



## Priya Sopori

Partner

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Priya Sopori's legal savvy and deep courtroom experience—both as an award-winning veteran federal prosecutor and in substantial private practice—enable her to provide clients with the skilled representation and counsel they need during high-stakes trial and crisis situations.

As a former Assistant U.S. Attorney in the Central District of California, she indicted some 45 cases, tried numerous multi-week jury trials, and successfully prosecuted federal sex crimes against women and children, white-collar fraud, and cybercrimes, obtaining convictions.

In private practice, Priya has extensive business litigation and trial experience involving intellectual property, copyright and trade-secret protection, licensing agreements for music and internet/television rights, international film financing and distribution, employer discrimination and sexual harassment, securities litigation, entertainment litigation, wrongful death, and white-collar crime.

In addition to her trial expertise, Priya regularly works with clients who represent investment funds, REITs, hospitality, hedge funds, manufacturers, distributors, and retailers. She often acts as outside general counsel to clients by providing guidance on employment, responses to subpoenas, contractual, real estate, and intellectual property matters as well as assisting with SEC compliance concerns, including agency and/or government investigations.

Priya has won numerous defense verdicts, including a multimillion-dollar employment discrimination suit against a major insurer, and in suits against a successful developer, a noted Hollywood studio, and other high-profile clients. She has successfully litigated the seizure of hundreds of thousands of dollars in cash by the government and successfully negotiated settlements in favor of her clients. She has also successfully negotiated favorable settlements in several trademark, employment, and financial litigation matters, thereby protecting her clients from lengthy, expensive lawsuits. She has also won countless motions for summary judgment against the government, and corporate and individual plaintiffs and defendants. [Read more about her representative matters.](#)

Priya frequently writes and comments on high-profile civil and criminal matters and has been featured in several media outlets, including *Los Angeles Business Journal*, *Law360*, *Associated Press*, *NBC Los Angeles*, and *Daily Journal*.

## Professional Affiliations

- [Women in Media](#), President of the Board
- Diavolo Dance, Board Member
- Member, International Cannabis Bar Association
- Executive Board Member (Treasurer), South Asian Bar Association of Southern California (2017–2018)
- Board Member, South Asian Bar Association of Southern California (2014)
- Southern California Representative to the South Asian Bar Association of North America (2015, 2016)
- U.S. Executive Committee of the British-American Project (2016–2018)
- Attorney Mentor, Leadership Council on Legal Diversity
- Adjunct Professor, La Verne College of Law
- Board Member, Women Lawyers Association of Los Angeles (2001)

## Awards

- *Chambers USA*, Leading Lawyer in the practice of Cannabis Law, 2022–2024
- [Global Top 200 Cannabis Lawyer](#), *Cannabis Law Report & Cannabis Law Journal*, 2023
- Recognized as a "Top Cannabis Lawyer" in the *Los Angeles and San Francisco Daily Journal*, 2022
- Recognized in *Lawyers of Color's* "Law Firm Leaders 2022"
- Named to [National Law Journal "Cannabis Law Trailblazers"](#), 2020
- Listed in [Southern California Super Lawyers](#) for Business Litigation, 2016–2024
- Recognized by *Los Angeles Business Journal* Minorities of Influence: Attorneys, 2021

## Bar Admissions

- California

## Court Admissions

- United States District Court for the Central District of California

## Education

- University of Virginia School of Law (J.D., 2000)
- University of Pennsylvania (B.A., 1995)
  - English

## Representative Matters

### Lead Trial Lawyer Experience

#### Employment Litigation

- Multi-week arbitration involving employment agreement and related claims. No liability and full attorney fees ordered.
- Multi-week jury trial in downtown Los Angeles involving employment discrimination and other claims against a major insurance company. Defense verdict obtained.
- Favorable settlement after first day of trial in employment matter involving claims of wrongful termination, harassment, and related claims.
- Obtained favorable settlement on first day of trial in federal wage and hour class action matter.
- Obtained favorable settlement one week before trial on federal employment claims resulting from orders on Motions in Limine.
- Obtained favorable settlement on first day of trial on wrongful termination and related employment claims.

