



## Alejandro H. Cruz

Partner

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Alejandro Cruz is a Partner in the firm's Litigation department. Mr. Cruz represents clients in complex commercial litigation, as well as in arbitrations, mediations, and investigations. His practice includes representing law firms and lawyers accused of legal malpractice, companies accused of antitrust violations, and financial institutions in a broad range of litigation, as well as disputes involving transactions and ownership of fine art. Mr. Cruz also defends clients in government investigations by federal and state agencies, as well as representing boards of directors and board committees of public companies in investigations and shareholder disputes. In addition, as a member of the firm's Privacy and Data Security group, Mr. Cruz advises clients on a wide array of cybersecurity and privacy issues, including incident response, ransomware, regulatory compliance, and risk mitigation. In 2020, the *New York Law Journal* named Mr. Cruz a "Rising Star," a designation recognizing "the region's most promising lawyers ages 40 and under." In 2024, *Benchmark Litigation* recognized Mr. Cruz as a "Future Star" for New York in Euromoney Institutional Investor PLC's Guide.

Mr. Cruz also maintains an active *pro bono* practice, including federal civil rights litigation involving the First, Eighth, and Fourteenth Amendments, the Individuals with Disabilities in Education Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act, and the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act, as well as defending eviction proceedings and other housing disputes. In 2016, Mr. Cruz received the Brooklyn Bar Association Volunteer Lawyers Project's Champion of Justice Award for his commitment to *pro bono* service. Mr. Cruz is a member of the board of directors of Legal Services of the Hudson Valley, a nonprofit legal services organization that provides support, advocacy, and high quality civil legal representation to poor and low-income families and individuals in New York state. He also sits on the board of directors of White Plains Hospital and the Hudson River School of Music, as well as the board of advisors for the Dartmouth College Center for Social Impact.

Prior to joining the firm, Mr. Cruz served as a law clerk to the Honorable Eric N. Vitaliano of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York from 2011 to 2012, and prior to that practiced at a New York law firm.

### Representative Matters

Represented a global bank in connection with an industry-wide investigation into alleged manipulation of the London Interbank Offered Rate (Libor) and the Euro Interbank Offered Rate (Euribor).

Represented financial guarantors in complex contract and fraud actions against sponsors and underwriters of mortgage-backed securities.

Represented a global bank in connection with an industry-wide investigation into alleged manipulation of ISDAFIX, a benchmark rate for interest-rate swaps and options, as well as in a related class action alleging violations of the Sherman Act and the Commodity Exchange Act.

Represented an international law firm facing a \$300 million malpractice claim arising from the firm's representation of a special board committee in a \$2.4 billion acquisition of clean energy generation assets.

Represented a global law firm and one of its partners against malpractice claims arising from patent drafting errors.

Represented a national law firm and one of its partners against malpractice claims by the executor of an estate arising from the theft and conversion of the estate's assets.

Represented a national law firm in an arbitration brought by a former client indicted for securities fraud based on the law firm's alleged negligent advice and conflicts of interest in an underlying SEC investigation.

Represented a national law firm in an action by a receiver claiming over \$100 million in damages related to the law firm's advice as to its client's web-based advertising and potentially deceptive business practices.

Represented the audit committee of a public company in investigating charges of criminal antitrust violations following the indictment of the company's CEO.

Conducted an investigation on behalf of a special litigation committee in responding to a shareholder demand.

Represented the audit committee of a public company in investigating and responding to whistleblower allegations of accounting fraud.

Represented a pharmaceutical company in a class action under the Sherman Act alleging price-fixing in the market for contact lenses.

Secured summary judgment for a chocolate maker in an antitrust price fixing case, and successfully defended that judgment on appeal.

Secured pre-trial and appellate victories for a Big Four accounting firm in multiple actions alleging securities fraud, malpractice, and unfair business practices.

Represented an individual in an investigation by the SEC regarding auditor independence under the federal securities laws.

Represented a non-for-profit arts organization in an investigation by the New York Attorney General.

### ***Pro Bono***

Represented a Muslim organization subject to religious discrimination when it was denied a land use permit to establish a house of worship in New Jersey.

Represented a prisoner in a civil rights and medical malpractice action against a private prison medical provider for denial of medical care.

Represented putative class of children with disabilities in civil rights litigation seeking relief under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

Represented individual in Bronx County Family Court in proceeding for an order of protection arising from domestic violence.

Represent individuals in housing court and administrative housing proceedings in Westchester County in partnership with Legal Services of the Hudson Valley.

### **Admissions**

- U.S. District Court, Southern and Eastern Districts of New York
- New York

## Professional Activities

HONORS: Listed as a "Future Star" for New York in Euromoney Institutional Investor PLC's *Benchmark Litigation's 2023 Guide*; Named as a "Rising Star" by the *New York Law Journal* (2020)

MEMBERSHIPS: Board of Directors, Legal Services of the Hudson Valley; Board of Directors, White Plains Hospital; Board of Advisors, Dartmouth College Center for Social Impact.

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS: Panelist, "AI and the Workplace: What You Need to Know Now," CLE (May 9, 2024); Presenter, "When Crisis Hits: A Step-by-Step Response to Data Privacy Breaches for Nonprofits," NYC Bar Hot Topics in Not-for-Profit Law (November 6, 2023); Panelist, "RLUIPA: Protecting Religious Land Use For Over 20 Years," DOJ Civil Rights Division Outreach Panel (October 30, 2023)

## Education

- University of Virginia School of Law (J.D., 2009)
  - Editorial Board, *Virginia Law Review*
  - Order of the Coif
- Dartmouth College (A.B., *cum laude*, 2004)