

Partner

Rakesh S. Patel

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rpatel@hwglaw.com

PRACTICES

Telecom

Litigation and Investigations

Privacy, Marketing, and Data Security

EDUCATION

Loyola University New Orleans College of Law,
J.D.

University of Toronto University College, B.A.

ADMISSIONS

District of Columbia

Maryland



Rakesh Patel brings more than 25 years of public service experience to HWG LLP, advising clients on a range of telecommunications matters, with a particular focus on privacy, cybersecurity, program fraud, Know Your Customer, robocalls and texts, and regulatory compliance.

Prior to joining HWG, Rakesh held several senior roles within the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) Enforcement Bureau, including Deputy Bureau Chief, Chief of the Fraud Division, and Deputy Director of the Universal Service Fund (USF) Strike Force. He played a key role in launching and leading the USF Strike Force and its successor, the Bureau's Fraud Division, which were created to investigate and address fraud, waste, and abuse involving the multibillion-dollar Universal Service Fund. Under his leadership, the group became a central force in ensuring integrity across telecom funding programs.

Through his enforcement work at the FCC, Rakesh participated in a broad range of investigative matters across multiple portfolios, involving some of the most sensitive, lengthy, and complex enforcement investigations at the FCC.

Earlier in his career, Rakesh served as Chief of the Maryland Attorney General's Criminal Division and held prosecutorial roles with the Montgomery County State's Attorney's Office, where he managed and tried a wide range of criminal matters.

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REPRESENTATIVE EXPERIENCE

Rakesh has led high-profile investigations and enforcement actions involving cybersecurity breaches, robocalls, and fraud in federally funded telecommunications programs. He has overseen the FCC's first enforcement matters involving generative AI, Know Your Customer rules, and broadband deployment data accuracy. His work resulted in significant settlements and innovative compliance measures that continue to shape industry practices.

PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

Presentations and Lectures

- "Role of Telecommunications Regulators to Counter Online Scams," Stimson Center/Mekong-U.S. Partnership Track 1.5 Policy Dialogue, Bangkok, Thailand (October 2024)
- "The FCC's Unique Perch in Keeping Communications Networks Safe and Secure," Federal Communications BarAssociation (FCBA), San Francisco, CA (May 2024)
- "Robocalling Investigations Checklist" National Association of Attorney's General (NAAG), Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C. (December 2023)
- "U.S.: Tools, Strategies, Successes & Objectives," Messaging Malware Mobile Anti-Abuse Working Group (M3AAWG), Dublin, Ireland (June 2023)
- "Enforcement 101, Structure and Procedure," FCBA, Washington, C. (February 2023)
- "Introducing the FCC's Fraud Division," FCBA, Washington, C. (February 2019)