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Vahe is a senior associate in the litigation and arbitration team.

Vahe is an experienced litigator with a proven track record resolving high-stakes legal issues for his clients. Vahe regularly handles complex litigation before federal and state courts, arbitration tribunals, and regulatory agencies. He has also successfully resolved disputes in informal negotiations and private mediation when it is strategically beneficial to his clients.

Vahe has represented companies and individuals in a variety of civil and commercial disputes, including securities class actions, contract disputes, antitrust issues, employment disputes, and trade secret misappropriation. He also regularly advises companies on unfair competition issues in the employment context, including the enforceability of restrictive covenants, and assists companies to protect and recover their confidential and proprietary information.

Prior to joining Withers, Vahe practiced in leading international law firms and served as a judicial law clerk in the U.S. District for the Central District of California under the supervision of Hon. Patrick J. Walsh (Ret.).

Vahe received his J.D. from the University of California, Irvine School of Law. During law school, Vahe clerked for the Federal Trade Commission and the I.R.S. Office of Chief Counsel. He also received multiple awards for his grades in his courses, including in Antitrust, Antitrust and IP Rights and Federal Income Taxation.

Track record

Defeated whistleblower and discrimination claim for crypto exchange at summary judgment

Secured total victory for digital asset exchange Kraken in a whistleblower and discrimination claim by former employee. After filing summary adjudication motions on the former employee's claims and Kraken's cross-claims for former employees breach of employment agreements, plaintiff agreed to settle by dropping all claims against Kraken without any payment.

Obtained impactful discovery order leading to dismissal of class claims

Obtained an order phasing discovery in a class action dispute, requiring that plaintiff's counsel first conduct discovery on and prove that plaintiff is adequate class representative before being permitted to conduct class discovery. The prohibition on class discovery resulted in plaintiff abandoning class claims.

Obtained trade secrets TRO

Obtained TRO against departed executive who took customer and vendor contact information after separation. Even though information taken was not protected by confidentiality agreements, Vahe prepared a complaint and request for TRO arguing that the information amounted to trade secrets. The Court granted the TRO in total and ordered that the departed executive turn over all devices and accounts for forensic examination, that she submit to a deposition and respond to discovery on an expedited basis, and preclude her from using the stolen information.

Complete defense victory after month long jury trial

Secured defense verdict for digital asset exchange Kraken after a month-long jury trial, defeating plaintiff's whistleblower claims against the company and securing verdicts that plaintiff misappropriated trade secrets from the company and breached his confidentiality obligations and duty of good faith and fair dealing to the company. Kraken stated "We're pleased with the outcome and thankful to testimony from happy Kraken employees and advocacy from our counsel at Withers." For more information on the trial, the verdict, and Withers' and the client's reaction, please read more here.

External publications

'Withersworldwide Secures Victory in Kraken's Gender Pay Bias Lawsuit,' Daily Journal - April 4, 2024, featured
'Ninth Circuit Indicates Restrictive Covenants in Collaborative Business-to-Business Agreements Can Escape Per Se Liability,' Lexology - September 2020, co-author
'Three Years After *FTC v. Actavis: The Evolving Landscape Surrounding Reverse Settlements*,' ABA YLD Antitrust Committee Newsletter - Fall 2016, co-author and ABTL-OC Report - July 2016, co-author

Admissions

California, 2015
Central District of California
Northern District of California
Third Circuit Court of Appeals

Federal clerkship

Law Clerk, Honorable Patrick J. Walsh (Ret.), United States District Court for the Central District of California

Education

University of California, Irvine School of Law, J.D.

University of California, Irvine, B.A.

Languages

English

Armenian

Memberships

Association of Defense Counsel of Northern California & Nevada

Association of Southern California Defense Counsel

Key dates

Year joined: 2022

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