

Partner, Palo Alto

Intellectual Property Litigation; Artificial Intelligence;
Blockchain and Digital Assets; Intellectual Property and Technology



T: 650.470.4520
bijal.vakil@skadden.com

Education

J.D., University of California, Davis
School of Law

B.A., University of California,
Los Angeles

Bar Admissions

California

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

U.S. District Courts for the Eastern and
Western Districts of Texas

Bijal Vakil is a highly accomplished first-chair trial attorney who advises on contentious patent matters, copyright and trademark litigation, trade secrets disputes, complex technology transactions and cross-border deals.

Mr. Vakil represents publicly traded and venture-backed companies and has extensive experience in high-stakes intellectual property and technology litigation. He is an invaluable partner to major Silicon Valley and international technology companies and relentlessly works to protect intellectual property and foster success for those at the forefront of technological innovation. Mr. Vakil has worked on matters across a broad spectrum of sectors, including computer software, AI, fintech, blockchain, semiconductors, drones, e-commerce, social media, payments, autonomous vehicles, consumer electronics, telecommunications, video games, medical devices and cryptocurrency.

Mr. Vakil has substantial experience advising on artificial intelligence issues in contentious matters, including trade secret and patent disputes. He also has significant experience with complex cross-border technology transactions and IP transactions involving AI tools, models and data. Mr. Vakil regularly counsels global technology companies on the allocation and protection of IP rights in AI systems, training data and AI-enabled products, and on the structuring of AI-driven collaborations, licensing and commercialization arrangements worldwide. In addition to advising clients, he collaborates with other partners to shape the firm's technology ecosystem and approach to AI.

Prior to joining Skadden, he founded and served as co-chair of the Global Technology Industry Group of another global law firm, where he worked on more than 500 patent, copyright, trade secret and trademark disputes.

In recognition of his work, Mr. Vakil has been repeatedly honored by *Managing IP* as a Patent Star and *Intellectual Asset Management (IAM)* as part of its Strategy 300, Global Leaders and Patent 1000 lists, in addition to being Highly Recommended by *World Intellectual Property Review* as part of its USA Trade Secrets rankings. He has also been named one of *Thomson Reuters'* Stand-out Lawyers and repeatedly recognized by *Chambers USA* and *Lawdragon*, including as one of its 500 Leading Litigators in America and 500 Leading Global IP Lawyers, as well as previously selected to *Silicon Valley Business Journal's* 40 Under 40 list. According to *Chambers* and *IAM*, clients have noted that Mr. Vakil "has his finger on the pulse of so many technology trends and his client service makes five-star hotels look slow" and that he "builds cases brilliantly and is able to spot and exploit the weaknesses in opponents' positions."

Mr. Vakil has co-chaired the Lawyer Representative Committee, chaired two magistrate judge selection committees for the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California and served as a mediator in the court's Alternative Dispute Resolution Program. He has also held leadership roles within numerous national and local bar associations and professional organizations.

Throughout his career, Mr. Vakil has believed in ensuring accessibility for everyone in the legal profession. He served in senior leadership roles at the Asian Law Alliance, National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA), Asian Pacific American Bar Association of Silicon Valley, NAPABA Law Foundation and South Asian Bar Association of North America. NAPABA named him one of its Best Under 40 for his work with the Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander community.

Bijal V. Vakil

Continued

Associations

Board Member, National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA) Law Foundation

Member, University of California, Los Angeles, Venture Capital Fund

Lecturer, Intellectual Property Litigation, University of California, Davis School of Law

Co-Chair, Bay Area Benefit: Courage Under Fire, Tahirih Justice Center

Advisory Counsel, Asia Pacific Fund

Mediator, Court's Alternative Dispute Resolution Program, U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California

Nominating and Elections Committee, NAPABA

Committee Member, Sedona Conference – Intellectual Property Working Group

Co-Chair of the Lawyer's Representative Committee, U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California

Chair of two Magistrate Judge Selection Committees, U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California

Member of Magistrate Judge Reappointment Committee, U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California

Judicial Endorsements Committee, South Asian Bar Association of North America

President, Board Member, Strategy Advisory Committee

Member, Asian Pacific American Bar Association of Silicon Valley

Member, Alumni Board of Directors, University of California, Davis School of Law

Board Member, Federal Bar Association Northern District of California Chapter

President/Vice-President/Secretary, Asian Law Alliance

Co-Chair/Member, Ninth Circuit Judicial Council

Executive Committee (Secretary), Regional Governor and Board Member-at-Large, NAPABA