HUESTON HENNIGAN



Moez M. Kaba Managing Partner

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Education

Columbia Law School (J.D., 2005)

Cornell University (B.S., 2002, Industrial and Labor Relations) highest honors; Class Marshal

Clerkships

Hon. Raymond C. Fisher, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit Admissions

California

New York

Moez Kaba, a nationally recognized trial lawyer, is the managing partner of Hueston Hennigan LLP.

Praised as "a master in the courtroom," "outstanding in his trial capabilities," and a client's "secret weapon," Mr. Kaba routinely captures among the country's highest-profile trial and appellate victories. Recognized as a go-to trial lawyer and trusted advisor, he has been lauded in national rankings as a "powerhouse" lawyer and "trial specialist." *Chambers*, for example, has named him as one of the best trial lawyers in the U.S., and *Benchmark Litigation* listed him as one of the "Top 100 Trial Lawyers in America"—he was the youngest lawyer nationally on the list—and among the "Top 20 Trial Lawyers in California."

Mr. Kaba is a fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers, which is recognized as the preeminent organization of trial lawyers in North America. He is also a fellow of the International Academy of Trial Lawyers, a group of "truly elite trial lawyers who have achieved a career of excellence through demonstrated skill and ability in jury trials." This invitation-only organization is limited to 500 active U.S. trial lawyers. Mr. Kaba is one of a select group who are members of both organizations.

Representing a variety of clients from Fortune 500 companies to entrepreneurs and high-profile individuals, Mr. Kaba develops creative and disruptive strategies to solve business' unique objectives in a broad array of general complex civil litigation, including commercial disputes, securities, trade secrets, entertainment and intellectual property matters.

As touted in *Chambers*, Mr. Kaba, "one of the best" trial lawyers in the country, "tries a lot of cases and wins, which is what it's all about" and "there's nobody quicker or more consistently on the money when complex judgment calls need to be made." Clients also say Mr.

Kaba is "innovative, smart and able to see problems from various perspectives. His oral advocacy skills are second to none," and "he has a remarkable ability to home in on the most salient issues immediately." Clients describe him as "an incredibly strong trial lawyer and effective cross-examiner" who is "excellent on his feet" with "outstanding instincts."

In addition to his litigation practice, Mr. Kaba dedicates considerable time to pro bono work focusing on access to justice and social issues. Among his pro bono achievements, he obtained a preliminary injunction for Freedom for Immigrants (FFI) in an important, closely watched First Amendment case, ordering U.S. Immigration & Customs Enforcement to restore FFI's National Immigration Detention Hotline (see media highlights here). He also represented the Council for American-Islamic Relations in its efforts to support a San Diego school district regulation that was designed to protect Muslim students who are particularly at risk of being bullied (see media highlights here). Additionally, he represented Equality California in challenging the constitutionality of California's ban on same-sex marriage in the U.S. Supreme Court. For several years, he represented various women's rights groups in cases challenging the constitutionality of the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) and state bans on same-sex marriage.

Testimonials

"A master in the courtroom." -Chambers

"There's nobody quicker or more consistently on the money when complex judgment calls need to be made." —Chambers

"One of the best young trial lawyers I've ever seen." —Chambers

"Staked himself a position as another of the firm's lead trial counsel on some of the firm's most high-stakes disputes."

—Benchmark Litigation

"He is innovative, smart and able to see problems from various perspectives. His oral advocacy skills are second to none." —Chambers

"A forceful counselor and litigator." —Benchmark Litigation

"Moez has outstanding instincts and is excellent on his feet. He can do a blistering cross examination." —Chambers

"A trial force, with street smarts and experience beyond his years." —Benchmark Litigation

"An incredibly strong trial lawyer and effective cross-examiner." —Chambers

"Steel trap mind." —Chambers

"Sits comfortably on the front line of some of the firm's thorniest matters and whose star is inexorably on the rise." —Benchmark Litigation

"Exceptional" ... has a "remarkable ability to home in on the most salient issues immediately." —Chambers

"He can see complex litigation and create a clear path forward." —Chambers

"Moez is really brilliant and has a great combination of practicality and strategic thinking." —Chambers

"His enviable record of trial and appellate victories" makes "you want him in your corner in court." —Los Angeles Business Journal

"Distinguished" for "winning top-stakes trials for clients." —Law360

"One of the top litigators in the nation." —Daily Journal

"He tries a lot of cases and wins, which is what it's all about." -Chambers

"Terrific, outstanding and very good strategically." —Law360

"Impressive ... and strong reputation ... a secret weapon." —Chambers

Experience

Trial

Secured a complete defense verdict for **Disney** in a high-profile suit brought by an animator who alleged Disney infringed his similar project to develop the blockbuster film, "Moana." At the end of a closely followed 10-day trial, jurors deliberated less than three hours before siding with Disney (see "Disney didn't copy 'Moana' from a man's story of a surfer boy, a jury says," <u>Associated Press;</u> "Disney wins US copyright trial over animated hit 'Moana'," <u>Reuters;</u> "Disney Unit Wins Copyright Trial Over 'Moana' Film," <u>Law360;</u> "Disney had no access to animator's screenplay to copy 'Moana', jury finds," <u>Daily Journal;</u> "Disney prevails in 'Moana' copyright trial," **Courthouse News**; "Disney's 'Moana' Didn't Copy Producer's Film Project, Jury Says," **Bloomberg**).

Won a record \$293 million verdict for **Monster Energy** after four-week federal jury trial involving claims of false advertising, tortious interference, and theft of trade secrets. The verdict — believed to be the largest Lanham Act award ever — reflected a complete victory for Monster Energy over rival VPX, Inc., with findings in Monster's favor on every claim asserted. Also prevailed on appeal when the Ninth Circuit affirmed the judgment (see "How Hueston Hennigan Won Monster \$336M False Ad Suit," <u>Law360</u>; "Monster Wins \$293M Verdict Against VPX In False Ad Trial," <u>Law360</u>; "Monster Energy Wins \$293 Million False Ad Award Over Bang," <u>Bloomberg Law</u>, "US court affirms Monster Energy's \$311 mln court win against former rival Bang," *Reuters*).

Won a "landmark" opioid trial for **Endo Pharmaceuticals** in a closely watched \$50 billion California case alleging public nuisance, unfair competition and false advertising. Obtained a full defense verdict following a four-month trial. The win was hailed as "giv[ing] drug companies their first major victory in the litigation brought by cities and counties across the country over the opioid crisis," <u>American Lawyer</u> (see "How Hueston Hennigan Notched A Landmark Opioid Trial Win," <u>Law360</u>; "Opioid Makers Win Major Victory in California Trial," <u>The New York Times</u>; "Drug Makers Handed First Win Out of Thousands of National Opioid Crisis Lawsuits," Newsweek).

Won a complete defense judgment for **Amazon.com** in a suit brought by eBay alleging tortious interference and unfair competition. After the hearing, the panel unanimously found for his client on all claims (see "Amazon wins legal fight against eBay over alleged seller poaching," **CNN**).

Won "among the largest-ever U.S. trademark award" (*Reuters*) for **Monster Energy Company** against rival beverage company Vital Pharmaceuticals, Inc. Following a two-week trial, the arbitrator held that Vital Pharmaceuticals' Bang Energy does not contain advertised muscle-building creatine and infringed on "Bang" trademark. In the significant ruling, the arbitrator awarded Monster and Orange Bang \$175 million in damages, nearly \$10 million in attorney's fees and costs, and a 5 percent royalty on all future sales of Bang Energy (with over \$1.5 billion in annual sales) (see "Monster asks court to enforce \$175 mln award against Bang Energy maker," *Reuters*; "Monster, Orange Bang Win \$175M Against Rival In Arbitration," *Law360*).

Secured a complete defense verdict after trial for **The Boeing Company** in a trade secret, breach of contract, and tortious interference case. In addition to defeating Zunum's claims, Boeing is entitled to \$12 million from Zunum on Boeing's cross claim (see "Hueston Hennigan persuades US judge to reverse \$72M verdict against Boeing," <u>Daily Journal</u>; "Seattle judge overturns \$72M jury verdict, clears Boeing in Zunum lawsuit," <u>Seattle Times</u>; "Boeing Scraps Electric Jet Co.'s \$72M Trade Secrets Trial Win," <u>Law360</u>; "Boeing convinces US judge to overturn \$72 mln trade-secrets verdict," <u>Reuters</u>; "Boeing Ducks \$72 Million Verdict as Judge Finds No Trade Secrets," <u>Bloomberg Law</u>).

Won a complete defense verdict for **PricewaterhouseCoopers** in a high-profile lawsuit and closely watched federal trial brought by a former employee and SEC whistleblower, Mauro Botta (see "PwC auditor's firing wasn't triggered by SEC complaint: judge," **Reuters**).

Won a complete defense verdict for the **California Institute of Technology** in a four-week whistleblower trial in Los Angeles Superior Court. The jury unanimously sided with Caltech in a wrongful termination suit in which a former researcher sought tens of millions of dollars in damages, claiming the school retaliated against him for allegedly exposing the misuse of government funds. Prior to trial, obtained full dismissal of breach of contract and tortious interference claims (see "Shout-Out: Hueston Hennigan Beats Back Whistleblower Claim Against Caltech," *The American Lawyer*).

Won an eight-figure punitive damages verdict and liability findings on all claims of fraud, deceptive business practices and false advertising for **William Koch** in a three-week jury trial in New York federal court (see "Billionaire Bill Koch wins \$12 million from wine maven who sold him bogus Bordeaux," **New York Post**).

Won a trial for the **State Bar of California** in a widely covered action brought by a former state senator and CEO of the State Bar of California concerning whistleblower retaliation, breach of contract and breach of fiduciary duty claims. Prevailed on all claims after a weeklong trial (see "Ex-Calif. Bar President Sheds Fired Exec's Contract Claim," *Law360*).

Won misappropriation of trade secrets and breach of contract claims for **T-Mobile** in a high-stakes three-week federal jury trial in Seattle against Huawei Devices USA (see "The U.S. Just Charged Huawei With Stealing A T-Mobile Robot Idea," *Forbes*).

Obtained broad injunctions in a confidential arbitration for CoreLogic Solutions, Inc. in a breach of contract and trade secrets case.

Won a trial for the **liquidating trustee of a multimillion-dollar investment partnership** in an action alleging breach of contract and breach of fiduciary duties. The matter settled favorably on the day set for opening arguments.

Appellate

Argued and prevailed at the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit for **Amazon.com** in a nine-figure lawsuit brought by Planet Green Cartridges Inc., which alleged Amazon was liable for false advertising on Amazon.com. Importantly, the Court held, among other things, that Amazon was immune from liability under Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act and did not owe a duty to the plaintiff (see "Amazon Is Shielded From Suit Over Sellers' Environmental Claims," **Bloomberg Law**).

Prevailed at the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit on behalf of **Bausch Health Companies** in a nine-figure, cross-border trade secret and breach of contract case. Adopting our arguments, the Ninth Circuit held that the case could not proceed in the absence of Bausch's foreign subsidiaries and that the court lacked jurisdiction over those absent entities.

Prevailed in the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, holding for the first time that social network applications (**Grindr** and its owners) are protected by Communications Decency Act Section 230 immunity and cannot be held liable for the acts of users (see "Grindr defeats appeal over harassment on gay dating app," **Reuters**).

Argued and prevailed at the California Court of Appeal for **McDonald's USA**, convincing the court to unanimously affirm the dismissal of a \$100 million fraud suit brought by Byron Allen over ad spend on black-owned media through a motion under California's "anti-SLAPP" statute (see "Byron Allen Can't Revive \$100M McDonald's Fraud Suit," <u>Law360</u>; "McDonald's Secures Dismissal of \$100M Fraud Suit Over Ad Spend on Black-Owned Media," <u>The Recorder</u>, "Appeals court tosses Byron Allen ad suit against McDonald's," <u>Daily Journal</u>; "McDonald's Fends Off \$100 Million Byron Allen Suit Over Ads," **Bloomberg Law**).

Prevailed in the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit for **William Koch**, upholding a jury verdict and a \$1.15 million award against Silicon Valley entrepreneur and fellow oenophile Eric Greenberg over the sale of 24 bottles of fake Bordeaux (see "Billionaire Koch defeats appeal in fake wine case," *Reuters*).

Prevailed at the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit for the Internet Movie Database (IMDb.com) in an anti-SLAPP suit. Obtained preliminary and permanent injunctions invalidating the constitutionality of a California statute (see "Law barring disclosure of actors' ages violates 1st Amendment, appeals court rules," *Los Angeles Times*).

Prevailed in the New York Court of Appeals for **William Koch** related to his California Superior Court action claiming that he was sold 149 bottles of counterfeit rare wine by Rudy Kurniawan through Acker, Merrall & Condit, a New York-based dealer in fine and rare wines. The court clarified the standard for enforcing subpoenas to nonparties in litigation, and *The New York Law Journal* described the victory as a "game changer" (see "Court Clarifies Rules for Nonparty Subpoenas," *The New York Law Journal*).

Complex Civil Litigation

Representing the **State Bar of California** in a fraud, negligent misrepresentation, and breach of contract lawsuit against ProctorU, dba? as Meazure Learning, the vendor that administered the February 2025 bar exam, which was widely reported as having widespread and pervasive problems (see "California State Bar files lawsuit against exam vendor after botched tests," **Los Angeles Times**; "California State Bar Sues Testing Vendor Over Botched February Exam, **Law.com**; "California Bar says it has sued vendor over exam meltdown," **Reuters**; "California Bar Sues Exam Vendor ProctorU Over February Crash," **Bloomberg**; "Calif. Bar Sues Administrator Over February Exam 'Chaos'," **Law360**).

Representing the major record labels, including **UMG Recordings, Warner Music Group and Sony Music Entertainment**, in high-profile and high-stakes copyright litigation against two leading generative AI music companies, Suno and Udio. The lawsuits are the first time the record labels have sued AI companies over sound recording copyrights (see "AI Cos. Hit With Copyright Claims From Music Labels," *Law360*; "Major record labels sue AI company behind 'BBL Drizzy," *The Verge*; "Music Labels Take On AI Startups With New

Lawsuits," <u>The Wall Street Journal</u>; "Al's Most Ambitious Music Generators Accused of 'Massive' Infringement In New Lawsuit," *Rolling Stone*).

Defending **Amazon.com** and **Twitch** against multiple lawsuits arising out of the tragic May 2022 mass shooting at a grocery store in Buffalo, NY. Plaintiffs claim that Amazon.com, Twitch and other social media services incentivized the shooter to commit his horrific crimes by, among other things, providing him with the ability to livestream his attack. Plaintiffs' claims, which include product liability, negligence and other torts, raise significant issues involving the First Amendment and the scope of immunity for social media services under Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act (see "Lawsuit by Buffalo supermarket shooting victims pins blame on Facebook, Amazon and other tech giants," **Associated Press**; "Loved Ones of the Buffalo Shooting Victims Want Social Media Platforms Held Responsible," **Time Magazine**).

Representing **Epic Games** in cases across multiple jurisdictions claiming that the company intentionally designed its games to addict players (see "The first video game addiction lawsuit got knocked out. Will others follow?" *Reuters*; "Activision, Epic, Video Game Developers Face Addiction Suit," *Bloomberg Law*).

Secured the dismissal with prejudice of a significant trade secret misappropriation suit against **Deloitte Consulting LLP** in which Zest Labs sought hundreds of millions of dollars in damages related to Deloitte's work in the fresh food management space.

Secured a settlement for **Amazon.com** in a patent infringement suit brought by LightGuide, Inc. in the Eastern District of Texas alleging over a billion in damages for use of robotic technology in Amazon's fulfillment centers (see "Amazon Settles IP Suit Over Warehouse Robotics," *Law360*).

Representing **Amazon.com** and **Starbucks Corporation** in novel litigation alleging the failure to warn customers that they were being monitored by "biometric technology" without providing notice (see "Amazon, Starbucks Win Motion to Dismiss Most Claims in Biometric Data Privacy Case," <u>Law.com;</u> "Amazon, Starbucks face WA class-action lawsuit over customer data," <u>The Seattle Times;</u> "NYC Starbucks, Amazon Patrons File Suit Over Biometric Scans," <u>Bloomberg Law</u>).

Secured the dismissal of a patent suit against **Amazon.com** brought by DataQuill, which alleged infringement of Amazon's fire phones and tablets.

Representing **Amazon.com** in a suit brought by Select Research, Ltd., which accuses Amazon's discontinued Halo project of infringing two patents related to health indicator calculations.

Obtained a settlement for **Union Pacific Railroad**, which was sued in a high-stakes wrongful death case that sought \$200 million in damages.

Representing **Kelly Toys**, maker of Squishmallows —the top-selling toy in the U.S. in 2023—in a copyright infringement lawsuit against Build-A-Bear Workshop for its copycat Skoosherz product (see "Squishmallows and Skoosherz Plush Toys Face Off in Court," <u>The New York Times</u>; "Plush wars? Squishmallows toy maker and Build-A-Bear sue each other over 'copycat' accusations," <u>Associated Press</u>).

Representing **Amazon.com** against a historic FTC lawsuit targeting its Prime Membership (see "F.T.C. Accuses Amazon of Tricking Users Into Subscribing to Prime," *The New York Times*; "Amazon Says FTC Prime Subscription Suit Gets Ahead Of Law," *Law360*).

Representing **TotalEnergies Renewables USA** in a lawsuit against a solar module manufacturer involving fraud and breach of contract claims.

Representing McDonald's USA in multiple tort and statutory lawsuits concerning marketing and advertising.

Representing **Shopify Inc.** in several class action data breach lawsuits.

Represented **Medtronic** in a nine-figure patent infringement lawsuit concerning medical device technology. The case resolved on the eve of trial.

Represented **Chapman University** in a high-profile breach of contract action brought by a university donor. The case resolved shortly before trial.

Won dismissal with prejudice for **Amazon.com** on Section 230 and other grounds in a case involving false advertising, unfair competition, and negligence and in which plaintiff demanded at least \$500 million in damages.

Obtained a favorable settlement for **CoreLogic Credco**, **LLC** in a consumer class action alleging violations of federal and state credit reporting laws.

Representing the **Navajo Nation** in all aspects of its claims arising out of the unprecedented environmental disaster caused by the Gold King Mine spill near Silverton, Colorado. The Navajo Nation won an important victory in its fight for fair compensation for the harms caused by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and its contractors when the court refused to dismiss the suit against the EPA's subcontractor. Mr. Kaba also continues to work with various members of Congress to secure a legislative solution for the Navajo Nation.

After two weeks of trial, favorably settled a lawsuit for **the country's largest integrated health care system** brought by a group of California hospitals seeking hundreds of millions of dollars for emergency medical services provided to its members.

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

Prevailed on motion to dismiss Lanham Act and tortious interference claims in a closely watched technology case brought against online software and filtering company **Malwarebytes** (see "Oft-Cited Case Involving Anti-Malware Cos. Tossed For Good," **Law360**).

Secured a victory for **BlackBerry Corp.** and **BlackBerry Ltd.** in civil extortion and unfair competition claims leveled against it by MobileIron, forcing it to pay Blackberry's legal fees and drop its lawsuit.

Obtained summary judgment of non-infringement in favor of **Amazon.com** against claims for patent infringement brought by serial patent litigant MasterObjects, Inc. (see "Amazon Beats Patent Claims After Alsup 'Misstated' Its Motion," *Law360*).

Representing **Southern California Edison** and **Edison International** in litigation arising out of the 2017 Thomas Fire and 2018 Montecito mudslides. Mr. Kaba is leading Southern California Edison's legal challenges to the inverse condemnation claim, which is the central focus of wildfire litigation brought against investor-owned utilities including SCE and PG&E.

Successfully resolved a class action lawsuit filed against **Ring LLC** (an Amazon.com subsidiary) arising out of alleged hacking of Ring devices.

Prevailed in dismissing a novel false claims act lawsuit against **Bausch Health Companies** arising out of claims of alleged inequitable conduct and fraud on the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

Obtained summary judgment for the **California Institute of Technology** in a False Claims Act lawsuit alleging that the Institute defrauded the Department of Energy out of millions of dollars in government funds associated with a renewable energy research program.

Secured a substantial settlement, reflecting a larger recovery than that obtained by similarly populous states, for the **Navajo Nation** against Wells Fargo in its lawsuit detailing the bank's long campaign of predatory and fraudulent practices (see "Wells Fargo Pays Navajo Nation \$6.5 Million In 'Predatory' Lawsuit Settlement," *Forbes*).

Defeated an SEC contempt action against **Tesla CEO Elon Musk** for alleged improper tweeting (see "How Hueston Hennigan Steered Tesla's Musk to Safety," *The American Lawyer*).

Defended **Valeant Pharmaceuticals** in multibillion-dollar securities class actions, alleging violations of insider trading and control person liability statutes. After argument on summary judgment motions, obtained favorable settlements on all matters.

Obtained a preliminary injunction on behalf of **Amgen** holding that information related to potential price changes submitted to the state pursuant to California Senate Bill 17 can be classified as protectable trade secrets and may not be disclosed in response to a California Public Records Act request. This was a highly watched case with huge implications for the pharmaceutical industry.

Obtained a seven-figure settlement for actor **Alec Baldwin**—an amount equal to a complete full-trial victory—in a high-profile art fraud case (see "Alec Baldwin's Legal Tussel Over a Painting," <u>The New Yorker</u>).

Obtained the dismissal with prejudice of a Title IX, breach of contract and UCL case (among other claims) brought against the **California Institute of Technology** by a student.

Recognitions

BTI Client Service All-Star (2024)

Litigation: General Commercial, Chambers USA (2019-present)

Litigation: Trial Lawyers, Chambers USA (2023-present) Leading Commercial Litigators, Daily Journal (2024-2025) Who's Who in Law, Los Angeles Business Journal (2023)

Trials MVP, Law360 (2022)

Top 100 Lawyers in America and Top 20 Trial Lawyers in California, Benchmark Litigation (2021-present)

Top 100 Lawyers in California, Daily Journal (2017-present)

Minority Leaders of Influence: Attorneys, Los Angeles Business Journal (2019-2022)

Leaders of Influence: Top Litigators & Trial Lawyers, Los Angeles Business Journal (2019-2021)

Key Lawyer for General Commercial Disputes, Legal 500 (2020-present) The Best Lawyers in America (2020-2025); Lawyer of the Year (2025)

40 & Under Hot List, Benchmark Litigation (2015-2022)

Top 40 Under 40, Daily Journal (2017)

Litigation Star, Benchmark Litigation (2019-present)

Legal Visionaries, Los Angeles Times (2021)

Fellow, American College of Trial Lawyers

Fellow, International Academy of Trial Lawyers

Activities

Board of Directors, Bet Tzedek

Board Member and Secretary, Social Justice Legal Foundation

Former Secretary of the Board of Directors, Equality California

Insights

3/8/2024 Podcast: "Moez Kaba on boldness, the art of cross-examination, and a career-changing subway conversation"