



MICHAEL J. BOWE

Founding Partner

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“INCREDIBLY GIFTED IN GETTING TO THE HEART OF A MATTER.”

CLIENT, CHAMBERS USA

A founding partner of Brithem, Michael Bove has more than 34 years of experience successfully litigating high-stakes cases of every nature for both plaintiffs and defendants at trial and on appeal.

He often tries multiple cases each year, in which he turns complex disputes into simple and compelling stories. Mike has often employed novel solutions to problems for which other lawyers had advised clients there was no answer. He is known for the fearless and tenacious advocacy that he displayed in his pursuit of the billionaire hedge fund titan Steve Cohen, as captured in The New York Times-bestselling book “Black Edge,” and his similarly trailblazing child sexual abuse and human trafficking cases against online porn company MindGeek (now Aylo), Visa, and the hedge funds that financed the business. He is also a go-to crisis manager who has navigated to safety many companies and high-net-worth individuals facing serious civil, criminal, and regulatory jeopardy.

Mike has been described by adversaries as a “legal pit bull,” by a legendary trial lawyer as “simply elite,” by the press as “positively exud[ing] an air of self-assurance,” and by clients as “a fabulous legal mind” who is “a terrific litigator on his feet.” Among many other recognitions, he has twice been given The National Law Journal’s “Trailblazer of the Year” award and was included among Forbes’ inaugural “Top 200 Lawyers in America.” He frequently speaks on CNBC, Fox Business News, Bloomberg, and other networks, and his work has been the subject of books, magazine stories, and a Frontline documentary.

After graduating first in his class at New York Law School, Mike clerked for the Honorable Lenore C. Nesbitt, United States district judge for the Southern District of Florida, and spent over 34 years practicing at Sullivan & Cromwell, Kasowitz Benson Torres, and Brown Rudnick, where he chaired the litigation practice.

IMPACT MATTERS

Stopped a notorious “bear raid”

For Fairfax Financial Holdings, Mike responded to a short-selling attack engineered by three of the most powerful hedge funds on Wall Street with a highly publicized civil RICO lawsuit credited with saving the company and restoring \$2 billion in investor value.

Secured hundreds of millions for real estate investor

Over more than two decades, Mike has secured hundreds of millions of dollars in various matters for a major New York and Miami real estate developer and investor. His recoveries include what opposing counsel called “the crown jewels of the real estate portfolio” in a major partnership dispute and the acquisition of the historic Savoy Hotel on Miami Beach for pennies on the dollar of its substantial worth from a lender.

Fought discrimination

Mike represents the only Black-owned asset manager in New Jersey in an unprecedented civil rights and RICO case against New Jersey, BlackRock, and other major financial firms and individuals. The case is exposing the corrupt and biased “old-boys’ networks” engaged in longstanding “pay-to-play” practices in the underperforming state pension system.

Defunded sexual exploitation

For over 200 victims of child pornography, rape, and trafficking, Mike led landmark lawsuits against MindGeek (now Aylo), the world’s most dominant online pornographer, Visa, and the hedge funds who financed the business. The suit, along with the associated public advocacy and leadership, has exposed ugly truths about this industry and those supporting it and forced dramatic changes in practices.

Battled disinformation campaigns

Mike has successfully defended dozens of companies and individuals against disinformation and smear campaigns, typically stopping the campaigns without litigation and, where necessary, defending and rehabilitating such clients’ brands and reputations through successful public advocacy and litigation.

Confronted fraudulent financing of military housing developers

For the developers of 18 United States military housing projects, Mike has pursued a \$900 million RICO case against financial services companies Jefferies and Ambac, alleging the defendants engaged in an extensive scheme of fraudulent financings.

Secured trial verdict for Bill Ackman’s charitable foundation

Pershing Square Foundation retained Mike to try a case for millions in withheld insurance coverage due to one of its biggest assets. With Ackman as the star witness and present at the counsel table throughout the almost three-week trial, Mike secured a jury verdict awarding the charity millions of dollars it was due.

