

**Daniel R. Saeedi | Partner**

Litigation

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## **TEAM CO-LEAD, BIOMETRIC PRIVACY**

Daniel is a nationally renowned attorney in biometrics, class action litigation, privacy law, information security, trade secrets, and employment law.

Daniel is Team Co-Lead of Blank Rome's Biometric Privacy Team, boasting groundbreaking wins in biometrics (BIPA), data privacy, and information security litigation and counseling. With a successful track record of first-chairing high-profile cases, he consistently delivers favorable outcomes for clients entangled in consumer and employee privacy disputes across various industries, including manufacturing, logistics, IT, gaming, marketing, healthcare, entertainment, and retail. Daniel has experience in a variety of different technologies, including those relating to biometrics, artificial intelligence, and machine learning.

Certified as an Information Privacy Professional ("CIPP/US"), Daniel's prowess extends beyond BIPA matters. He represents clients nationwide in trade secret theft, non-competition agreements, and breaches of fiduciary duties, while advising businesses on best practices and policies for litigating unfair competition claims. Daniel has achieved important and often cited wins for his clients. He also conducts complex internal investigations on intellectual property theft, computer fraud, and unfair competition issues.

Additionally, Daniel's practice includes a significant amount of arbitration and mediation. He has handled a variety of different arbitral matters, including significant mass arbitration disputes before various arbitral bodies. Daniel advises clients on effectively utilizing arbitration and other alternative dispute resolution strategies. His practice extends internationally each year through coaching the

University of Illinois-Chicago's international arbitration team for the Willem C. Vis International Arbitration Moot competition in Hong Kong.

Daniel is an active member of the Sedona Conference's Working Groups 11 (Data Privacy) and 12 (Trade Secrets). He also is a program coordinator and speaker for the American Bar Association's National Institute on Class Actions. Additionally, Daniel is a presidentially-appointed member of the Illinois State Bar Association's Standing Committee on Artificial Intelligence & the Practice. He frequently speaks on privacy and trade secrets matters with the Association of Corporate Counsel.

In 2008, Daniel graduated *magna cum laude* from John Marshall Law School (now University of Illinois Chicago School of Law). During law school, he was the Executive Lead Articles Editor for *The John Marshall Law Review*. He also served as a judicial extern for the Honorable Chief Justice Thomas R. Fitzgerald of the Illinois Supreme Court, and for the Honorable Judge Ronald A. Guzman, of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois.

## Select Engagements

- Handled over fifty BIPA and other privacy class actions, and obtained multiple wins, dismissals, and settlements on behalf of clients.
- Representing a leading global online services company in an Illinois BIPA class action alleging the unlawful storage of users' facial scans without consent.
- Representing a leading national retail company in a BIPA multi-district litigation alleging novel theories under privacy law.
- Reached a favorable settlement in a class action lawsuit alleging BIPA violations related to a virtual try-on application on behalf of a large global eyewear conglomerate.
- Represented a vendor to a Class One Railroad in the first BIPA case to go before a jury in an Illinois federal court.
- Successfully obtained dismissals on behalf of an Illinois casino in a BIPA class action alleging unauthorized use of facial scanning software.
- Served as amicus counsel for Illinois' nine major health care providers, securing a unanimous Illinois Supreme Court ruling exempting them from liability under the BIPA for using employees' biometric data for health care purposes.
- Obtained coverage for client regarding a BIPA lawsuit in an appeal before the Illinois Appellate Court, First District.
- Obtained dismissal and subsequent win on appeal before the Illinois Appellate Court, First District on behalf of a financial services company in a case alleging tortious interference with contract and trade secret misappropriation by NAV Consulting.
- Successfully obtained dismissal in two data breach class actions on behalf of a large multi-specialty medical group stemming from a 2021 breach that affected over half a million patients.

## Admissions

- U.S. District Court - Central District of Illinois
- U.S. District Court - Colorado
- Illinois
- U.S. District Court - Eastern District of Michigan
- U.S. District Court - Northern District of Illinois
- U.S. District Court of Southern District of Illinois
- United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit
- U.S. District Court - Southern District of Indiana

## Memberships

- American Bar Association
- Illinois State Bar Association
- Chicago Bar Association
- Sedona Conference

## Education

- University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, BA
- University of Illinois Chicago School of Law, JD

## Recognitions

- 2023–2024, listed in *IAM Patent 1000*
- 2022, Stand-out Lawyer – independently rated lawyers, listed by Thomson Reuters
- 2021, 40 Illinois Attorneys Under 40 to Watch, listed by *Law Bulletin* and *Chicago Lawyer*
- 2021, Rising Stars in Law, listed by *Crain's Chicago Business*
- 2014–2022, Illinois “Rising Star” in Business Litigation, listed by *Super Lawyers*
- 2020, Notable Minorities in Accounting, Consulting & Law, listed by *Crain's Chicago Business*

## Professional Activities

- Illinois State Bar Association
  - Member, Standing Committee on Artificial Intelligence and the Practice of Law
  - Former Member, Board of Governors
  - Former Member, Scope & Correlations Subcommittee of Board of Governors
  - Former Chair, Standing Committee on Member Services
  - Past CLE Coordinator, Privacy & Information Security Law Section

- Former Chair, Standing Committee on Marketing & Communications
- Former Chair, Special Committee on Membership
- Former Chair, Standing Committee on Racial & Ethnic Minorities and the Law
- Frequent CLE speaker
- Chicago Bar Association
  - Member
- American Bar Association
  - Member
  - The John Marshall Law School
  - Adjunct Coach for the VIS International Commercial Arbitration Moot in Hong Kong (2017–present)
  - Alumni Association Board of Directors
- The Sedona Conference
  - Member, Working Group 11 – Data Privacy
  - Member, Working Group 12 – Trade Secrets
- Court Appointed Special Advocates (“CASA”) for Children
  - Former Board Member
  - Former Sponsorship Chair
- Just The Beginning Foundation
  - Former Board Member
  - Membership Chair, Associate Board; Board of Directors