

# Daily Journal

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## TOP ANTITRUST LAWYERS 2025



Meet the practitioners shaping how markets compete in a year of landmark antitrust actions.



**PATRICK M. RYAN**

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**P**atrick Ryan, co-managing partner of Bartko Pavia LLP and chair of the firm's litigation practice, has spent more than 25 years handling complex antitrust and intellectual property cases for plaintiffs and defendants. His practice focuses on navigating intricate market dynamics and significant legal precedents in high-stakes disputes.

Ryan credits exceptional mentors for shaping their career since 1999. Walt Brown taught foundational excellence; retired Judge Wynne Carvill in Alameda County

provided intensive training in litigation strategy and antitrust law; Daven Lowhurst honed advocacy and legal writing skills; and Rob Bunzel has continuously guided them in creative litigation strategy and firm leadership throughout their entire career.

Ryan's approach centers on thorough case preparation. When representing plaintiffs, he marshals powerful evidence before filing suit, enabling him to achieve broad early injunctive relief and file effective summary judgment motions. This strategy has proven successful across various sectors, particularly health care and technology.

Among his notable cases, Ryan represented hospitals in an antitrust action against numerous insurance companies. The case alleged illegal agreements to restrain competition, allocate markets, and fix prices. *VHS Liquidating Trust, et al. v. Blue Cross Blue Shield Ass'n et al.*, RG21106600 (Alameda Co. Super. Ct., filed July 27, 2021).

Despite multiple attempts by major law firms to dismiss the case, the court overruled demurrers on most claims, preserving the plaintiffs' alleged damages period.

Ryan also served on the trial team in *Sidibe v. Sutter Health*, which resulted in a complete defense jury verdict in a \$1.2

billion Cartwright Act class action. In *Bama Commercial Leasing LLC v. Uber Technologies, Inc.*, his team secured a dismissal with prejudice after winning a rarely granted Section 437c(f) Motion for Summary Adjudication on Issues of Duty.

"Litigation is an art that requires creativity and a willingness to challenge conventional thinking," Ryan said. His practice combines understanding of antitrust complexities with strategies tailored to each case, addressing the challenges of clients' critical antitrust matters.

Ryan observes trends shaping the antitrust landscape. Private antitrust enforcement actions are increasing, particularly in health care and technology sectors. Companies face scrutiny over business practices, including allegations of monopolization and exclusionary conduct.

"The rise of digital platforms has also led to increased antitrust scrutiny, with a focus on issues such as data privacy and market dominance," Ryan said.

The trend extends to litigation strategies. Plaintiffs pursue novel legal theories and seek significant damages, as demonstrated in *VHS Liquidating Trust, et al. v. Blue Cross Blue Shield Ass'n, et al.*, where hospitals alleged anticompetitive practices by major health insurance companies.