



Complex Disputes

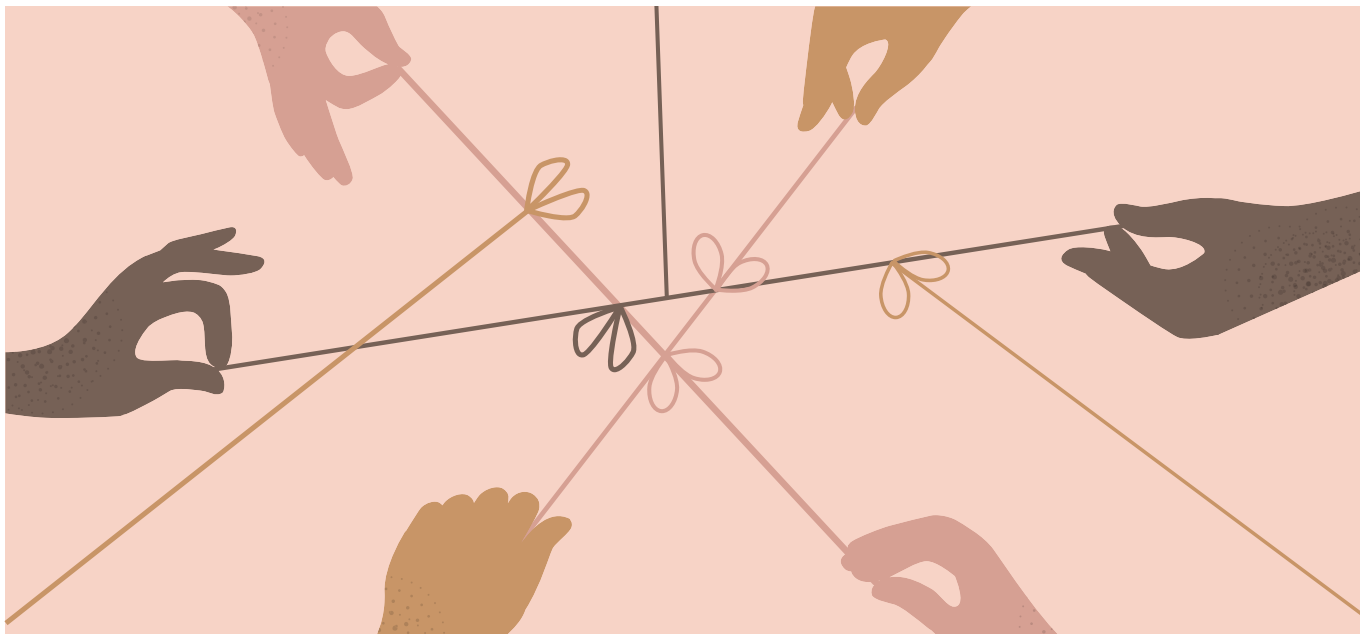
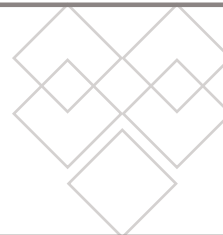
2021



PROFILED:

RISHI ZUTSHI

Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP



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Complex Disputes



RISHI ZUTSHI

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PERSONAL BIOGRAPHY

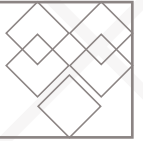
Rishi Zutshi's practice focuses on complex commercial litigation, as well as securities and M&A litigation, with extensive experience in disputes relating to financial products and markets. He also has experience handling internal investigations and enforcement matters, including representing clients in matters involving the US Securities and Exchange Commission, US Department of Justice, US Commodity Futures Trading Commission, state attorneys general, and overseas government regulators and agencies. He joined the firm in 2008 and became a partner in 2016.

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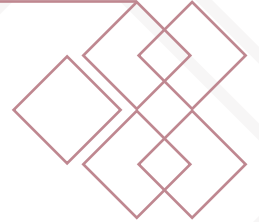
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**RISHI ZUTSHI**

Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP



Q&A WITH RISHI ZUTSHI

**Could you provide an insight into how you approach your work? What drives and motivates you?**

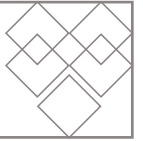
◆ I strive for excellence in my work because I want my work to reflect what I believe in and who I am. It is vitally important to me that I engage with clients, colleagues and even adversaries in a way that reflects my core values. This means approaching those individuals with respect, empathy and humility – which helps me to take on new perspectives and ideas and to see the broader picture when I am advocating for my clients. It also means being forthright and candid in communications and not shying away from difficult topics. I have found that this commitment to authenticity helps me to approach my work life as an arena in which I can continually challenge myself to grow, and I hope that it also makes me more effective as a trusted adviser and as a leader on my teams.

What strengths and characteristics do you, your team and your firm strive to demonstrate to clients?

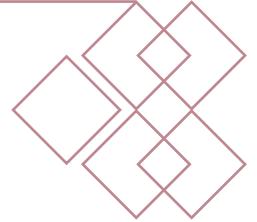
◆ I have learned from several of my mentors that a critical prerequisite for representing and advising a client effectively is first working hard to internalise your client's perspective, including understanding how their business works and what matters most to them. Clients rightly expect their litigators to be smart, aggressive and dogged in protecting their rights. I do my best to make sure that my teams are focused on also demonstrating pragmatism, creativity and situational judgment. This means always maintaining perspective on the ultimate risks and impacts of litigation on your client's business and being focused throughout the representation on generating legal strategies and arguments that are designed to achieve business-minded solutions to problems wherever feasible.

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**In what ways do you endeavour to support the career development of your colleagues rising through the ranks?**

◆ Before I was a lawyer, I was an educator and I treasure the opportunity to help junior attorneys at my firm develop. In my experience, a productive teaching or mentoring relationship requires a foundation of trust. One way I work to establish trust is by telling my junior colleagues directly that I am invested in their professional development. It can be challenging not to react defensively to critical feedback, but I have found it much easier to engage productively with criticism and to develop new habits when I was confident I had the support of my colleagues, and I strive to convey that sense of support to juniors on my teams. I have also found it effective to share with them the areas where I am working to improve professionally, as it is critical for junior attorneys to see that mistakes, if addressed thoughtfully, can offer valuable opportunities for growth. ■



“CLIENTS RIGHTLY EXPECT THEIR LITIGATORS TO BE SMART, AGGRESSIVE AND DOGGED IN PROTECTING THEIR RIGHTS. I DO MY BEST TO MAKE SURE THAT MY TEAMS ARE FOCUSED ON ALSO DEMONSTRATING PRAGMATISM, CREATIVITY AND SITUATIONAL JUDGMENT.”

**RISHI ZUTSHI**

Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP

**REPRESENTATIVE ENGAGEMENTS**

- ◆ Advising AG Financial Products Inc. in a New York state court action involving claims in excess of \$1bn in connection with terminated credit default swaps.
- ◆ Advising Goldman Sachs in multiple federal and court actions involving antitrust claims related to Forex trading, and in multiple federal, state and bankruptcy court actions involving claims related to physical and derivative energy contracts.
- ◆ Advising multiple financial institutions in bankruptcy court adversary proceedings relating to terminated derivatives with various Lehman entities.
- ◆ Advising Crédit Lyonnais and National Westminster Bank in lawsuits in New York federal court based upon allegations under the US Anti-Terrorism Act.
- ◆ Advising various financial institutions in regulatory investigations regarding trading practices in the equities, foreign-exchange and asset-backed securities markets, and in inquiries regarding swap reporting practices.

