

# Salvatore J. Graziano

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**Salvatore Graziano** is a BLB&G partner and member of the firm’s Executive Committee. Widely recognized as one of the top securities litigators in the country, he has served as lead trial counsel in several historic securities fraud class actions, recovering billions of dollars on behalf of institutional investors and hedge fund clients. He practices out of the firm’s New York office.

Over the course of his distinguished career, Salvatore has successfully litigated many high-profile cases, including:

- *In re Merck & Co., Inc. Securities Litigation (Vioxx-Related)*: Securing a landmark \$1.06 billion recovery in this litigation concerning misrepresentations about the safety of Merck’s drug Vioxx. Salvatore led the BLB&G team through 10 years of litigation, successfully obtaining a groundbreaking, investor-friendly ruling from the U.S. Supreme Court on the statute of limitations for securities fraud claims.
- *In re Schering-Plough Corporation/ENHANCE Securities Litigation*: Leading the BLB&G team that prosecuted this case, which settled on the eve of trial for a combined \$688 million—the second largest securities class action recovery against a pharmaceutical company in history and among the largest securities class action settlements of any kind.
- *Gary Hefler et al. v. Wells Fargo & Company et al.*: Leading the BLB&G team that prosecuted this securities class action against Wells Fargo arising from the highly publicized scandal concerning Wells Fargo’s creation of millions of fake or unauthorized accounts. Salvatore successfully recovered \$480 million for investors—the fifth largest securities class action recovery ever in the Ninth Circuit.
- *In re Kraft Heinz Securities Litigation*: Prosecuting securities class action claims arising from Kraft Heinz’s \$15.4 billion goodwill write-down in 2019—one of the largest goodwill impairment charges taken by any company since the 2008 financial crisis. Salvatore and the BLB&G team overcame defendants’ motions to dismiss and recovered \$450 million for impacted investors.
- *New York State Teachers’ Retirement System v. General Motors Co.*: Resolving this securities class action against General Motors for \$300 million—the second largest recovery of its kind in the Sixth Circuit. This case arose from a series of misrepresentations concerning the quality, safety, and reliability of the company’s cars.

Industry observers, peers, and adversaries routinely honor Salvatore for his accomplishments. He is one of the “Top 100 Trial Lawyers” in the nation and a “Litigation Star” according to *Benchmark Litigation*, which credits him for performing “top quality work.” *Chambers USA* continuously ranks Salvatore as a top litigator, quoting market

sources who describe him as “wonderfully talented...a smart, aggressive lawyer who works hard for his clients,” and “the go-to for the biggest cases.” Salvatore is also ranked as a top litigator by *The Legal 500*, which quotes market sources who praise him as a “highly effective litigator.” Heralded multiple times as one of a handful of Securities Litigation and Class Action “MVPs” in the nation by *Law360*, he has also been named a “Litigation Trailblazer” by *The National Law Journal*. Salvatore is also one of *Lawdragon’s* “500 Leading Lawyers in America” and “500 Leading Plaintiff Financial Lawyers” in America, named as a leading mass tort and plaintiff class action litigator by *Best Lawyers*<sup>®</sup>, and is one of *Thomson Reuters’* Super Lawyers.

In recognition of his high level of efficacy and countless accomplishments in litigation and trial work, as well as his ethical reputation, Salvatore was named a Fellow of the Litigation Counsel of America (“LCA”). This close-knit, peer-selected group embodies the best of the best in trial law, with most members bringing 12 or more years of experience to the table. LCA membership is limited to 3,500 fellows, representing less than one-half of one percent of American lawyers.

A highly esteemed voice on investor rights, regulatory and market issues, in 2008, Salvatore was called upon by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission’s Advisory Committee on Improvements to Financial Reporting to give testimony as to the state of the industry and potential impacts of proposed regulatory changes being considered. He is the author and co-author of numerous articles on developments in the securities laws, and was chosen, along with several of his BLB&G partners, to author the first chapter, “Plaintiffs’ Perspective,” of Lexis/Nexis’s seminal industry guide *Litigating Securities Class Actions*. He regularly speaks on securities fraud litigation and shareholder rights and has repeatedly guest lectured at Columbia Law School on these topics.

Salvatore is a Senior Vice President of the Institute for Law and Economic Policy. He previously served as President of the National Association of Shareholder & Consumer Attorneys and has served as a member of the Financial Reporting Committee and the Securities Regulation Committee of the Association of the Bar of the City of New York.

Prior to entering private practice, Salvatore served as an Assistant District Attorney in the Manhattan District Attorney’s Office.

