



Gregory L. Diskant

Of Counsel

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Greg Diskant is a senior litigator at Patterson Belknap, where he served as chair from 1997-2007. Prior to joining Patterson Belknap, Greg served as Assistant United States Attorney and as Chief Appellate Attorney for the Southern District of New York. He also served as a Law Clerk to the Hon. Thurgood Marshall, Supreme Court of the United States and the Hon. J. Skelly Wright, U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit.

After a career in commercial litigation of over 40 years, in which he tried jury cases around the country, Greg now devotes most of his time to an active pro bono practice. In 2024, he co-authored a [130-page report for the NYC Bar Association](#) proposing that Congress pass a mandatory and enforceable ethics code for the Supreme Court. Much of his pro bono practice centers on democracy issues. He was counsel of record in *Rucho v. Common Cause*, the Supreme Court gerrymandering case, and is now involved in multiple litigations challenging recent Executive Orders by the Trump administration, including the attempt to eliminate birthright citizenship as guaranteed by the Fourteenth Amendment and the purported invocation of the Alien Enemies Act to summarily deport undocumented immigrants as supposed enemies of the state. Greg works with different democracy groups, including Common Cause, the Brennan Center, and the ACLU. He also has an active First Amendment practice and recently obtained a landmark ruling that discipline of prosecutors by New York's Grievance Committee should be presumptively public.

In 2025, he was awarded the Federal Bar Council's Thurgood Marshall Award for Exceptional Pro Bono Service. The award recognizes "lawyers who have gone above and beyond in making an extraordinary contribution in the area of pro bono service."

Representative Matters

Licensing/Contract Disputes

Handled a variety of contract and licensing disputes, including successfully pursuing through both preliminary injunction and two prolonged trials a major pharmaceutical company's rights to a multi-million dollar pharmaceutical, winning damage awards of \$164 million and \$152 million; as defendant, defeated effort to terminate multi-billion dollar licensing contract. After trial, he obtained a settlement valued at over \$3 billion resolving distribution rights to a blockbuster arthritis drug.

Patent

Tried numerous complex patent cases, focusing on medical devices and pharmaceuticals. As plaintiff, won jury verdicts of \$271 million and \$324 million in cases involving coronary stents (both cited by *The National Law Journal* as among the major plaintiff's verdicts of the year) and arbitration award of \$425 million. The series of stent cases resulted in total recoveries of

\$3.7 billion. As defendant, won jury verdicts defeating claims on contact lenses, stents and endoscopic devices (the last cited by *The National Law Journal* as one of the major defense verdicts of the year).

Advertising Litigation/Libel and Media Law

Participated both as plaintiff and defendant in numerous false advertising cases, including successfully defending a Fortune 50 pharmaceutical company from a comprehensive attack on its advertising in a case the District Court called "the largest and most complex false advertising case ever tried."

Successfully defended the publisher of a major national newspaper in a three-month jury trial labeled by the *ABA Journal* one of the "Major Defense Verdicts" of the year; handled multiple libel and slander cases for major media companies.

Multiple trademark and copyright cases, including successfully defending parody of Cliffs' Notes using Cliffs' trademarks; defending a magazine's right to print an unpublished letter by a well-known writer; defending a publisher against claimed unauthorized publication of Marilyn Monroe photographs.

Admissions

- U.S. Supreme Court
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Second Circuit; Third Circuit; Fifth Circuit; Eleventh Circuit; Federal Circuit
- U.S. District Court, Southern, Eastern and Western Districts of New York
- New York State

Professional Activities

Fellow, American College of Trial Lawyers

Recognized in

- *Chambers USA* in the area of Intellectual Property (Senior Statesman; 19 years ranked)
- *The Best Lawyers in America®* in the area of Commercial Litigation, Bet-the-Company Litigation and Intellectual Property
- *Super Lawyers* as one of the Top 100 lawyers in New York and in the area of Intellectual Property Litigation
- *Benchmark: Litigation* as a "Litigation Star" for New York and a "National Star" for Intellectual Property
- *Managing Intellectual Property* as an "IP Star" for New York

