



Jo Gbujama

Associate / Chicago

P: 312-881-5991

jgbujama@goldmanismail.com

Jo represents clients in complex and high-stakes civil litigation. He has experience in multiple stages of litigation, including pleadings, discovery, motion practice, and trial preparation. He has argued motions in court and first-chaired settlement negotiations on behalf of his clients.

Jo has held leadership roles in several bar associations and is a co-founder and board member of the Bridging the Gap Scholarship, a non-profit that provides scholarships and mentorship to diverse prospective law students. Jo has been named to the National Bar Association's Power 100 List and received several awards for his community involvement. He also plays basketball through bar association basketball leagues and regularly demonstrates his capacity to handle business in any court.

Jo joined Goldman Ismail after completing a federal clerkship at the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois. During his clerkship, Jo handled several high-profile cases, prepared draft orders on dispositive motions, and assisted his judge in presiding over eight civil and criminal jury trials. Prior to his clerkship, Jo was a labor and employment attorney and pro bono coordinator at a leading international law firm. Jo graduated from the Washington University School of Law, where he served as an Executive Articles Editor of the *Washington University Journal of Law & Policy*, a competitor in the Wiley Rutledge Moot Court Competition, president of Phi Alpha Delta, a board member of the Black Law Students Association, and a Commencement Speaker. He earned his B.A. in Philosophy Law/Society and Ethnic Studies, *cum laude*, from the University of California, Riverside.

Not licensed to practice law in Illinois

Representative Litigation

Fosamax Products Liability Litigation

Represents Merck in litigation concerning Fosamax®, a prescription drug used for the treatment and prevention of osteoporosis and other bone disorders.

Insulin Pump Litigation

Represents Medtronic, Inc. and Medtronic MiniMed, Inc. in products liability cases nationwide involving the NGP 600 Series insulin pumps.

In Re: Testosterone Replacement Therapy Products Liability Litigation

Represented AbbVie and Actavis in multi-district litigation stemming from AbbVie's and Actavis's testosterone replacement therapies, AndroGel and Androderm. Member of trial team for Actavis in *Davis v. Actavis Inc. et al.*, a products liability case where the plaintiff claimed Androderm caused his ischemic stroke. Case settled just before jury selection.

Additional Representative Litigation

Labor & Employment Experience (at prior firm)

- Represented major technology company against claims of disability discrimination and retaliation in arbitration; played a key role in defensive discovery efforts.
 - Represented technology company in responding to retaliation complaints in arbitration; played key role in preparing multiple fact witnesses for deposition leading to favorable settlement.
 - Represented company in high-profile mediation involving hostile work environment claims.
 - Successfully first-chaired mediation leading to settlement well below authority for large technology company.
-

Private Practice

Associate, Goldman Ismail Tomaselli
Brennan & Baum LLP

Associate, Littler Mendelson, P.C.

Education

Washington University School of Law (J.D., Certificate in Public Interest Law)

- Executive Articles Editor, *Washington University Journal of Law & Policy*
- Wiley Rutledge Moot Court
- Nordhal and Suzanne Brue Scholar in Law Award
- Legal Practice Award for Excellence in Oral Advocacy
- Dean's Service Award for Pro Bono
- PracticePro 1L Diversity Scholar
- Commencement Speaker

University of California, Riverside (B.A., Philosophy Law/Society, Ethnic Studies, *cum laude*)

- Chancellor's List Honors
 - Sumi Harada Award in Ethnic Studies
 - Nathan Alex Irving Award for Leadership
 - Commencement Speaker
-

Judicial Clerkship

Honorable Sharon Johnson Coleman, United
States District Court for the Northern District of
Illinois

Professional & Community Affiliations

Co-Founder and Board Member, Bridging the Gap Scholarship, Inc.	Auxiliary Board, Chicago Center for Conflict Resolution
Civic Engagement Committee Member, Black Men Lawyers' Association	Past Co-Chair, Professional Development Committee, Young Lawyers Division, National Bar Association
Member, Black Women Lawyers' Association of Greater Chicago, Inc.	Member, Cook County Bar Association

Publications

Affirming Personhood: Extending Title VII Protections for Prisoners in State-Operated Prison Industries Wash. U. L. Rev. Online May 2021

Of Note

Keynote Speaker, University of California, Riverside Black Graduation, May 2024	Preserving Black Brilliance Award, University of California, Riverside, Black Alumni Chapter, February 2023
Lindbergh Porter Pro Bono Champion Award, Littler Mendelson, P.C., January 2023	Power 100 List, National Bar Association Young Lawyers Division, September 2022

Bar & Court Admission

State of California

Pro Bono Experience

- Revised employment handbook for legal clinic providing immigration services for LGBTQIA+ immigrants seeking asylum.
- Drafted employment agreements and provided advice on wage and hour compliance for nonprofit providing legal services to students with special needs and their families.
- Assisted NAACP in defending the voters' rights by serving as poll and social-media monitor, by virtually assisting voters through hotlines, and through rapid response advocacy efforts.
- Delivered sexual harassment training for supervisors to nonprofits.

Other Experience

Selected Presentations

A Conversation with Federal Judges: Clerkships
and Life on the Bench National Bar Association,
Young Lawyers Division February 16, 2023

Power Hour with Michael Binns National Bar
Association, Young Lawyer Division February 9,
2023

Successfully Navigating the Law Firm Minefield
National Bar Association Labor and Employment
Conference October 28, 2022