## Education

- New York University School of Law, 1991, J.D., *cum laude*
- New York University - The College of Arts and Science, 1988, B.A., *cum laude*, Psychology

## Admissions

- New York
- United States District Court for the Southern District of New York
- United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York
- United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan
- United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit
- United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit
- United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit

- United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit
- United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit
- United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit
- United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit

## News

- January 6, 2025 - BLB&G Partners Salvatore Graziano and John Rizio-Hamilton Discuss Consumer Cash Sweep Lawsuits in *New York Law Journal*
- December 12, 2024 - BLB&G Secures Two Rare U.S. Supreme Court Victories, Clearing the Way for Shareholder Claims Against NVIDIA and Facebook
- February 27, 2024 - BLB&G Profiled as a *Law360* "Securities Group of the Year"
- August 15, 2023 - BLB&G Achieves Significant Trial Victory in Helping Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac Shareholders Recoup \$612 Million in Class Action Against U.S. Federal Housing Finance Agency
- June 21, 2021 - BLB&G Partner Sal Graziano Provides Commentary in "Supreme Court's Goldman decision declared a win by investor advocates" by *InvestmentNews*
- November 30, 2020 - *Law360* Interviews BLB&G Partners Hannah Ross and Sal Graziano for Profile on the Firm's Selection as "Practice Group of the Year"
- May 4, 2020 - BLB&G Partner Sal Graziano Quoted in *Law360* article, "As Investor Suits Tick Up, Loss Causation May Be A Hard Sell"
- October 1, 2018 - *Lawdragon* Profiles BLB&G Partner Salvatore Graziano in "Lawyer Limelight" Q&A
- April 2013 - *The American Lawyer's* "Big Suits" Features Coverage of \$688 Million Recovery in Merck and Schering-Plough Litigation
- May 29, 2012 - Salvatore Graziano Discusses Claims Against Facebook in Interview with *Democracy Now!*
- May 23, 2012 - Reuters TV Features Salvatore Graziano in its Coverage of Investor Claims Against Facebook
- January 2011 - BLB&G Publishes "Plaintiffs' Perspective" in LexisNexis' *Litigating Securities Class Actions*
- January 1, 2011 - Sal Graziano Serves as President of the National Association of Shareholder & Consumer Attorneys
- June 19, 2008 - BLB&G Files Expanded Securities Class Action Against AIG and its Senior Executives on Behalf of the Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan Board
- September 2007 - *The American Lawyer* Features CBOT Holdings, Inc. Shareholder Derivative Litigation in its "Big Suits" Section
- May 15, 2006 - Prominent Securities Litigator Salvatore J. Graziano Joins BLB&G

## Publications

- June 14, 2024 - BLB&G Attorneys Co-Author "Plaintiffs' Perspective" Chapter in the *Litigating Securities Class Actions* Treatise
- September 30, 2021 - BLB&G Attorneys Publish "Plaintiffs' Perspective" Chapter in LexisNexis's *Litigating Securities Class Actions* Treatise
- February 18, 2019 - "Keeping Investors out of Court - The Looming Threat of Mandatory Arbitration" by Salvatore Graziano (published by the Harvard Law School Forum on Corporate Governance and Financial Regulation)
- February 3, 2019 - "From Justice Kennedy to Justice Kavanaugh - Is a Shift in Securities Law Underway" by Salvatore Graziano, Michael Mathai and Kate Aufses (published by the Harvard Law School Forum on Corporate Governance and Financial Regulation)
- April 2018 - "With a Regulatory Shift, Questions Emerge About Investors' Access to the Courts" by Salvatore Graziano and Tony Gelderman (published by The NAPPA Report)
- January 2011 - BLB&G Publishes "Plaintiffs' Perspective" in LexisNexis' *Litigating Securities Class Actions*
- March 10, 2008 - Submission to the Securities and Exchange Commission's Advisory Committee on Improvements to Financial Reporting by Salvatore J. Graziano
- July 2007 - "A Balanced Decision in *Tellabs?*" by Salvatore J. Graziano

