

Daily Journal

DECEMBER 10, 2025



CAZ HASHEMI

WILSON SONSINI GOODRICH
& ROSATI

PALO ALTO

Caz Hashemi began his career in 1997 as an enforcement attorney at the SEC, a role that placed him at the center of analyzing potential securities law violations. That experience drew him to the defense side of the practice and the broader intersection of law, business, and technology, where he now helps clients at Wilson Sonsini navigate complex and sensitive issues.

Today, Hashemi also serves as chair of the firm's litigation department, com-

prising more than 250 attorneys. During his career, he has represented companies, boards, and special committees in more than 100 government and internal investigations, as well as related litigation.

His recent matters demonstrate the range and stakes of his practice.

In the Autodesk matter, the software company faced publicly announced simultaneous SEC and DOJ investigations relating to an Audit Committee investigation regarding the company's free cash flow and non-GAAP operating margin practices. Both agencies closed their investigations.

For Upstart, a leading AI consumer lending platform, Hashemi's team worked with the client through a publicly disclosed SEC inquiry regarding its disclosures, including the use of its AI models and loans, among other things. The SEC closed the matter with no enforcement action.

BIT Mining, a global cryptocurrency mining company, faced DOJ and SEC investigations into alleged bribery of foreign officials in Japan. The client agreed to a publicly disclosed three-year Deferred Prosecution Agreement with a \$10 million penalty while strengthening governance and compliance systems.

"In BIT Mining, the primary challenge was managing multiple investigations at the same time — with different agencies moving at different speeds with different priorities and expectations," Hashemi said.

Hashemi's growth as a lawyer has been shaped by a community of colleagues, clients, and other professionals whose judgment, resilience, and approach to problem-solving influenced him at different stages of his career. Each offered something distinct — whether navigating complex matters, leading under pressure, collaborating effectively, or upholding professional standards.

Since Paul Atkins took office as the SEC's 34th chairman in April 2025, the agency has taken a balanced approach, according to Hashemi. It continues to focus on traditional enforcement — insider trading, accounting fraud, and market manipulation — while also turning more attention to emerging technologies and new markets.

"Overall, the SEC is blending the old with the new — maintaining rigor in core enforcement areas while adapting to technological innovation and shifting global regulatory landscapes," Hashemi said. "This dual focus is shaping the legal environment for both clients and practitioners alike."