

Bhavani K. Raveendran

Partner

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Practice Areas

Brain Injuries

Civil Rights & Police Misconduct

Domestic Abuse

Excessive Force

Hazing, Bullying & Intimidation

School & Institutional Abuse

Sex Trafficking

Sexual Abuse & Hazing

Wrongful Death

Education & Certifications

- J.D., American University-
Washington College of Law, 2012
- B.A., Case Western Reserve
University, 2009

Jurisdictions Admitted to Practice

Illinois, 2012

S. Court of Appeals for the 7th
Circuit, 2020

Northern District of Illinois, 2016

Southern District of Illinois, 2016

Central District of Illinois, 2017

Eastern District of Wisconsin, 2016

Northern District of Indiana, 2017

Bhavani K. Raveendran has always wanted to help those who have endured injustices and decided to fight back. Bhavani has worked in civil litigation and civil rights for most of her career and is passionate about standing up against violations of her clients' constitutional rights to hold private and government actors accountable. Bhavani uses her position to work on issues of civil rights both in the courtroom and outside of it, including supporting pro civil-rights legislation.

Since joining Romanucci & Blandin LLC as an associate attorney in 2015, Bhavani has focused her practice on police misconduct, prison abuse, hazing, bullying, sexual abuse and wrongful death. Bhavani has first-chaired federal and state trials and received numerous settlements for her clients, notably including *Doe v. Maine West High School* involving one of the largest high school hazing settlements in Illinois and a \$21.3 million verdict for a family devastated by a police chase.

She had the honor of representing the family of George Floyd in the civil lawsuit against the City of Minneapolis and four of its police officers, which resulted in a \$27 million settlement in March of 2021.

In 2018, Bhavani had the honor to argue before the 1st Appellate District of Illinois in a sexual abuse case where she advocated for a child victim and in which the Court determined that the sexual abuse of a child cannot be considered a "de minimus" injury. Bhavani has also been honored to represent the Estate of Desiree Robinson and her family in their wrongful death action against Backpage.com and their continuing advocacy against the sex-trafficking of children. She currently serves on the team representing family members of Javier Ambler against Williamson County and its officers for Mr. Ambler's death, as well as on several other high-profile police misconduct cases throughout the country.

In 2021, Bhavani successfully argued before the United States Court of Appeals for the 7th Circuit on behalf of the family of a police misconduct victim who died in custody after being held face-down in a positional restraint regarding whether qualified immunity would apply.

Before joining Romanucci & Blandin, Bhavani practiced as a general civil attorney with a McHenry, Illinois firm, Diamond & LeSueur, P.C. After obtaining her law degree, Bhavani completed a fellowship in human rights litigation at DC-based International Rights Advocates working to hold American corporations answerable for funding and causing overseas abuse of

Southern District of Indiana, 2017
Federal District of Colorado, 2017
Federal District of North Dakota,
2017

human rights. During law school, she also served as a student attorney for the International Human Rights Clinic, as a legal intern at Torture Abolition and Survivor Coalition International, and as a civil rights law clerk at the Council on American-Islamic Relations Chicago. These experiences solidified Bhavani's passion for helping those who have suffered injustices and violations of their basic rights and freedoms.

In her free time, Bhavani enjoys a good sandwich, contemplating the general state of the world, volunteering with her temple, and quality time with her family and friends.

Experience

\$2,750,000 Settlement - Minor Child Abuse

\$4,250,000 Settlement - Police Misconduct

\$3,250,000 Settlement - Police Misconduct
June 22, 2022

\$742,500 Verdict - Police Shooting
March 24, 2022

\$700,000 - Sexual Abuse
June 2021

\$500,000 - Sexual Abuse
June 2021

\$27,000,000 Settlement - Civil Rights & Police Misconduct
March 12, 2021

\$21,300,000 Verdict - Police Chase
April 24, 2019

Awards & Recognition

- American Association for Justice Leonard Weinglass in Defense of Civil Liberties Award, 2021
- American Association for Justice, Certificate of Recognition, 2020, 2021
- *Emerging Lawyer* by Law Bulletin Publishing Company, 2018-2021
- Named one of the *The Best Lawyers in America*© by U.S. News and World Report, 2023
- *Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch*, 2021-2023
- Rising Star by Illinois Super Lawyers®, 2018-2021
- Top Women Lawyers in Chicago - Daily Herald Business Ledger, 2019
- Top 10 Motor Vehicle Accident Verdicts in Illinois in the year 2019, *Carreon v. City of Chicago*
- Top 50 Motor Vehicle Accident Verdicts in the United States in the year 2019, *Carreon v. City of Chicago*

