



Rami Fakhouri

Partner / Chicago

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"Rami Fakhouri is a young star..." — *Legal500*

"He is an excellent writer, he's very strategic, and a big picture thinker."

—*Chambers & Partners*

"He does his cross-examinations perfectly, with great impact." —*Chambers & Partners*

An accomplished trial lawyer and litigator, Rami deploys strong critical reasoning and communication skills for clients that include the world's pre-eminent pharmaceutical and medical-device companies. Clients value Rami's ability to establish credibility early and find creative solutions at every stage of litigation.

Rami quickly earns the trust and respect of clients, courts, and opposing counsel, allowing him to achieve winning results. He most recently served as trial counsel for Teva in the first federal bellwether involving its non-hormonal IUD Paragard, achieving a complete defense verdict in February 2026 alongside Shayna Cook. He also served as trial counsel for GSK in its first two jury trials involving the heartburn medication Zantac, both of which also resulted in complete defense verdicts in Cook County, Illinois. He further served as co-lead coordinating counsel for approximately 500 consolidated Zantac cases. In other large-scale products liability litigation matters, Rami regularly takes and defends depositions of fact and expert witnesses and has served as co-lead trial counsel in summary jury trial proceedings. And Rami secured a string of preemption dismissals in nationwide medical device litigation—several of which he defended successfully on appeal.

Rami maintains an active and successful pro bono practice. His achievements include a rare en banc reversal of summary judgment by the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals. Rami regularly represents clients in asylum proceedings and negotiates settlements of civil rights cases. He serves as the chair of Goldman Ismail's Pro Bono Committee.

Representative Litigation

Paragard Product Liability Litigation

Trial counsel for Teva in MDL in Atlanta federal court related to Paragard IUD breakage. Second-chaired initial bellwether trial in January 2026 that ended with a complete defense verdict.

Zantac Litigation

Represents GSK in products liability litigation consolidated in Cook County, Illinois involving over-the-counter heartburn medication. Second-chaired first two Zantac trials for GSK nationwide, both resulting in defense verdicts. Cross-examined Plaintiff and laboratory testing experts and conducted direct examinations of medical and toxicology experts. Served as Illinois co-lead coordinating counsel.

Tenofovir Product Liability Litigation

Represents Gilead Sciences, Inc. in multidistrict litigation involving claims alleging kidney and bone injuries related to HIV medications. Deposed bellwether plaintiffs, treating physicians, and expert witnesses, defended depositions of Gilead experts, and served as trial counsel in federal summary jury trials.

Gardasil Litigation

Represents Merck in all aspects of multidistrict products liability litigation involving the HPV vaccine, Gardasil.

Xarelto Litigation

Represented Janssen in a case tried in the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas claiming personal injuries allegedly caused by Xarelto, an anticoagulant developed by Janssen and Bayer Healthcare Pharmaceuticals (*Russell v. Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Inc.*). The jury returned a complete defense verdict for Janssen and Bayer in April 2018. Also served on MDL case work-up team tasked with taking depositions of plaintiffs and treating physicians in cases across the country.

SynchroMed Litigation

Represented Medtronic, Inc. in products liability cases nationwide involving the SynchroMed® II Programmable Drug Infusion System. Argued and won dispositive motions on preemption and other grounds at the trial and appellate levels, took numerous depositions of plaintiffs and treating physicians, and defended a multitude of company witness depositions.

Sports Technology Applications, Inc. v. MLB Advanced Media, L.P.

Represented MLB Advanced Media in licensing dispute concerning a trademark license for a mobile predictive gaming application. Second-chaired jury trial in New York Supreme Court, Commercial Division, in June 2021; cross-examined founder of plaintiff firm.

Behaviour Interactive, Inc. v. MLB Advanced Media, L.P.

Represented MLB Advanced Media in litigation regarding the development of a baseball-themed video game.

Air Line Pilots Association, International

Represented ALPA, the world's largest pilot union, as local counsel in several matters pending in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit.

Lyles v. McNeil-PPC, Inc. et al.

