

2014 Rising Stars

Young New York Lawyers Making Their Mark

June 16, 2014



Vinoo P. Varghese

Varghese & Associates

Vinoo Varghese is the principal attorney at Varghese & Associates, which he founded in 2006. The firm defends individuals and companies in criminal proceedings, white-collar matters, internal corporate investigations, and asset-forfeiture cases. He has tried nearly 30 criminal cases to verdict and written over a dozen appellate briefs.

Mr. Varghese currently represents Dan Halloran, a former Republican city councilman, accused of orchestrating a scheme to award the Republican nomination for New York City mayor to a Democrat, State Senator Malcolm Smith. Notable past representations include Rengan Rajaratnam, the brother of hedge-fund billionaire, Raj Rajaratnam.

In November 2013, the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (NACDL), in court-filed papers, recognized Mr. Varghese as a courageous attorney for his stand against the Manhattan District Attorney's subpoena of privileged attorney work product while defending schoolteacher Richard Hovan. Immediately prior to the submission of papers by the NACDL and the Legal Aid Society supporting the quashing of the subpoena, the Manhattan D.A. withdrew the subpoena.

In 2000, Mr. Varghese began his career as a prosecutor in the Brooklyn District Attorney's Office, where he rose to senior assistant district attorney and ran a specialized unit, the Assault on Police Officers Program.

Pro Bono / Civic Activity

In 2012, Vinoo represented pro bono the National Legal Aid & Defender Association and The Bronx Defenders and filed on their behalf an amicus brief in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit supporting the reversal of the insider-trading conviction of Raj Rajaratnam, founder of the Galleon Group hedge fund.

Vinoo served four years on the board of directors of the Asian American Bar Association of New York. For the last eight years, he has played an active role in Second Circuit Judge Denny Chin's historical courtroom reenactments at conferences of the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association. He also has served as director of the South Asian Bar Association of New York, and the North American South Asian Bar Association. Mr. Varghese served four years as the chair of NYCLA's Solo and Small Firm Practice Committee.

Vinoo teaches the annual ITAP, Intensive Trial Advocacy Program, at the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law and the Business Boot Camp program at Brooklyn Law School. He is a member of the federal criminal defense and white collar panels of the Legal Referral Services of the New York City, Brooklyn, and Queens Bar Associations.

He is an active member of his local Roman Catholic Church, having served as a lector for more than 15 years and having sat on the parish council.



Education

J.D., Brooklyn Law School, 2000; B.A., New York University, 1996

Experience

Varghese & Associates, 2006 -present; Kings County District Attorney's Office, 2000-2006

"As a criminal defense attorney, I am the first and last defense against government overreach."