## Awards

- April 18, 2025 - Eight Partners Named to *Lawdragon* 2025 "500 Global Plaintiff Lawyers" List
- March 24, 2025 - BLB&G Partners Salvatore Graziano and Jeroen van Kwawegen Named to *Crain's* 2025 "New York Business Notable Litigators & Trial Attorneys"
- March 10, 2025 - BLB&G Named 2025 Plaintiff Firm of the Year and Impact Case Award Recipient by *Benchmark Litigation*
- February 24, 2025 - *Law360* Profiles BLB&G as a 2024 Class Action Group of the Year
- January 10, 2025 - Eleven Partners Named to *Lawdragon* 2025 "500 Leading Lawyers in America" List
- October 24, 2024 - BLB&G Partners and Associates Recognized as Leading Attorneys by *Super Lawyers*
- October 3, 2024 - BLB&G Named Top Plaintiffs Firm and Several Partners Honored in *Benchmark Litigation's* 2025 Guide
- September 16, 2024 - Eleven Partners Named to *Lawdragon's* "500 Leading Litigators in America" List
- August 16, 2024 - Three BLB&G Partners Named to 31st Edition of *The Best Lawyers in America*®
- June 17, 2024 - BLB&G Achieves Tier 1 Status in *Legal 500 USA* Practice Area Rankings
- June 10, 2024 - BLB&G Again Achieves Top Rankings for Securities Litigation and Delaware Chancery in *Chambers USA* 2024

- May 24, 2024 - All 24 BLB&G Partners Named to *Lawdragon's* "500 Leading Plaintiff Financial Lawyers" List
- January 17, 2024 - Nine BLB&G Partners Named in *Lawdragon's* 2024 Edition of the "500 Leading Lawyers in America"
- October 24, 2023 - *Benchmark Litigation* Names BLB&G One of the Top Firms in the Nation in 2024 Guide
- August 17, 2023 - Three BLB&G Partners Named to 30th Edition of *The Best Lawyers in America*®
- June 1, 2023 - *Chambers* Again Ranks BLB&G Top Securities Litigation Firm with Band 1 Rankings in All Categories
- May 26, 2023 - *Lawdragon* Names BLB&G Partners to the 2023 Edition of the "500 Leading Plaintiff Financial Lawyers" List
- January 13, 2023 - Ten BLB&G Partners Named in *Lawdragon's* 2023 Edition of the "500 Leading Lawyers in America"
- October 3, 2022 - *Benchmark Litigation* Names BLB&G One of the Top Firms in the Nation in 2023 Guide
- July 11, 2022 - *Lawdragon* Names BLB&G Partners to the 2022 Edition of the "500 Leading Plaintiff Financial Lawyers" List

## Events

- November 14, 2024 - BLB&G Partner Sal Graziano to Speak at PLI's 56th Annual Institute on Securities Regulation
- November 7, 2024 - BLB&G Partners Rebecca Boon and Sal Graziano to Speak at ILEP Symposium 2024
- April 18, 2024 - BLB&G's Salvatore Graziano, Jim Harrod, and Rebecca Boon to Speak at Columbia Law School Securities Litigation Conference
- October 10, 2023 - BLB&G to Host U.S. Class Action and Governance Litigation Conference in Frankfurt
- August 3, 2023 - BLB&G Partner Sal Graziano to Speak at ISS Webinar, "Could 2023 Be a Banner Year for Investor Recoveries? Mid-Year Review: Shareholder Class Actions"
- January 27, 2022 - Sal Graziano Will Serve As Moderator at ILEP's Institute for Law & Economic Policy 28th Annual Symposium
- June 8, 2021 - BLB&G Partner Sal Graziano Speaks at ISS Panel "Mid-2021 Review: The State of Securities Class Actions"
- February 27, 2020 - Sal Graziano Serves As Moderator at ILEP's Institute for Law & Economic Policy 26th Annual Symposium
- January 23, 2019 - Salvatore Graziano Discusses Shareholder Litigation at NYU Law's Corporate Governance Bootcamp
- June 15, 2012 - Salvatore Graziano Discusses the Decline in Civil Jury Trials at the ACS National Convention
- Wednesday, April 18, 2012 - 1 p.m. EDT - The Curious Case of Carlyle...and Efforts to Shut Down Investor Access to the Courts

- June 16, 2011 - Sal Graziano Discusses the Future of Securities Litigation
- April 25, 2011 - Sal Graziano Discusses Federal Litigation and Securities Regulation at New York City Bar
- April 7, 2011 - Sal Graziano Participates in the Institute for Law and Economic Policy's 17th Annual Symposium
- December 9, 2010 - Sal Graziano Discusses Securities Litigation and Enforcement at New York City Bar Center
- Wednesday, September 15, 2010 - 2pm - Making Sense of the Financial Services Reform Act
- March 23, 2010 - Salvatore Graziano Discusses Regulatory Action and Financial Firms at NYU's Stern School of Business
- January 21, 2010 - Sal Graziano Discusses Class Action Restrictions at ACS Symposium at NYU Law School
- October 21, 2008 - Sal Graziano Speaks About Financial Institution Liabilities and Insurance Issues at New York City Bar Center
- October 17, 2008 - Sal Graziano Discusses Tellabs Impact at Wisconsin Law School Program