Sanjeev Devabhakthuni

He | Him | His

Partner

Rochester

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Education

- Albany Law School, *Summa Cum Laude*; *Albany Law Review*, Editorial Board Member, JD
- West Virginia University, BA

Practices & Industries

- Torts & Products Liability Defense
- Insurance Coverage & Regulation
- Professional Liability
- Transportation
- Insurance & Reinsurance

Admitted to Practice

- New York

Court Admissions

- US Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit
- US Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit
- US District Court for the Eastern District of New York
- US District Court for the Northern District of New York
- US District Court for the Southern District of New York
- US District Court for the Western District of New York

Biography

Sanjeev is co-chair of Barclay Damon's Professional Liability Practice Area. He concentrates his practice on appellate advocacy, litigated tort defense, and insurance-coverage disputes. He represents individuals and businesses in defense matters ranging from simple accidents to complex exposure-related cases. Sanjeev also actively litigates insurance-coverage disputes in declaratory judgment actions throughout the country in the context of first-party loss and third-party liability claims.

A former appellate court attorney, Sanjeev has handled numerous appeals in state and federal courts, including appeals before the NYS Appellate Division, the NY Court of Appeals, and the US Courts of Appeals for the Second and Sixth Circuits.

Sanjeev stays up to date on developments in local and national insurance law to provide clients, such as insurance company supervisors and managers and business owners, with quality legal services that align with their goals and that make situations less stressful.

In addition to his legal practice, Sanjeev serves as a co-chair of the firm's Summer Associate Program.

Bar Associations

- Monroe County Bar Association
- New York State Bar Association

Selected Memberships & Affiliations

- Claims and Litigation Management Alliance (CLM)

Representative Experience

- Obtained summary judgment dismissal of a lawsuit against an attorney alleging malpractice and violation of the Judiciary Law arising from judgment enforcement action.
- Successfully defended an appeal preserving judgment in excess of $1.3 million in a subrogation case (*Hudson Specialty Insurance Company v. Haley & Aldrich, Inc.*).
- Successfully obtained summary judgment dismissal of a products-liability lawsuit against a national department store (*Hokenson v. Sears, Roebuck & Co.*).
- Successfully obtained a declaratory judgment for a real estate development company, resulting in insurance coverage for the company in an underlying personal injury lawsuit.
- Successfully prosecuted an appeal to the Appellate Division, Fourth Department, and secured summary judgment in favor of an insurance company where the client did not owe any duty to the injured plaintiff.
- Obtained a favorable settlement for a client sued in Florida in a complex accounting malpractice case arising from criminal fraud perpetrated by the CEO of a national telecommunications company.
- Successfully counseled clients regarding addressing and responding to subpoenas in various matters.
- Successfully defended a dentist in a lawsuit by numerous minors alleging fraud and malpractice.
- Successfully represented an accounting firm in enforcement actions by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) arising out of alleged violations of securities laws and generally accepted accounting principles.
- Successfully obtained a summary judgment dismissal of a $1.2 million legal malpractice case arising from collection action.
- Successfully defended an insurance company in NYS court against a plaintiff alleging the insurer owed coverage for a water loss under a property insurance policy.
- Obtained multiple dismissals of claims from inmates against health care providers for deliberate indifference to medical needs and violating the US Constitution.

Prior Experience

- Hiscock & Barclay, LLP, Associate
- NYS Supreme Court, Appellate Division, Fourth Department, Appellate Court Attorney

Selected Community Activities

- JustCause, Volunteer Attorney
- Foodlink, Volunteer

Selected Honors

- *The Best Lawyers in America*®: Insurance Law, 2022–2027; Litigation – Insurance, 2026 and 2027; Product Liability Litigation – Defendants, 2021–2027
- Selected to *Super Lawyers* Upstate New York Rising Stars: Appellate, 2021
- *The Daily Record*, Excellence in Law Awards: Up & Coming Attorney, 2018
- Volunteer Legal Services Project of Monroe County, William E. McKnight Award, 2014
- New York State Bar Association, Empire State Counsel Honoree, 2013–2017

Selected Speaking Engagements

- New York State Bar Association, “Coverage and Legal Malpractice”
- Rochester I-Day, "Construction Insurance Issues"; "Unfair Claim Practices"; "Developments in Bad-Faith Claims"

Selected Media

- Insurance.com, "Limited Liability Company Insurance: What Is It and What Does It Cover?"
- *Rochester Business Journal*, "Barclay Damon"
- *The Daily Record*, "Lawyers Learn From Pro Bono Service"
- *Insurance Law Practice* (2018 Revision), “Duty to Defend” Chapter
- Law360, “Undocumented Workers Gaining Protection in NY”
- *USLAW Magazine*, “Attorney-Client Privilege and Communications With Third Parties”

Selected Alerts & Blog Posts

- New York Appellate Divisions Split on Whether an Assisted Living Facility May Operate as a De Facto Residential Health Care Facility
- NYS Appellate Court Reverses and Holds Liability Insurer Owed Duty to Defend to Policyholder in Sexual Abuse Lawsuit
- COVID-19 Business Interruption Update: New York High Court Affirms in Favor of Insurer
- NYS Appellate Court Reverses in Favor of Policyholder in Ensuing Loss Case

- NYS Appellate Court Dismisses Common Law Claims Against Contractor for Injuries Sustained by "Special Employee"