Saved the career of a decorated Marine

After a Marine Corps board directed the separation of Marine whistleblower Major Jason Brezler, Mike had a federal court vacate that outcome and order a new trial. He then successfully retried the case, securing the opposite result allowing Brezler to continue to serve.

Represented the president of the United States

Mike represented President Trump in the investigation by Special Counsel Robert Mueller.

OVERALL EXPERIENCE

Complex Business Disputes, Including Civil Rico, Securities, Partnership, And Personal And Commercial Disparagement Matters

Mike has represented companies and individuals in all types of complex commercial, civil RICO, and personal and brand disparagement actions, including:

- Fairfax Financial, AmTrust Financial, Eros International, Resolute Forest Products, MBIA, Jefferies Group, Brookfield Asset Management, Lehman Brothers, CGI Group, Banco Popular, Biovail Pharmaceuticals, Harvey Norman, Glencore, Energy Transfer Partners, and Amira Foods in civil RICO and common law tort and disparagement claims and other defensive actions against short-sellers and activists.
- Over 150 victims of child sexual abuse and human trafficking in claims against online pornography site owner MindGeek (now Aylo), Visa, and various hedge funds financing the business.
- Eighteen United States military housing projects in civil RICO and common law claims for over \$900 million against financial services companies Jefferies and insurer Ambac alleging the defendants engaged in an extensive scheme of fraudulent financings.
- Investment firm Klesch & Co. in a billion-dollar partnership dispute over a failed acquisition of Deutsche Telekom.
- Asset manager Blueprint Capital Partners in civil RICO and civil rights claims alleging systemic racism in New Jersey's selection and allocation of capital to outside asset managers in New Jersey's pension system, discriminatory retaliation, and a corrupt "pay-to-play" scheme that excluded minority- and female-owned firms in favor of old-line Wall Street firms.
- A former managing director of family office Archegos Capital Management in its suit against its founder and several senior executives for allegedly defrauding its employees in losing almost \$500 million of their compensation.
- Investment firm Harbinger Capital on various claims arising from its multibillion-dollar effort to construct a wireless communications network.
- Ottawa Senators' owner Eugene Melnyk and Biovail Pharmaceuticals in their defense of defamation claims by a former Bank of America analyst.
- Chipmaker Altera in defending AMD patent claims.
- Chemical company Celanese in defense of a multimillion-dollar environmental indemnity and contribution case arising from a chemical train derailment and a multimillion-dollar wrongful industrial death claim.
- High-net-worth individuals, families, sports and entertainment celebrities, and trusts in disputes over hundreds of millions in investment and business assets, including PGA golfer Nick Price; prominent New York trial lawyer Stanley Arkin; New York investment banker Denis Bovin; New York business and real estate investors Eric Hadar, Raymond Gindi, Phil Pilevsky, and Joseph Chehebar; investors in restaurant Nobu; and numerous others.
- The Ottawa Senators in disputes with the NHL, players, and business partners.
- Major League Baseball executives and personnel in employment disputes and league investigations.
- Multiple cable news personalities in employment disputes and personal matters.
- Universities in consumer class actions involving COVID-19 adjustments to on-campus instruction.

Real Estate Disputes

Mike has represented:

- Real estate developer Coles Jersey Development Co. as trial counsel in recovering damages for failure to pay under the parties' title insurance policy and for bad faith dealings.
- Leading publicly traded REIT iStar Inc. in a financing default foreclosure and guarantee enforcement over a large South Florida beachfront development.
- Property owners and a building management company challenging the forced sale of four Manhattan properties, valued at hundreds of millions of dollars, by a large real estate developer and investor.
- Real estate investor Erwin Gonzalez in a partnership dispute involving over \$250 million in real estate assets.
- The historic Miami Savoy Hotel in its defense of a foreclosure action on behalf of distressed investors in the hotel and representation of subsequent development and operations claims by and against the hotel and its developers.
- Luxury, residential, and commercial buildings in Manhattan and elsewhere, including the luxury Manhattan residences 515 Park Avenue and 325 Fifth Avenue, with over \$100 million recovered in damages, repairs, and other relief.
- Private investors in a dispute over the sale of an iconic Manhattan building resulting in over \$80 million recovered.
- Real estate investor Eric Hadar and the Eric Hadar Family Trust in obtaining Manhattan real estate development sites that his adversaries called the "crown jewels" of a disputed partnership's assets.
- JDS Development Group in the acquisition of a landmark New York City building.
- Syracuse University in defeating claims for specific performance brought by an unsuccessful developer of the university's student center.