- Graduated *cum laude* from American University, Washington College of Law
- Graduated *magna cum laude*, with honors in Political Science from Case Western Reserve University
- Recipient of the Case Western Reserve University Women's Club Prize, 2007
- Recipient of the Case Western Reserve University Provost Scholarship, 2006

Legal Activities & Leadership

- American Association for Justice (AAJ)
 - Police Misconduct Litigation Group, Chairperson, 2019-2021
 - Board of Governors, Representative for the Minority Caucus, 2021
 - Civil Rights Section, Executive Committee Member, 2020-2021
- Illinois Trial Lawyers Association
 - Board of Managers, 2019-Present
 - Diversity and Inclusion Committee, Co-Chair and Founding Member, 2019- Present
- Illinois State Bar Association
 - Human Rights Section Council Member, Chair
 - Human Rights Section Newsletter Editor, 2018-2019
- National Police Accountability Project – Chicago (NPAP), Member
- Volunteer with the Sai Spiritual Foundation, Present
- South Asian Bar Association Chicago Foundation
 - Board Member, 2017-2018
- Chinmaya Yuva Kendra Chicago
 - Board Member, 2012-2018
- Polished Pebbles
 - Host Committee Member, 2017

Notable Cases

- *Family of George Floyd v. City of Minneapolis and officers involved in Mr. Floyd's death*, March 2021, civil rights, \$27M settlement
- *Carreon v. City of Chicago*, April 2019, police chase, \$21.3M verdict
- *Wilson v. City of Elkhart*, Indiana police pursuit, \$700,000 settlement
- *Doe v. Conf. Bus Co. and School District*, sexual assault of minor, \$700,000 settlement
- *Pippenburg v. McCook*, sexual assault and harassment, \$500,000 settlement
- *Plaintiff v. Indiana Police Department*, police assault of 20-year-old man, \$290,000 settlement
- *Lippe v. Oklahoma City*, assault by off-duty police officer, \$187,000 settlement
- *Does v. North Suburban HS District*, educational abuse, Confidential

In the News

Crain's Chicago Business 2022 Notable Women in Law: Bhavani Raveendran
Crain's Chicago Business, September 5, 2022

Matrimonio de Puerto Rico toma acción contra el "sargento de Chicago" que intervino con su hijo
Univision, July 8, 2022

Park Ridge teen pinned to ground by off-duty CPD sergeant in viral video
ABC-7, July 7, 2022

Off-Duty Chicago Police Officer Pinned 14-Year-Old Boy Against Sidewalk, Family And Lawyers Say
Block Club Chicago, July 6, 2022

14-year-old honor student pinned by off-duty Chicago Police Officer
July 5, 2022

Park Ridge child grabbed, pinned to sidewalk in busy area by man who self-identified as police officer
Chicago Tribune, July 5, 2022

Family of Daunte Wright agrees to \$3.25M settlement with Brooklyn Center
KARE 11, June 22, 2022

\$3.2 Million Settlement in Police Killing of Daunte Wright
New York Times, June 22, 2022

Brooklyn Center reaches settlement with Daunte Wright's family for \$3.25 million
Minneapolis Star Tribune, June 22, 2022

CIVIL | Official Trailer
Netflix, June 20, 2022

Examining Civil Rights Litigation Reform, Part 2: State and Local Government Employer Liability
House Committee on the Judiciary, June 9, 2022

Police driving practices under scrutiny as crashes kill officers, bystanders
CBS News, June 6, 2022

Amir Locke's family join growing call to end "no knock" warrants
ABC Nightline, April 14, 2022

Chicago man sentenced to 39 years for murder of sex-trafficked teen in Markham; 'you decided her life didn't matter,' mother says
Chicago Tribune, April 13, 2022

Amir Locke's Perspective Ignored in Call Not to File Charges Against Cop
Newsweek, April 6, 2022

Minneapolis officer who fatally shot Amir Locke won't be charged
Star Tribune, April 6, 2022

