

Rising Star: Morgan Lewis' Rishi Satia

By Cara Bayles

Law360 (August 7, 2025, 4:00 PM EDT) -- Soon after Rishi Satia moved back to the Bay Area after years in Washington, D.C., he began representing the companies he'd heard about growing up in Los Gatos, California. In the seven years he's worked for Morgan Lewis & Bockius LLP's antitrust practice, he's represented an array of clients fighting claims they've stifled competition — from tech giants like Google and Qualcomm to the governing body for U.S. cricket teams — earning him a spot among the competition law practitioners under age 40 honored by Law360 as Rising Stars.

His biggest cases:

Satia is a member of the team defending Google against claims it blocked competing app stores, controlled billing services and drew hefty commissions.

The sprawling multidistrict litigation, which Satia described as "high stakes," covers many different plaintiffs' groups, including putative consumer and developer classes and 53 attorneys general. Satia has been involved since Epic Games first sued Google in 2020, and he helped formulate trial strategy, securing a \$90 million settlement with small U.S.-based developers.

"That was one of the more challenging lawsuits, just in terms of the scope and volume of the case and the different moving parts and the different players," he said. "It has some wide-ranging implications."

Satia also represented Qualcomm against a lawsuit brought by the Federal Trade Commission over the chipmaker's licensing practices for its smartphone technology. The company lost a 2019 bench trial, with then-U.S. District Judge Lucy Koh finding in a 233-page opinion that Qualcomm's royalty rates amounted to an "artificial surcharge on rivals' chips." But Qualcomm won on appeal the following year, with the Ninth Circuit espousing a narrower interpretation of a company's "duty to deal" with a competitor. That decision helped Qualcomm trim related claims from a

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Rishi Satia
Morgan Lewis & Bockius

Age: 39

Home base: San Francisco

Position: Partner

Law school: The George Washington University Law School

First job after law school: Associate at Weil Gotshal & Manges

consumer class action, which Qualcomm eventually won on summary judgment.

Satia, who helped with trial preparation and appellate strategy, said the Ninth Circuit decision "reaffirmed the narrow application of an antitrust duty to deal, which is a really important decision, not only for Qualcomm and its business, but other companies operating in that space."

"Both of these clients, Google and Qualcomm, are such California institutions. I'm a California native, born and raised, and I went to college in San Diego where Qualcomm's from," he said. "Getting to have these sort of personal connections and getting to represent these global companies that just were in my backyard growing up and then getting to be at the table with these companies and representing them through these really complex, challenging lawsuits was super exciting, and certainly memorable."

His most interesting case:

Satia also helped defeat private antitrust claims against USA Cricket over its call for proposals for a commercial partner to build a professional U.S. cricket league. American Cricket Premier League LLC sued in 2019, alleging it didn't get the contract even though it offered twice as much cash investment as the winning bidder, American Cricket Enterprises Inc. It also accused USA Cricket of rigging its bidding process to favor ACE because of its backers' personal connections.

In a successful motion to dismiss, USA Cricket noted it chose to issue a request for proposals, and that it was under no obligation to do so or to choose ACPL, which it described as "a disgruntled losing bidder." U.S. District Judge William Martínez said he didn't have the authority to make USA Cricket redo its bidding process, and ACPL withdrew its suit.

Satia brought the matter to the firm and served as the lead associate in the case.

The thrill of that win was amplified by its real-world implications and by Satia's memories of waking up in the middle of the night to watch international cricket matches with his cousins. Five years after his court win, he can now watch Major League Cricket being played in Texas on a Saturday afternoon.

"It's really cool to get to see. I worked on this lawsuit when the league was sort of trying to form ... and I got to help the league break through that and get the right result in court," Satia said. "To feel like I've played a part in helping the league to grow and expand is really exciting."

His proudest moment:

Satia takes pride in big wins for his clients, but he said his pro bono work is the work he's "most excited to tell my kids about."

He says he worked to help get green cards for a man who'd come to the U.S. on a special immigrant visa for Afghans who assisted with U.S. military operations in the country and faced danger because of their service.

"Him and his family made one of the most significant sacrifices. They put themselves at risk to support our soldiers," Satia said. "It was just a really special opportunity to work for him and his family over the last couple years."

Satia, who received the President's Volunteer Service Award and GWU Law Pro Bono Service Recognition while attending George Washington University Law School, said it's important for BigLaw

attorneys to offer their talents to people who couldn't otherwise afford an attorney.

"It's a good use of the skill set and platform that I have as a Morgan Lewis lawyer, to get to be empowered to help someone find a better future and get that security and certainty they need so they can continue to live happy and fulfilling lives," he said. "It's a special feeling to get to provide that kind of service."

What motivates him:

Satia says he's driven by the different services he can offer his clients — not only legal advocacy, but questions of business and economic strategies. Some of those issues are unique to antitrust practice, he said, which allows him to be a "strategic partner" to his clients.

"I really love being at the center of that intellectually complex and challenging environment," he said. "It's really motivating for me to be the person to advise them through those dark and challenging moments."

Getting sued can be terrifying for a client, Satia said, so he strives to offer legal advice and ameliorate as many concerns as he can and help them work through those challenges with his representation and advice.

He also enjoys working with an array of clients and quickly acquiring an in-depth understanding of "how these different enterprises function, and the ecosystems underlying them."

"No case is the same. You get to become a subject-matter expert about these different products, services and industries," Satia said. "There's always something new to learn and work your way through."

--As told to Cara Bayles. Editing by Alyssa Miller.

Law360's Rising Stars are attorneys under 40 whose legal accomplishments belie their age. A team of Law360 editors selected the 2025 Rising Stars winners after reviewing more than 1,100 submissions. Attorneys had to be under 40 as of April 30, 2025, to be eligible for this year's award.