Defended manufacturer of Extra Strength Tylenol in product liability action in New Jersey Superior Court. The matter settled for a nominal sum on the first day of trial.

Saybrook Tax Exempt Investors LLC et al. v. Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians et al.

Represented bondholder in federal, state, and tribal courts in a complex commercial dispute stemming from a tribal bond issuance.

Howard v. City of Detroit, et al.

Lead counsel in putative class action brought *pro bono* on behalf of Detroit homeowners whose due-process rights were violated in connection with their residential property tax notices resulting in overassessments, delinquencies, and foreclosures. Secured reversal of dismissal before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. Secured a settlement on behalf of remaining plaintiffs with the City of Detroit and Wayne County.

Petties v. Carter

Lead counsel for an indigent prisoner plaintiff in *pro bono* Section 1983 litigation alleging deliberate indifference to serious medical needs. Secured rehearing en banc and reversal of summary judgment before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit. Successfully opposed defendants' petition for a writ of certiorari before U.S. Supreme Court. Favorably settled the case on remand. More information on the case is found [here](#).

Northern District of Illinois Settlement Assistance Program

Represented multiple clients *pro bono* in court-ordered settlement conferences in Section 1983 litigation. Negotiated favorable resolutions of claims for national-origin discrimination, retaliation, false arrest, unlawful restraint, and malicious prosecution.

Private Practice

Partner, Goldman Ismail Tomaselli Brennan & Baum LLP

Associate, Goldman Ismail Tomaselli Brennan & Baum LLP

Associate, Grippo & Elden LLC (now Shook, Hardy & Bacon L.L.P.)

Education

Northwestern Pritzker School of Law (J.D., *cum laude*)

- Order of the Coif
- *Northwestern University Law Review*, Senior Articles Editor and Staff Member
- Winner and Outstanding Speaker, 2010 Julius Miner Moot Court Competition

College of William & Mary (B.A., Government, *magna cum laude*)

- Minor in Middle Eastern Studies
 - James Monroe Scholar
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Judicial Clerkship

Honorable Matthew F. Kennelly, United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois

Publications

[Current Topics in Medical Device Preemption](#), American Bar Association, Products Liability Winter 2023 Newsletter (membership required)

The Most Dangerous Blot in Our Constitution: Retiring the Flawed Electoral College "Contingent Procedure," 104 Nw. U. L. Rev. 705 (2010).

Of Note

Named a Next Generation Partner by *Legal 500* in U.S. Product Liability, Mass Tort and Class Action – Defense: Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices (2025-2026)

Ranked as Up & Coming by *Chambers & Partners* in Illinois Product Liability Litigation (2026)

Selected for *Bloomberg Law's* They've Got Next: 40 Under 40 (2025)

U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, Award for Excellence in Pro Bono Service (2021, 2025)

Selected by *Super Lawyers* as an Illinois Super Lawyer (2025)

Selected as an Emerging Lawyer by *Leading Lawyers* (2019-2021)

Selected by *Super Lawyers* as an Illinois Rising Star (2019-2024)

Selected for *Benchmark Litigation's* 40 & Under Hot List (2019-2025)

Selected by *Lawdragon* as among the "all-star litigators" "who excel at representing principally corporations and other organizations" in complex litigation, including product liability, IP, and appellate, in the 500 Leading Litigators in America guide (2022-2026)

Adjunct Professor of Trial Advocacy, Northwestern Pritzker School of Law (2018-present)

Member of Associates Board and Scholar Coach, One Million Degrees: The Community College Project

Contestant, *Jeopardy!* (TV broadcast, Dec. 15, 2015)

Seventh Circuit Bar Association, John Paul Stevens Pro Bono and Public Service Award (2018)

President (2015-2018) and Member, Justice Council of the Center on Wrongful Convictions

Chair, Goldman Ismail Tomaselli Brennan & Baum LLP Pro Bono Committee

[Goldman Ismail and Partners Earn Top-Tier Rankings in Legal 500 United States 2026](#)

[Goldman Ismail Reaches Settlement in Detroit Property Tax Lawsuit](#)

[Goldman Ismail Represents Illinois Woman Forced to Undergo Induction of Labor While Incarcerated](#)

