
- SDM Defeats Class Certification in Helms-Burton Act Claims
- SDM Lawyers Recognized In Best Lawyers® 2025

Practice Areas

- Professional Malpractice, Licensing & Regulation
- Securities & Complex Financial Litigation
- White Collar Defense & Government Investigations Group
- Business Litigation & Torts
- Appellate
- Class Action Litigation
- Fiduciary Duty Litigation
- Governmental Entity Litigation
- Insurance Litigation
- Intellectual Property Litigation
- Labor & Employment Litigation
- Pharmaceutical & Medical Device
- Oil & Gas Litigation

Education

- Yale University, B.A., cum laude, 1999
- University of Michigan Law School, J.D., 2003

- Member, University of Michigan Law Review

Admissions

- Texas State Bar
- New York State Bar
- United States District Courts for the Western, Northern, Southern, and Eastern Districts of Texas
- United States District Courts for the Southern and Eastern Districts of New York
- United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit
- United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit

Activities

- Member, Austin Bar Association
- Member, Austin Asian American Bar Association
- Founding Member and Barrister, Barbara Jordan Inns of Court (2017-2019)
- Panel Member, Western District of Texas Criminal Justice Act