Akshay N. Belani

Partner

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Akshay is a practical, commercially focused attorney who advises asset managers and other institutional market participants with respect to the trading and regulation of securities, over-the-counter and exchange-traded derivatives, and structured products.

OVERVIEW

Akshay focuses his practice on the securities, futures, derivatives, and commodities laws, including regulations affecting both buy- and sell-side market participants. He represents corporations, funds, banks, institutional investors, broker-dealers, and other financial institutions in all aspects of their securities, futures, derivatives, and commodities trading.

Akshay has been actively involved in the development of standardized documentation in the OTC and cleared derivatives markets, and regularly advises clients on issues related to Dodd-Frank derivatives reform, including rules relating to margin for uncleared derivatives. He is also a frequent speaker and writer on topics relating to the global derivatives market structure, with an emphasis on Dodd-Frank.

Additionally, Akshay regularly participates in pro bono matters and has handled matters for organizations such as Emma’s Torch, Kids in Need of Defense, Teens for Food Justice, and New York Lawyers for the Public Interest.

AWARDS

- *Legal 500 United States* for Finance: Structured Finance – Derivatives and Structured Products; Energy: Renewable/Alternative Power (2023)

TOP AREAS OF FOCUS

- Corporate
- Digital Assets + Blockchain
- Energy
- Investment Funds + Investment Management Services

ALL AREAS OF FOCUS

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- Corporate
- Digital Assets + Blockchain
- Energy
- Financial Services
- Investment Funds + Investment Management Services

PROFESSIONAL/COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- Member, American Bar Association, Committee on Futures and Derivatives Law
- Member, New York State Bar Association, Business Law Section

EDUCATION AND CERTIFICATIONS

EDUCATION

- St. John's University School of Law, J.D., 2004
- Tufts University, B.A., 1998

BAR ADMISSIONS

- New York

PUBLICATIONS

- Co-author, "CFTC Clears a Path for Onshore Crypto Perpetual Futures," *Financial Services Blog*, June 5, 2026.
- Co-author, "Senate Banking Set to Mark Up the CLARITY Act: What to Watch in Tomorrow's Hearing," *Financial Services Blog*, May 13, 2026.
- Co-author, "Financial Services Industry 2025 Digital Assets Year in Review," *Troutman Pepper Locke*, February 5, 2026.
- Co-author, "CFTC Seeks Public Feedback on Tokenized Collateral and Stablecoins Initiative," *Financial Services Blog*, September 25, 2025.
- Co-author, "SEC and CFTC Staff Issue Joint Statement on Digital Asset Commodity Transactions," *Financial Services Blog*, September 5, 2025.
- Co-author, "CFTC Issues New Advisory on FBOT Registration Opening the Path for Offshore Cryptocurrency Firms," *Financial Services Blog*, September 2, 2025.
- Co-author, "Digital Asset Regulation and The CLARITY Act of 2025," *Troutman Pepper Locke*, June 9, 2025.
- Co-author, "Navigating Change: First 100 Days Under the Trump Administration," *2025 Digital Asset Developments*, May 28, 2025.
- Co-author, "COVID-19 Risks for Over-the-Counter Derivatives Markets," *Law360*, March 20, 2020.
- Author, "INSIGHT: Understanding New NFA Swaps Proficiency Requirements," *Bloomberg Law*, March 13, 2020.

MEDIA COMMENTARY

- Featured and Quoted, "Troutman Pepper Adds Derivatives Expertise With Ex-Stroock Atty," *Law360*, July 27, 2022.