



Vicki Chou  
Partner

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Education	Clerkships	Admissions
Harvard Law School (J.D., 2006) cum laude	Hon. Robert E. Payne, U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia	California
Harvard University (A.B., 2002) magna cum laude		

Described by *Benchmark Litigation* as one of the “brightest litigators across the US” and *Chambers* as “incredibly smart” and “tenacious, engaging and hard charging,” Vicki Chou is an accomplished trial lawyer and a key member of both the Trial Practice and the White Collar and Investigations teams. She is a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers, the preeminent organization of trial lawyers in North America, which is composed of less than one percent of the total lawyer population of any state or province.

Ms. Chou represents individuals and companies in high stakes business disputes and criminal matters, including complex commercial litigation, intellectual property matters, SEC enforcement actions, shareholder litigation, and white collar criminal defense. She has earned the highest praise for her courtroom skills, most recently from the judge after a 10-week trial for an “unparalleled” and “extraordinary” performance. She is equally effective outside the courtroom, whether that be termination of a high-stakes criminal investigation or a quiet pre-litigation settlement in a sensitive matter.

A former Assistant United States Attorney in the Central District of California where she was a Deputy Chief, Ms. Chou represented the United States in hundreds of criminal cases, including computer and internet fraud, intellectual property, money laundering, cryptocurrency, bank fraud, tax fraud, immigration fraud, drug trafficking, and racketeering offenses. Many of her matters involved high level, international coordination.

Ms. Chou is also an active member of the legal community, serving on the boards of multiple organizations, including as President of the Southern California Chinese Lawyers Association. Ms. Chou also serves on the Merit Selection Panel for the Central District of California, where she assists in evaluating and recommending to the District Judges the best qualified applicants for appointment to the

position of United States Magistrate Judge.

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## Testimonials

"Vicki is phenomenal. She is incredibly smart and a real people person - she is going to do great things." —*Chambers*

"A recognized rising star and accomplished trial lawyer." —*Los Angeles Business Journal*

"Tenacious, engaging and hard charging." —*Chambers*

"Positioned herself as key counsel on a number of issues." —*Benchmark Litigation*

"A recognized rising star, she is one of the "brightest litigators across the US." —*Benchmark Litigation, 40 & Under Hot List*

"Really fantastic in the white-collar practice." —*Chambers*

[Her] "approach to legal challenges is characterized by creativity and a deep understanding of the law." —*Daily Journal*

"She is thorough, she is really great to work with and she's very smart, savvy and sharp." —*Chambers*

"She is a truly great defense lawyer; she is just incredible." —*Chambers*

"Her ability to master the case and to manage her team was extremely impressive and she is a highly capable advocate." —*Chambers*

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## Experience

Representing **Amazon.com** against a historic FTC lawsuit targeting its Prime membership.

Representing **Ruthia He** in a first of its kind telehealth prosecution.

Representing **TotalEnergies** in a lawsuit against a China-based solar module manufacturer involving fraud and breach of contract claims.

Representing a **major online retailer** in a USDA-OIG food safety investigation.

Representing **AbbVie** in the multibillion-dollar Allergan textured breast implant litigation.

Representing **FAT Brands** in parallel criminal and SEC cases involving violations of securities laws.

Representing a **publicly traded company** in an FTC cybersecurity investigation.

Representing the **former CEO of a publicly traded company** in parallel DOJ and SEC investigations involving the Corporate and Securities Fraud Strike Force.

Represented **Union Pacific** in securing a favorable settlement in a wrongful death case that sought \$200 million in damages.

Secured a favorable plea agreement, including a sentencing recommendation from the Government of probation, for **Marilyn Flynn, the former dean of USC's School of Social Work**, on federal corruption charges in an alleged bribery scheme involving a public official. (See "Marilyn Flynn, ex-USC dean in corruption case with Ridley-Thomas, sentenced to 3 years probation," [\*\*Los Angeles Times\*\*](#)).

Represented a **video game publisher and its high-level executives** in a high-profile billion-dollar FTC investigation in Washington, D.C. and North Carolina.

