Raju Sundaran

PARTNER

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This biography is provided for informational purposes only and does not constitute legal advice.

PRACTICE AREAS

- Commercial Litigation
- Civil Litigation
- Transportation Law
- Employment Litigation
- Government Relations, Litigation, Strategy and Representation
- Civil Rights
- Municipal Law Practice
- Immigration Law

Raju Sundaran is a Partner at Abrams Fensterman, LLP working out of the firm's Brooklyn office as a member of the Litigation, Immigration and Transportation Law practice groups.

Prior to joining Abrams Fensterman, Mr. Sundaran was Senior Counsel at the New York City Law Department where he successfully defended numerous law enforcement officers and the City of New York in complex Section 1983 civil rights cases for over 14 years in New York federal courts for the Southern and Eastern districts. In that capacity, he independently handled a heavy load of cases from the pleadings stage through discovery, motion practice and trial, involving allegations against police officers for false arrest, malicious prosecution, denial of right to fair trial, and excessive force, as well as a municipal liability claim against the City. He persuasively briefed and argued numerous motions resulting in the dismissal of claims brought by plaintiffs against police officers as well as the City of New York that could have resulted in multi-million-dollar judgements against the officers and the City. He was also lead

trial counsel on numerous federal jury trials and successfully obtained defense verdicts where there was a potential for substantial exposure to a high damages award in favor of plaintiffs stemming from a myriad of civil rights allegations, including but not limited to, false arrest, malicious prosecution, excessive force, denial of right to a fair trial, deadly force (police-involved shootings) and municipal liability.

During his tenure at the Law Department, Mr. Sundaran worked on numerous high-profile cases, including the 2004 Republican National Convention protest arrests and its resultant class action and police-involved shootings. He also recently oversaw NYPD's compliance obligations under the court-ordered federal monitorship of the NYPD's Stop-Question-Frisk policies.

In his current practice areas, Mr. Sundaran focuses on civil litigation (including commercial litigation, trust and estate, and civil rights), municipal law, immigration law, and transportation law where he has represented numerous clients and achieved favorable outcomes through effective motion practice as well as skilled settlement negotiations. He also represents various transportation entities in commercial disputes and regulatory compliance before the US Department of Transportation and NYS Department of Transportation. Mr. Sundaran serves his clients in both New York and New Jersey state and federal courts.

Mr. Sundaran earned his Juris Doctorate from New York Law School and is admitted to practice in the states of New York, New Jersey, and the District of Columbia.

BAR ADMISSIONS

- New Jersey, 2002
- New York, 2003
- District of Columbia, 2004
- U.S. District Court, District of New Jersey, 2002
- U.S. District Court Eastern District of New York, 2003
- U.S. District Court Southern District of New York, 2003

EDUCATION

- New York Law School, New York, New York, JD
  - Moot Court member, 2000-2002
  - Federal Communications Commission Fellowship Recipient, Summer 2000
- Baruch College (City University of New York), New York, New York, BBA, *cum laude*

NOTABLE MATTERS

- Successfully opposed motion to quash nonparty subpoena involving witness's prior testimony in separate action (2023)

- Successfully represented client in opposing motion to dismiss wrongful death complaint and related motion for reconsideration involving application of criminal law abatement ab initio doctrine to civil cases (2023).
- Successfully represented UK art company in a licensing matter involving USDOT/NYSDOT (2023).
- Successfully represented client in opposing motion to strike pleading as discovery sanction in breach of contract matter (2023).
- Successfully represented client in dismissing default judgment motion and certification of class action in breach of contract matter (2023).
- Successfully represented client before the State Liquor Authority in obtaining approval of a complex liquor license application (2022).
- Successfully represented various transportation companies in obtaining and restoration of operating authority and NYSDOT audits (2022).
- Successfully represented client in opposing summary judgment motion in a novel breach of contract case involving affirmative defense of champerty (2022).
- Successfully defended client in opposing motion to dismiss complaint and related motion to amend answer to add counterclaims in a complex trust litigation matter (2022).
- Successfully represented client in virtual bench trial against challenges to due execution of will (2021).

PUBLICATIONS AND SEMINARS

- Witness Deal Tainted Verdict in NYPD Lawsuit, CourtHouseNews.com, Quoted (June 2013)
- Take the bait? NYPD anti-theft tactics criticized, AP News, Quoted (April 2013)
- To Curb Suits, City Now Opts to Fight Them, NY Times (February 2013)

PUBLISHED DECISIONS

- Bamonte v. Charatan, 2023 WL 4201416 (S.D.N.Y. June 27, 2023)
- Bamonte v. Charatan, 2023 WL 2751894 (S.D.N.Y. Mar. 31, 2023)
- Heaston v. City of New York, 2022 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 10776 (E.D.N.Y. Jan. 20, 2022)
- Myers v. Moore, 326 F.R.D. 50 (S.D.N.Y. May 30, 2018)
- Thomas v. City of New York, 2016 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 8960 (S.D.N.Y. Jan. 25, 2016)
- Riley v. City of New York, 2015 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 173337 (E.D.N.Y. Dec. 31, 2015)
- Riley v. City of New York, 2015 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 16025 (E.D.N.Y. Feb. 10, 2015)
- Smith v. City of New York, 2014 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 13926 (E.D.N.Y. Sept. 30, 2014)
- Riley v. City of New York, 2013 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 189387 (E.D.N.Y. Nov. 4, 2013)
- Thomas v. City of New York, 293 F.R.D. 498 (S.D.N.Y. May 20, 2013)
- Thomas v. City of New York, 2010 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 137166 (S.D.N.Y. Dec. 22, 2010)

JURY TRIALS

- Dasrath v. City, et al., 15 Civ. 766 (AMD) (E.D.N.Y. Aug. 15, 2019)
- Wellner v. PO Davodian, et al., 16 Civ. 7032 (JGK) (S.D.N.Y. Apr. 26, 2019)

- Myers v. PO Moore, et al., 13 Civ. 1006 (PGG) (S.D.N.Y. June 11, 2018)
- Ali v. Sgt. Kipp, 11 Civ. 5297 (NGG) (E.D.N.Y. June 3, 2016)
- Drumgoole v. PO Santana, 14 Civ. 1918 (ERK) (E.D.N.Y. Jan. 26, 2016)
- Villafana v. PO Murtha, 12 Civ. 5150 (FB) (E.D.N.Y. June 9, 2015)
- Thomas v. Sgt. Kelly, et al., 09 Civ. 3162 (ALC) (S.D.N.Y. Mar. 8, 2015)
- Jean-Laurent v. PO Harvey, 12 Civ. 2954 (KAM) (E.D.N.Y. Jan. 14, 2015)
- Richardson v. Cpt. McCormack, 11 Civ. 2320 (LGS) (S.D.N.Y. Apr. 22, 2014)
- Gad Alla v. PO Verkay, et al., 11 Civ. 892 (FB) (E.D.N.Y. Feb. 15, 2013)
- Thomas v. Sgt. Kelly, et al., 09 Civ. 3162 (ALC) (S.D.N.Y. July 9, 2010)
- Nibbs v. Det. Goulart, et al., 10 Civ. 3799 (VM) (S.D.N.Y. Sept. 22, 2011)
- Boswell v. PO Collazo, 10 Civ. 3712 (SHS) (S.D.N.Y. July 22, 2011)

FEATURED PUBLICATIONS

- **Supreme Court Upholds Birthright Citizenship** — 07/01/2026
  https://www.abramslaw.com/media/alert/supreme-court-upholds-birthright-citizenship