Insurance

Mike has represented several major insurance companies in significant coverage, reinsurance, indemnity/subrogation, and business disputes.

Criminal and Regulatory Enforcement

Mike has represented:

- The president of the United States in the investigation by Special Counsel Robert Mueller.
- Bank of New York in a credit card antitrust investigation involving Visa and Mastercard.
- Goldman Sachs in various SEC investigations.
- Victoria Toensing, the former senior DOJ official and high-profile criminal defense lawyer, in convincing federal prosecutors to end the grand jury investigation and terminate the appointment of a special master in the case, as it related to the FISA investigation of Rudy Giuliani in the Southern District of New York.
- Certain administration officials in congressional inquiries related to the subject of the Mueller investigation.

- The New York State Assembly in the Moreland Commission investigation.
- Charter school network Celerity and certain of its officers and directors in convincing federal prosecutors not to indict.
- A major public company in successfully preventing an enforcement action by the SEC and DOJ, after a three-year investigation.
- A CEO of a publicly traded company in convincing New York prosecutors not to indict for securities fraud.
- The New York City Police Benevolent Association (PBA) in challenging the City of New York's release of body cam video footage.

Pro Bono

Mike has represented:

- Victims of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, the family of murdered U.S. Marine Lance Cpl. Gregory Buckley Jr., and Marine Corps Major Jason Brezler. These matters have received substantial congressional, press, and public attention. Mike's successful federal court challenge on behalf of Major Brezler has been recognized as groundbreaking precedent with a far-reaching impact on military justice.

CREDENTIALS

New York Law School, J.D., *magna cum laude*, First in Class

Fordham University, B.A.

District Court for the Southern District of Florida, Hon. Lenore C. Nesbitt, Law Clerk

Sullivan & Cromwell LLP, Associate

Kasowitz Benson Torres LLP, Litigation Partner and Member of Executive & Business Development Committees

Brown Rudnick, Partner & Co-Chair of Litigation & Dispute Resolution Practice

New York Bar, Admitted

SELECT RECOGNITION

Chambers USA, General Commercial Litigation (2023-26)

The National Law Journal, Litigation Trailblazer (2016, 2023)

Forbes, America's Top 200 Lawyer (2024)

Law360, Trials Group of the Year, Member (2018, 2023)

Benchmark Litigation, Litigation Star (2022-25)

Legal 500, New York City Elite, Commercial Disputes (2025-26)

Best Lawyers (2025)

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

- “Look and Listen: How To Conduct Effective Pre-Litigation Investigations” – New York Law Journal (March 29, 2024)
- Co-author, “Germinating on What’s Next” – Thomson Reuters Journal Today (June 28, 2022)
- Co-author, “You Still Can’t Sue A Germ, But You Can Appear As A Kitty-Cat: Comparing the 2008 Financial Crisis to The COVID Pandemic A Year In” – Thomson Reuters Westlaw Journal (April 15, 2021)
- Co-author, “Can You See Me Now? Lessons Learned From Virtual Proceedings” – New York Law Journal (October 28, 2020)
- Co-author, “You Can’t Sue a Germ: Comparing the 2008 Financial Crash to the COVID-19 Economic Crisis” – Thomson Reuters Westlaw Journal (June 22, 2020)

PROFESSIONAL & COMMUNITY AFFILIATIONS

Fordham University’s President Council
Trustee, St. Joseph’s in Bronxville, NY
Chairman of the Advisory Board of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel School in the Bronx

NON-PROFIT INVOLVMENT

Sisters of Life
Monastery of Our Lady of Mount Carmel & Saint Joseph
Inner-City Scholarship Fund
FDNY Marine Corps. Association