Successfully resolved a suit brought by **Palantir Technologies** against a former early investor alleging breach of contract and misappropriation of trade secrets.

Represented a **former banking executive** in DFPI and FRB proceedings.

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Obtained a favorable settlement, after a week of trial, for **Synchrony Financial (formerly GE Capital)** in a lawsuit involving breach of contract, fraudulent misrepresentation, and alter ego claims.

Represented a **high-profile CEO** and an **award-winning entrepreneur** in a federal investigation by the San Diego U.S. Attorney's Office for alleged violations of the CAN-SPAM Act, resulting in no charges being brought.

Represented **Flexi-Van Leasing** in a commercial dispute with a terminal operator with intersecting maritime issues.

Secured a criminal declination for a **former Chief Scientific Officer** from the Department of Justice.

Represented a **real estate company** in two overlapping matters involving the FTC and a receivership's demand for return of monetary transfers, resulting in receiver dropping demand.

Advised a major **real estate development company** on regulatory and criminal issues involving HUD and the City Attorney's Office.

Represented an **international law firm** in a legal malpractice claim.

Represented a **major laboratory** in an HHS-OIG investigation of billing and compensation practices related to the Anti-Kickback Statute and the False Claims Act, resulting in no claims brought.

Represented a **Chinese entrepreneur** in a civil dispute against a former business partner in China, obtaining a Hague Convention based default judgment.

Secured a declination from the California Department of Justice for **Southern California Edison** in connection with the 2018 Woolsey Fire that burned in Los Angeles and Ventura Counties.

Secured a favorable pre-trial disposition for **Bill McGlashan**, founder of **TPG Growth LLC** and **The Rise Fund**, in the "Varsity Blues" college admissions case.

Represented **Robinhood Markets, Inc.** in a commercial lease dispute, securing full return of disputed funds.

Represented the **founder and partner of a personal injury law firm** in a partnership dispute concerning corporate governance and control.

Represented the **CEO of a Fortune 500 corporation** in a lawsuit filed by the SEC alleging securities fraud and insider trading, reaching a favorable settlement on the eve of trial.

Represented a **medical services company** in a criminal investigation, preventing felony charges from being filed against any of the owners or officers of the company.

Represented an **auto parts manufacturer** in a criminal antitrust investigation.

Secured a probationary sentence after a favorable plea disposition, then subsequent presidential pardon, for a **serial entrepreneur** in a 56-count wire fraud indictment.

Represented a **global law firm** against threatened professional liability claims arising out of complex transactional and litigation services.

Conducted a time sensitive internal investigation for a **research university** on allegations asserted by a purported whistleblower.

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## Recognitions

Litigation Star, Benchmark Litigation

Future Star, Benchmark Litigation

Litigation: White-Collar Crime & Government Investigations (California), Chambers

Fellow, American College of Trial Lawyers

Top 100 Lawyers, Los Angeles Business Journal

Top White Collar Lawyers, Daily Journal

Best Under 40, National Asian Pacific American Bar Association

40 & Under Hot List, Benchmark Litigation

Minority Leaders of Influence: Attorneys, Los Angeles Business Journal

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Women of Influence: Attorneys, Los Angeles Business Journal  
Legal Visionaries, Los Angeles Times  
Key Lawyer for Corporate Investigations and White Collar Criminal Defense, Legal 500  
The Best Lawyers in America (2022-2025)  
Leaders of Influence: Litigators & Trial Attorneys, Los Angeles Business Journal  
Leaders of Influence: Thriving in Their 40s, Los Angeles Business Journal  
Southern California Super Lawyers  
Director of National Intelligence, Meritorious Unit Citation  
HIDTA National Award for Outstanding Financial Investigative Effort  
IRS Certificate of Appreciation  
Attorney General's Award Nominee

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## Activities

President, Southern California Chinese Lawyers Association  
Member, Merit Selection Panel for Central District of California  
Executive Committee, LACBA Litigation Section  
Board Member, **Social Justice Legal Foundation**