Publications

- "The Administration Is Illegally Firing Court-Appointed US Attorneys," *The National Law Journal* (March 30, 2026)
- "What Does it Take for a Rogue Prosecutor to be Disbarred?," *New York Law Journal* (March 12, 2026)
- "Even Nazi Saboteurs Deserve A Pro Bono Lawyer," *The National Law Journal* (June 24, 2025)
- "A supreme double standard: Samuel Alito stretches the ethical gulf between justices and judges," *Salon* (January 16, 2025)
- "This Lawyer's Life: Gregory Diskant, Big Law Leadership and Litigation," New York City Bar Association (November 22, 2024)
- "We Need a Binding and Enforceable Supreme Court Ethics Code," *The National Law Journal* (October 25, 2024)
- "The Supreme Court Needs a Mandatory and Enforceable Code of Ethics," New York City Bar Association Report (October 1, 2024)

- "The Hateful Attacks on Adeel Mangi," *The Atlantic* (March 29, 2024)
- "The Pinckney Plan, Dubious History and Originalism," *The National Law Journal* (November 9, 2022)
- "The Filibuster Is Unconstitutional," *The National Law Journal* (March 31, 2021)
- "Biased Senators Should Be Disqualified From the Impeachment Trial," *The National Law Journal* (December 20, 2019)
- "Timed Trials: Worth a Try," *Litigation* (Fall 2016)
- "Trial Balloon: Rethinking Corporate Criminal Liability," *Litigation* (Winter 2008)
- "Terrorists' defender?" *The National Law Journal* (March 5, 2007)

Comments by clients and adversaries

Gregory Diskant is an esteemed patent litigator with substantial experience litigating high-value patent disputes. He is particularly active in the medical device and pharmaceutical space and has a noted track record in Hatch-Waxman cases. (Chambers 2020, 2021, 2023, and 2024)

Gregory Diskant is a highly regarded practitioner with a wealth of experience handling complex patent disputes for market-leading pharmaceutical and medical device sector companies. Clients say "*he's a top-notch trial lawyer. He is a very commercial litigator and we look to him for acute, sound counsel.*" (Chambers 2019)

Gregory Diskant is a well-regarded IP practitioner who is praised as a "*spectacular first chair trial attorney who communicates well with judges and juries.*" He has experience handling a range of contentious matters, with notable expertise in patent infringement disputes. (Chambers 2018)

"*Really, really excellent lawyer*" Gregory Diskant is "*absolutely the real deal,*" according to sources, who highlight his "*high-class*" litigation practice. He works in sectors including biotechnology, media and entertainment and financial services. (Chambers 2017)

Gregory Diskant is a highly experienced patent lawyer, seen by his peers as "*very bright*" and "*an excellent lead trial counsel.*" He is well versed in handling patent disputes of the highest value, and is routinely sought after to act in cases relating to medical devices. (Chambers 2016)

Gregory Diskant concentrates on patent litigation concerning life sciences, and has an excellent reputation for his work in the 'stent wars' and medical device cases. Sources say he is a "*very astute litigator*" and "*a very fine trial lawyer.*" (Chambers 2015)

Gregory Diskant is described as an "*excellent first-chair advocate*" and "*a rock star*" by clients. He is a seasoned patent litigator and led for Johnson & Johnson in its Federal Circuit appeal triumph regarding coronary stents. (Chambers 2014)

Gregory Diskant is a senior patent litigator, and one of the most effective resources the firm has to offer. He has an "*understated*" manner but also a "*definite edge to him in the courtroom,*" and he "*knows how to use his smarts to get the result needed,*" according to sources. (Chambers 2013)

Pro Bono Activities

Mr. Diskant has an active pro bono practice. Most recently, he co-authored a 130 page report for the NYC Bar Association proposing that Congress should pass a mandatory and enforceable ethics code for the Supreme Court.

Much of Mr. Diskant's pro bono practice centers on democracy issues. He recently filed Supreme Court amicus briefs on whether the Fourteenth Amendment barred Donald Trump's ability to run for president and on whether Mr. Trump enjoyed immunity from prosecution. He was counsel of record in *Rucho v. Common Cause*, the Supreme Court challenge to political

gerrymandering, and brought a lawsuit to challenge President Trump's decision to exclude undocumented immigrants from the census count. Mr. Diskant has filed multiple Supreme Court amicus briefs on one-person/one-vote, the filibuster, gerrymandering, and same-sex marriage, and has litigated racial gerrymandering before a three-judge court. He is a member of the National Governing Board of Common Cause and Chair of its Litigation Committee.

Mr. Diskant also has an active First Amendment practice and has recently won landmark rulings that complaints of attorney misconduct filed with the New York Grievance Committee can be made public and that decisions involving attorney discipline should be presumptively public.

Education

- Columbia Law School (J.D.)
 - Kent Scholar
 - Editor-in-Chief, *Columbia Law Review*
- Princeton University (A.B.)
 - Chemistry degree