



Varun M. Jain

Of Counsel

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OVERVIEW

Varun Jain is admitted to practice in Maryland. He is not currently admitted in the District of Columbia. He is supervised by a member of the D.C. Bar.

Varun Jain is of counsel in the firm's Public Policy and Law practice group. His broad public and private sector experience—the White House, US Department of Transportation, a multinational ride-sharing service company, and an autonomous vehicle startup—help him solve tough legal, regulatory, and policy issues in the transportation and emerging technologies spaces, especially autonomous vehicles.

Varun was most recently a Deputy General Counsel at the US Department of Transportation, where he provided strategic guidance on regulation, consumer protection, and other matters as well as helped oversee a departmental legal team of nearly 500 attorneys. Before that, Varun served as Senior Counselor to the Administrator at the White House's Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, where he led high-impact regulatory initiatives across a broad portfolio that included transportation, health, labor, education, agriculture, veterans, and defense; developed a sophisticated understanding of the Federal regulatory process; and led the office's experimentation with artificial intelligence. Varun began his legal career working on administrative law and regulatory matters as an Assistant General Counsel at the White House's Office of Management and Budget.

Between his time in public service, Varun was in-house counsel at a multinational ride-sharing service company and an autonomous vehicle startup. There he provided extensive advice on day-to-day regulatory and operational issues, product launches, permitting strategy, investigations, and crisis management. He also worked closely with federal, state, and local policy officials, regulators, and agency staff to advance thoughtful legislation and regulations, including by testifying before a public utilities commission.

In his free time, he enjoys coding.

PROFESSIONAL / CIVIC ACTIVITIES

- Member, Section Council, Section of Administrative Law and Regulatory Practice, American Bar Association

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- *Joint Energy & Environment & AI, Technology & Innovation*, Policy Committee Meeting, New Jersey Business & Industry Association, February 2026
- *Policy in Motion: Guiding Next-gen Mobility*, 2026 Advanced Mobility Symposium, AUVSI North Carolina, February 2026
- *From Driverless to Drones: Hot Topics in Emerging Transportation Technology Law*, Transportation Research Board, 105th Annual Meeting, January 2026
- *Intelligent Traffic Management: AI-Driven Coordination in Urban Networks*, International Road Federation, Global R2T Conference and Exhibition, December 2025
- *Harnessing V2X Communication: Enhancing Safety and Efficiency Through Vehicle-Infrastructure Links*, International Road Federation, Global R2T Conference and Exhibition, December 2025
- *Industry InFocus - Transportation and Logistics*, Voice of the Client Series, K&L Gates, December 2025
- *Department of Commerce's Office of Information and Communications Technology and Services: National Security Implications for the Solar Energy Sector*, Solar Energy Industries Association, December 2025
- *Carrots or Sticks: The Changing Direction in Federal and State AV Policy*, Society of Automotive Engineers, Automated Transportation Symposium, November 2025
- *Recall Trends, Including Software and Autonomy-Related Recalls, and the Regulatory Outlook*, MAPConnected, Commercial Vehicle Summit, October 2025
- *What is Happening? Recent Developments in Transportation Technology Law*, Transportation Research Board, Annual Workshop on Transportation Law, July 2025
- *No Vehicles in the Park: Handling Hard-To-Categorize Transportation Modes*, Transportation Research Board, Annual Workshop on Transportation Law, July 2025
- *Department of Transportation Authority Post-Loper Bright Enterprises v. Raimondo*, American Bar Association, Forum on Air & Space Law, Washington Update Conference, March 2025
- *Artificial Intelligence and the Federal Government*, American Bar Association, Section of Administrative Law and Regulatory Practice, November 2024
- *Making Tax Policy in the Era of Artificial Intelligence—Can It Survive the Robots?*, American Bar Association, Section of Taxation, May Tax Meeting, May 2024

EDUCATION

- J.D., New York University School of Law, 2014 *cum laude*, *Frank J. Guarini Leaders in Government Service Scholar*, *Robert McKay Scholar*
- A.B., Dartmouth College, 2007 *cum laude*, *Rufus Choate Scholar (top 5% yearly GPA)*

ADMISSIONS

- Admitted only as indicated below. Not admitted in the District of Columbia. Supervised by a member of the D.C. Bar.
- Bar of Maryland

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP POWERED BY HUB

- 24 March 2026, White House Releases National AI Policy Framework
- 16 January 2026, FCC Announces Wide-Ranging New Controls on Drones and Drone Components
- 9 January 2026, Race for Space Superiority: Trump Administration Continues Sweeping Space Policy Changes
- 15 December 2025, President Trump Signs Executive Order Limiting State Power to Regulate Artificial Intelligence
- 10 December 2025, Office of Space Commerce Seeks Industry Input on Revolutionizing the US Mission Authorization Process
- 17 September 2025, "Enhancing American Greatness in Space": President Trump Signs Executive Order to Expand the Domestic Commercial Space Industry
- 5 August 2025, More Federal Agencies Streamline NEPA Procedures to Expedite Review and Permitting
- 24 July 2025, Trump Administration Unveils Its Plan for Winning the AI Race

NEWS & EVENTS

- 19 March 2026, 2026 National Safety Summit of US DOT University Transportation Centers, Hosted by Safety21
- 19 February 2026, Recall, Customer Campaigns & Legal Xchange Group: Over-the-Air Updates and Regulatory Management, Hosted by MAPconnected
- 18 June 2025, K&L Gates Enhances Public Policy and Law Practice With Transportation, Emerging Technologies Lawyer in Washington, D.C.

OTHER MEDIA MENTIONS

- Featured, "[The Next 15 Months Will Define Autonomous Vehicle Policy in America](#)," *Road Autonomy*, 10 October 2025
- "K&L Gates' Latest Public Policy Atty Brings DOT Experience," *Law360*, 18 June 2025
- "[The challenges of AI in tax policymaking](#)," *American Bar Association*, 20 May 2024

AREAS OF FOCUS

- Public Policy and Law
- Emerging Growth and Venture Capital
- Private Equity Transactions

INDUSTRIES

- Transportation and Logistics