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TOP 40 UNDER 40



ARIEL GREEN ANABA

WILSON SONSINI
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LOS ANGELES

LITIGATION

Ariel Green Anaba was in the Western District of Texas when the jury came back after a seven-day trial. She secured a jury trial victory for microtransit company Via Transportation against competitor RideCo. *Via Transportation, Inc. v. RideCo Inc.*, 6:21-cv-00457 (W.D. Tex., filed May 3, 2021).

"We won a complete jury trial victory against RideCo in the Western District of Texas, with the jury finding infringement of all three patents at issue after less than three hours," Anaba said.

That speed followed a different pace on another matter. Anaba leads a team of more than 20 lawyers representing Angie and June Provost and a proposed nationwide class of Black and minority farmers against the USDA, building on a settlement Anaba secured for the Provosts in 2020. *Provost v. Rollins*, 1:24-cv-00920 (D.D.C., filed March 29, 2024).

"It's the first action seeking injunctive relief to reform the agency's well-established history of discriminatory practices," Anaba said. Reaching the filing took meetings with USDA officials and members of the Biden administration, and Anaba described the case as requiring "years of persistence."

Anaba also served on the trial team defending YouTube and Google in a bellwether case over the design of social media platforms, examining the plaintiffs' general and specific causation experts. (Social Media Cases (JCCP 5255), incl. *K.G.M. v. Meta Platforms, Inc.* (Cal. Super. Ct., L.A. County)). Anaba said the case raised questions touching on "technology product-design liability, the First Amendment and Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act," tried for the first time under heavy media presence.

Before law, Anaba studied biology, chemistry, philosophy and public affairs, and taught cell biology and organic chemistry. That background carries into the patent docket. "In the patent cases, the challenge almost always lies in translation: taking

dense technology and expert testimony and making it something a jury can hold onto and believe," Anaba said. "My background in teaching science helps with that."

Anaba credits Luis Li as a mentor, dating back to a summer associate position. "Luis is a trial genius. Every time he steps in front of a jury, magic happens," Anaba said. "He's been pushing me to discover new limits ever since. I am so lucky to be his partner." Anaba also named Judge John A. Kronstadt of the Central District of California and the late 9th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals Judge Ray C. Fisher as influences, along with Mark Yohalem, Melissa Mills, Lauren Gallo White, Eric Tuttle, Matt Macdonald, Trevor Templeton, Chris Chiou, Fred Rowley, Jordan Jaffe, Wendy Devine, Dave Kramer and Tait Graves.

Looking at where the docket is headed, Anaba pointed to the pace of change in technology. "Courts and juries are being asked to resolve genuinely new questions about how technology products are designed and who bears responsibility for harm associated with them," Anaba said. "Existing legal frameworks don't answer those questions neatly... Add the pace of change in AI and life sciences, where the underlying science can outrun the law, and I think the demand for trial lawyers who can master an unfamiliar technical subject and explain it to a jury will keep growing."