#### Business Litigation

- Multi-week jury trial involving 900+ victims in a nation-wide Ponzi scheme with multiple defendants. Convictions obtained.
- Multi-week jury in Federal Court involving alleged trademark and copyright infringement and misappropriation of trade secrets.
- Multi-week jury trial in Superior Court on behalf of major retailer involving breach of contract for multiple properties.
- Multi-week jury trial in Superior Court on behalf of individual defendants involving breach of contract in real estate case. Obtained directed verdict on all international torts.

### Lead Counsel Experience

#### High-Profile Talent & Entertainment Litigation

- Obtained summary judgment on contract claims brought against a major studio. Appellate Court affirmed grant of summary judgment.
- Demurred and obtained dismissal with prejudice of plaintiff's tort claims brought against a major production company.

#### Real Estate & Business Litigation

- Obtained summary judgment against government on civil claims related to real estate deal.
- Obtained summary judgment in favor of major development company on trade dress and breach of contract claims, in which plaintiffs claimed defendant stole their design.

## **Cannabis Litigation**

- Settled favorably with a dismissal with prejudice in favor of celebrity-owned cannabis brand (one of the highest grossing stores in Los Angeles) in a contentious business dispute with another shareholder.
- Represented cannabis retailer against breach of contract and fraud claims brought by a New York cannabis investor and counterclaims against same pursuant to its failure to fulfill its obligations.
- Represent the manufacturer/distributor of the extremely popular cannabis brand in a dispute in Federal Court in the Southern District of New York by the purported owner of the “New York Cannabis” Mark, for claims of trademark infringement (Lanham Act and common law) and unfair competition resulting from the unauthorized use of our client’s logo on the website by an unrelated party that purported to offer cannabis “snack boxes” with “brands like” our client.
- Represented a very successful cannabis dispensary in Los Angeles against claims brought by an individual in the Central District of California in connection with purported violations of the ADA.
- Represented a large-scale cultivator in an administrative appeal before the County of Santa Barbara. After a 5-day administrative trial spread out over the course of 10 months, and extensive briefing by both sides, administrative judge reversed the County’s denial and ordered that the county business license be issued to our client. This was the County’s first-ever administrative appeal related to cannabis.
- Prevailed on a motion for summary judgement on behalf of a commercial real estate brokerage. The City Attorney filed a civil suit against our client alleging that our client “leased” space, or otherwise aided and abetted in leasing space, to an unlicensed cannabis operator. We argued that our client is an agent and does not “lease” space under the statute.
- Represented cannabis distributor in potential dispute with insurance company regarding policy coverage and loss as a result of burglary of cannabis manufacturing facility.
- Represented leading cannabis brand in dispute with the largest cannabis distributor in California.

## **Ongoing Representation**

- Anonymous Seeking Alpha blogger “Aurelius” in multiple federal court disputes to determine Aurelius’ true identity.
- High-profile talent in connection with family matters, media relations, and government investigations.
- Celebrity-owned television network in multiple employment litigation matters, including recently obtained summary judgment on employment claims, including sexual harassment, disability discrimination and related claims.
- Luxury development company in employment-related litigation.
- Financial services companies in employment-related litigation.
- Private medical clinics and hedge funds in connection with United States’ government investigations.
- Financial investment company in connection with business litigation.

## Client Comments

### Client Comments from Chambers USA 2023

- There are very few lawyers you can really trust so I highly recommend them. Wherever she goes that's probably where I'll go. I have not discovered any weaknesses that she has. Her strengths are her aura in the courtroom, her ability to communicate complex topics succinctly—which is fantastic for a judge or jury—and the fact that she communicates them in an understandable way. She is also able to guide the decision maker to see her solution or argument as the only one. Priya Sopori alone is phenomenal.
- Priya Sopori's client service and general level of service, level of sophistication and commercial vision are very strong. Priya is the most impressive attorney I have ever worked with and is the first number to call if there is a challenging matter at my company. She is quick, efficient, intelligent and charismatic. Bringing a task or project to her ensures to everyone on my team that it will be handled excellently.
- Priya is by far beyond the best attorney I have worked with. She is quick to pick up whatever task or issue we send her way and she's great at explaining what's going to happen. She knows the right things to do in a situation. She is outstanding.