Police won't be charged in death of Amir Locke, Black man shot in 'no knock' raid
NBC News, April 6, 2022

Jury finds Chicago police liable in 2014 killing of man, awards \$742,000
Chicago Daily Law Bulletin, March 29, 2022

Jury awards \$742K to family of dad killed by cops while having mental health crisis
Chicago Sun-Times, March 25, 2022

Indemnizan con más de \$700,000 a hijos de Héctor Hernández, muerto por 13 tiros de policías de Chicago
Univision Chicago, March 25, 2022

More girls accuse detective's son of sexual abuse
Illinois Times, February 14, 2022

Former Minnesota police officer on trial for murder of Daunte Wright
ABC Nightline, December 15, 2021

Finding resilience and making a difference
Case Western University Alumni Association, December 1, 2021

Lawsuit filed over Hazing and Sexual Assault of Plainfield Central Football Players
FOX 32 Chicago, August 23, 2021

George Floyd's family disputes drug allegations
ABC National News

Attorneys: HCMC employees looked at George Floyd's private medical records without authorization
Minneapolis Star Tribune, September 9, 2020

Chicago teen says she is grieving for Daniel Prude, her father
Democrat & Chronicle, September 3, 2020

George Floyd's family files civil rights lawsuit calling killings by police a 'public health crisis'
CNN, July 16, 2020

George Floyd's family sues city of Minneapolis, Derek Chauvin and 3 former officers
USA Today, July 15, 2020

George Floyd's Family Files Civil Lawsuit Against Minneapolis And Police, Lawyers Say
NPR Radio, July 15, 2020

George Floyd's family sues Minneapolis and four officers charged in his death
CBS National News, July 15, 2020

Attorney Antonio Romanucci Speaks following Sex Trafficking Guilty Plea in case of Desiree Robinson. Attorney Antonio Romanucci
ABC 7 Chicago, April 3, 2018

Blog Posts

Beyond the Bio: R&B Partner Bhavani Raveendran
Romanucci & Blandin Blog, January 5, 2022

Articles

A Dangerous Lack of Clarity
Trial Magazine, October 2021

Speaking Engagements

- “School and Police Misconduct Intake – Best Methods for Case Intake and Evaluation”, CLE Presenter, January 2017
- “Combatting Human Trafficking Through the Courts”, Bradley University, Lecturer, April 2019
- *I am Jane Doe* Screening and Panel at the Park Hyatt Chicago, Panelist on Sex-Trafficking Litigation, January 2018
- Building Resumes and Interview Skills, Legal Prep Charter School, Presenter
- “Battling Implicit Bias at Trial”, Illinois Trial Lawyers Association, Presenter, May 2020
- “Battling Implicit Bias at Trial”, Washington State Association for Justice, Presenter, September 2020
- “8th Amendment – Failure to Provide Medical Care”, New Jersey Association for Justice, Presenter, December 2020
- “Fundamentals of Litigating Section 1983 Excessive Force”, Colorado Trial Lawyers Association, Co-Presenter, August 2020
- “The Anatomy of Section 1983 Litigation”, Police Misconduct & Qualified Immunity: Reimagining We the People, Panel Participant, February 2021
- “Tips to Combat Implicit Bias”, AAJ Litigation Group Leaders’ Committee, Presenter, February 2021
- “Sexual Violence & Race, a Historical & Societal Perspective if Race-Based Sexual Violence”, Chicago Bar Association, Panel Participant, December 2020
- “Overcoming Jury Bias against the Civil Rights Attorney”, AAJ Police Misconduct Litigation Group, Co-Presenter, July 2020
- “Accountability Webinar: How do you Hold Yourself Accountable to be Anti-Racist and Anti-Sexist?”, AAJ Minority Caucus and Women’s Caucus, Panel Participant, March 2021
- “Ethical and Moral Responsibility when Representing Communities of Color”, AAJ Minority Caucus, Civil Rights Section and Police Misconduct Litigation Group, Panel Moderator, July 2021
- “Tips for Effective and Inclusive Communication”, Illinois Trial Lawyers Association, Presenter, May 2021
- “Drafting and Replying to Motions for Summary Judgment”, Federal Court Litigation Boot Camp, Presenter, April 2021