

BRUCE G. VANYO

KATTEN MUCHIN ROSENMAN LLP



PIONEER SPIRIT Bruce Vanyo decided to become a lawyer after reading "To Kill a Mockingbird" in high school. "I took a clerkship in the Second Circuit with a judge who had been general counsel of the SEC and took a lot of securities cases. I found the securities world fascinating, and I still love it."

TRAILS BLAZED Along with his courtroom work, Vanyo played a key role in creating provisions to the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act. "I had been in Silicon Valley for about 10 years, and it seemed like once a week, technology companies were getting sued for securities fraud. It was a great area to build a practice, but companies got fed up. HP and others reached out to me. I told them that they had two problems: They were getting sued on forecasts and needed a safe harbor, and the pleading standard for a plaintiff to get into court in the Ninth Circuit was awful. HP then hired me to draft the pleading standard part of the PSLRA. I also drafted the safe harbor provision, but Congress made it more complicated. The morning after the PSLRA passed, I thought I'd have to find a new practice area." Vanyo defends everything from young companies to those in the Fortune 50. "I represented Boeing in the only securities class action they've ever had."

FUTURE EXPLORATIONS Recently, the life sciences industry has faced numerous securities-related lawsuits. "None of these companies guarantee successful trials or FDA approval. At the pleading stage, I try to show that they should not be liable for securities fraud if their products don't work out. I want them to be encouraged to pioneer beneficial drugs."