[Goldman Ismail Secures Victory in First Paragard IUD Bellwether Trial](#)

[19 Goldman Ismail Partners Named to Lawdragon's List of 500 Leading Litigators in America](#)

[Eight Goldman Ismail Partners Named to Benchmark Litigation's 40 & Under Hot List](#)

[Goldman Ismail Attorneys Receive Pro Bono Excellence Awards](#)

[Goldman Ismail Team Recognized as Law360's Legal Lions of the Week](#)

[Goldman Ismail Secures Another Zantac Victory for GSK](#)

[Goldman Ismail Secures First Zantac Victory for GlaxoSmithKline](#)

[Goldman Ismail Partners Named to Benchmark's List of Top 250 Women in Litigation and the 40 & Under Hot List](#)

[Goldman Ismail and Partners Receive Top Rankings in Benchmark Litigation 2023](#)

[Goldman Ismail Partners Named to Benchmark's List of Top 250 Women in Litigation and the 40 & Under Hot List](#)

[Goldman Ismail and Partners Receive Top Rankings in Benchmark Litigation 2022](#)

[Illinois Appellate Court Affirms Goldman Ismail Win of Summary Judgment for Medtronic, Inc.](#)

[Goldman Ismail Wins Summary Judgment for Medtronic, Inc.](#)

[Illinois Appellate Court Affirms Dismissal of SynchroMed Lawsuit](#)

[Goldman Ismail Obtains Summary Judgment for Medtronic in Another California SynchroMed Case](#)

[Goldman Ismail Elects to Partnership Rami Fakhouri, Andrew Rima, and Doug Winnard](#)

[Goldman Ismail and Partners Earn Top Rankings in the Chambers and Partners 2026 USA Guide](#)

[Summary Judgment Victory for Air Line Pilots Association](#)

[Shayna Cook and Rami Fakhouri named Litigators of the Week for Paragard Win](#)

[Goldman Ismail Partners Receive Top Rankings in Benchmark Litigation 2026](#)

[Rami Fakhouri Selected for Bloomberg Law's "They've Got Next: The 40 Under 40"](#)

[Goldman Ismail and Partners Earn Highest 2025 Rankings in The Legal 500](#)

[Goldman Ismail Partners Receive Top Rankings in Benchmark Litigation 2025](#)

[Goldman Ismail Partners Named to Benchmark's 40 & Under Hot List](#)

[Tarek Ismail Selected for American Lawyer's Litigators of the Week](#)

[Goldman Ismail and Partners Receive Top Rankings in Benchmark Litigation 2024](#)

[Current Topics in Medical Device Preemption](#)

[Goldman Ismail Secures Asylum for Client Who Escaped Persecution in Honduras](#)

[Goldman Ismail Wins Reversal Before Sixth Circuit in Detroit Property Tax Lawsuit](#)

[Goldman Ismail Partners Named to Benchmark's List of Top 250 Women in Litigation and the 40 & Under Hot List](#)

[Goldman Ismail and Partners Receive Top Rankings in Benchmark Litigation 2021](#)

[Goldman Ismail and Partners Receive Top Rankings in Benchmark Litigation 2019](#)

[Rami Fakhouri Recognized for Pro Bono Service by Seventh Circuit Bar Association](#)

[Goldman Ismail Secures Complete Defense Verdict in Philadelphia Xarelto Trial](#)

[Goldman Ismail Secures Dismissal of All Claims Against Medtronic in California SynchroMed Case](#)

[Goldman Ismail Defeats Certiorari Petition in U.S. Supreme Court](#)

[Goldman Ismail Secures String of Dismissals on Preemption Grounds in SynchroMed Litigation](#)

[Goldman Ismail Wins Reversal En Banc Before U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit](#)

[Goldman Ismail Wins Eleventh Circuit Appeal](#)

[U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit Grants Goldman Ismail's Petition for Rehearing En Banc](#)

Bar & Court Admission

State of Illinois

Supreme Court of the United States

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit

U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois (Trial Bar)

U.S. District Court for the Central District of Illinois

U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan
