

Amjad Mahmood Khan, Esq.
Los Angeles, California
Short Biography



Amjad Mahmood Khan is litigation counsel at Akin Gump Strauss Hauer Feld LLP (a global law firm), a post-graduate research fellow at Harvard Law School and President of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Lawyers Association USA. He previously worked as a litigation associate at Latham & Watkins LLP (a global law firm), where he was Co-Chair of the firm’s Human Rights & Refugee practice.

Mr. Khan’s practice focuses on complex business and commercial litigation, with emphasis on disputes related to contracts, business torts, intellectual property, insurance and unfair competition. His clients have included a range of high-profile corporations, executives and organizations, including financial firms, major airlines, sports and entertainment entities and religious establishments.

Mr. Khan graduated *summa cum laude* from Claremont McKenna College in 2001 with degrees in English Literature and Government and was a member of Phi Beta Kappa and awarded “Student of the Year” as a senior. His thesis, “Fighting Extremism in Islam,” earned departmental honors. In 2004, he earned a “Juris Doctor” (J.D.) degree from Harvard Law School, where he served as Editor-in-Chief of the *Harvard Human Rights Law Journal* and as a teaching assistant to Professor Scott Brewer (Contracts, Jurisprudence). He is a former judicial clerk to the late Honorable Warren J. Ferguson, Senior Circuit Judge for the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

In addition to his commercial litigation practice, Mr. Khan devotes thousands of hours to pro bono matters. He has specific experience in asylum and refugee law, deportation defense and legal aid to disaster victims. He has first chaired over two dozen successful immigration and asylum matters in the U.S. and has represented hundreds of refugees escaping religious persecution abroad. He has traveled to the Middle East and South Asia to provide free legal support to prisoners of conscience. He frequently briefs the U.S. State Department and U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom on his work to defend international religious freedom in the Islamic world. He has served as an expert witness for asylum cases involving oppressed religious minorities. He has testified three times before the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission at the U.S. House of Representatives about the persecution of religious minorities in the Islamic world. He has received numerous awards and accolades for his pro bono work, which includes sharing the 2012 Muslim Advocates Thurgood Marshall Award for authoring an amicus brief for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit in defense of the civil liberties of an American Muslim.

Some of his notable pro bono achievements include:

- counsel in an appellate asylum representation for an Egyptian Coptic Christian; petition for review was granted by the 9th Circuit
- counsel in an affirmative asylum representation for an Ahmadiyya Muslim from Indonesia in a case of first impression for the persecuted group; asylum was granted at the interview stage
- counsel in an affirmative asylum representation for a Jewish man from Iran; asylum was granted at the interview stage
- counsel in an affirmative asylum representation for the daughter of an Ethiopian actor and playwright; asylum was granted at the interview stage
- counsel in an asylum representation for an activist/journalist from Columbia; asylum was granted at the trial level
- counsel in an affirmative asylum representation for a juvenile immigrant from Honduras; asylum was granted at the interview stage
- counsel for Humanity First, USA to manage a grant connected to the Qatar Katrina Fund; legal work led to the rebuilding of six mosques and schools in the Greater New Orleans
- counsel for Humanity First, USA to manage a cross-border water filtration purchase agreement; legal work created access to clean and sanitary water for 1.26 million people in the earthquake-affected regions of Pakistan

Mr. Khan is a frequent lecturer on topics concerning international religious freedom in the Islamic world, with particular expertise on international human rights law and policy. He has lectured at several leading academic institutions, including Stanford Law School, Harvard Law School, Harvard Divinity School, Carnegie Mellon University, Claremont McKenna College, University of California Berkeley, Southern Methodist University and the State University of New York at Buffalo. His writings have appeared in a variety of prominent journals and newspapers, including the *Harvard Human Rights Law Journal*, *Georgetown Journal of International Affairs*, *Richmond Journal of Global Law and Business*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Washington Post*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Christian Science Monitor* and *New York Daily News*. His interviews have appeared in a variety of prominent media outlets, including *Al Jazeera* and *NPR*. He has testified before the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform at the U.S. House of Representatives on the Government's record on implementing the International Religious Freedom Act.

For three consecutive years, Mr. Khan has been named a "Southern California Super Lawyer Rising Star" by *Law & Politics* and *Los Angeles* magazines (2012-2014) – an honor award to 2.5% of California attorneys under 40 years of age.