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Goodell, DeVries, Leech & Dann, LLP

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PROFILE

Mr. Ismail is an [AV® Peer Review Rated](#) partner with the firm. He practices in the area of products liability, insurance coverage, commercial and general civil litigation. He has represented clients in bench and jury trials, in state and federal courts, as well as in mediations and other proceedings.

In his products liability practice, Mr. Ismail has represented Pfizer, Bayer, Wyeth, Dentsply, Perrigo, Intervet and Akzo Nobel in cases involving pharmaceutical drugs, medical devices and other medical, dental and veterinary products. In his insurance coverage practice, Mr. Ismail has represented Zurich, AIG, Everest and other carriers (as well as a policyholder, Dentsply) in coverage disputes. In his commercial and general civil litigation practice, Mr. Ismail has litigated business disputes on behalf of clients ranging from large corporations, including Pfizer, Republic Services and Genesis Health Ventures, to a variety of smaller companies. On referral from *pro bono* organizations, Mr. Ismail has also represented indigent clients in a variety of proceedings.

Mr. Ismail was born in the tropical island of Ceylon, now Sri Lanka. He grew up in the coastal city of Colombo and studied at St. Thomas's College in the central highlands. His family later emigrated, first to Zambia in central Africa, where Mr. Ismail completed his secondary education, and then to the United States.

After earning his bachelor's degree at Columbia University in New York, Mr. Ismail covered local and state news as a reporter and photographer for the *Calvert County Recorder* in Prince Frederick, Maryland. During his five years at the newspaper, he won numerous reporting and editorial awards from the Maryland-Delaware-District of Columbia Press Association.

Mr. Ismail attended law school at the University of Maryland, graduating *cum laude* and with the *Order of the Coif*. He also served as Executive Editor of the *Maryland Law Review* in 1992-93. He began his legal career at Goodell, DeVries, Leech & Dann in 1993, practicing in the areas of pharmaceutical liability and insurance coverage litigation. He left briefly to practice white-collar criminal litigation at Hogan & Hartson, LLP, but later returned to Goodell, DeVries, Leech & Dann to focus on civil litigation. He has been a partner since 2004.

EDUCATION

Columbia University (B.A. 1982)

University of Maryland (J.D., cum laude, 1993)

Order of the Coif

Executive Editor, *Maryland Law Review*

AmJur Award for Civil Procedure

Bridgewater M. Arnold Prize for Commercial Paper

BAR ADMISSIONS

- Court of Appeals of Maryland, 1993
- United States District Court for the District of Maryland, 1994
- Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia, 1995
- United States Supreme Court, 2003
- United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, 2010

SELECTED CASES

Federal Ins. Co. v. Dentsply Int'l, Inc., 2007 WL 4150664 (M.D.Pa. Nov. 19, 2007) (agreeing with client insured and against excess insurer that collective trigger and single occurrence limit applied to underlying primary coverage for claims arising from multiple failures in product line)

Pfizer Inc. v. Stryker Corp., 348 F.Supp. 2d 131 (S.D.N.Y. 2004) (granting partial summary judgment to client seller of specialty orthopedic joint business against buyer's claims for indemnification of multimillion-dollar third-party products liability claims) (of counsel to Pfizer)

Arnold v. Intervet, Inc., 305 F.Supp.2d 548 (D.Md. 2003) (agreeing with client manufacturer of animal vaccines that plaintiffs' tort claims were probably preempted but rejecting federal question jurisdiction because, among other things, federal regulation extinguished, not created, causes of action)

PROFESSIONAL/CIVIC APPOINTMENTS

Appointed by the Governor of Maryland to the Trial Courts Judicial Nominating Commission for Baltimore City, 2007-2011; 2011-2015

PUBLICATIONS

Co-author of book chapter on "Impact Of Insurance Policies On Product Litigation," in Current Law, Strategies and Best Practices in Product Litigation (Pract. Law Inst., 2009).

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