



Titan Of The Plaintiffs Bar: Gupta Wessler's Deepak Gupta

By [Daniel Moritz-Rabson](#)

Law360 (May 28, 2026, 4:03 PM EDT) -- In the decade and a half since starting his own firm, Deepak Gupta has argued seven cases before the [U.S. Supreme Court](#), has won matters in state high courts from coast to coast, and has become a mainstay in federal appellate courts while building his plaintiff-side litigation boutique into a sought-after juggernaut.

The list of companies he's beaten in court looks like a partial recitation of the Fortune 500 — Ford, [Nvidia](#) and UnitedHealthcare, to name a few.

2025 was [Gupta Wessler LLP's](#) busiest year on record, with its founding principal leading the charge as the firm racked up a series of notable legal victories, earning Gupta a spot among the [Law360 2026 Titan of the Plaintiffs Bar](#).

Following oral arguments the prior month, the [Nevada Supreme Court](#) in January 2025 threw out an [Uber](#)-backed ballot initiative that would have capped contingency fees at 20% for civil cases. Gupta had represented a coalition of state trial lawyers and a group of Uber sexual assault victims in the case.

The next month, he argued before the Washington State Supreme Court, leading to a decision [restoring a \\$185 million](#) jury verdict against [Monsanto](#) for teachers who said they were poisoned by polychlorinated biphenyls. The case had sweeping implications for the more than \$1 billion in verdicts handed down in similar matters.

And in April, Gupta argued before the U.S. Supreme Court, [convincing the justices](#) to rule that certiorari had been improvidently granted in a case that legal analysts said could upend the country's system of adjudicating class actions.

"Anyone who works on class actions was quite concerned," Gupta told Law360, speaking about the U.S. Supreme Court case [Laboratory Corp. of America Holdings v. Davis et al.](#) "It seemed like an existential threat to the class action device, and the court took up this question about, you know, do you have to make sure that every single person in a class has been injured? Otherwise, you can't certify the class action."

Gupta was busy in between these landmark victories, helping his colleagues prepare for their own U.S. and state Supreme Court arguments while working on a flurry of other cases.

Just days after arguing the Monsanto case before the Washington State Supreme Court, Gupta and his firm [sued the federal government](#) to prevent the dismantling of the [Consumer Financial Protection Bureau](#). In July, he asked the U.S. Supreme Court to [review a decision](#) immunizing [Merck & Co.](#) from antitrust claims. In November, he filed a brief arguing successfully that the high court [should not take up a case](#) against [Audi AG](#) and [Volkswagen AG](#), which could have limited foreign manufacturers' liability in U.S. courts.

In the words of former colleagues, Gupta is an anomaly in the legal world, possessing superior legal skills and rigorously preparing for arguments. But his legal success also stems from fusing a deep technical understanding of the law with an incisive ability to tailor his arguments toward a particular panel of judges.

"He is really peerless in the sense that what he has built in terms of a plaintiff-side, Supreme Court, high-level appellate advocacy law firm," E. Michelle Drake told Law360 Pulse. Drake worked with Gupta on a case that resulted in a \$43.4 million judgment against a man accused of partnering with a Native American tribe to issue high-interest loans.

"Gupta Wessler is familiar enough with the appellate bench that they can say, 'This person really is going to be motivated by a textual argument. This person is really going to be motivated by a policy argument,'" Drake said.

Gupta said he approaches cases with pragmatism, noting that winning isn't just about having the best argument.

"My view, anyway, is not that our job is to try to predict the Platonic form of the right answer to a legal question as if it were a math problem, and to recognize that law is a contingent human activity," Gupta said. "What you're really trying to predict is, what will a set of people decide?"

Among the firms that argued before the U.S. Supreme Court during the 2023-2025 terms, Gupta Wessler had the highest win rate by a sizable margin. The firm prevailed in 71.4% of the cases it brought before the justices, according to the firm's 2025 annual report.

Leonard A. Bennett, a consumer lawyer who has worked with Gupta on about a half-dozen cases, said Gupta and his colleagues know when filing an appeal isn't the right move. Bennett said Gupta Wessler has swayed him out of pursuing a handful of appeals.

But once Gupta chooses an argument, he's unusually adept at executing it, his colleagues say.

"Very often, advocates at both appellate and district levels are all about the technical argument, and that certainly can matter for some jurists, but the ability to make a reasoned, developed, complex argument that fits the context of the particular victim, I think, is unique," Bennett told Law360. "I have dealt with plenty of other appellate lawyers, none that I would choose. And it's just really hard because they can't pick up the context of the case."

Constructing a strong, compelling narrative is a core part of Gupta's work.

"I think that writing a brief that is understandable to nonlawyers, or to a broader cross-section of people, is probably more likely to communicate effectively with judges and their law clerks as well," Gupta said, noting he wants the writing to veer more toward Ernest Hemingway than Fyodor Dostoevsky; more New Yorker article than legal tome. "I think the judges appreciate people who get to the point."

Gupta highlighted the joy he gets from working in a collaborative environment and learning from a talented team of principals who, like him, have also argued before the U.S. Supreme Court.

Even as he continues with a formidable caseload, Gupta has strived to impart his knowledge onto young lawyers. He noted the importance of trusting the young attorneys that pass through Gupta Wessler.

"I think my philosophy in this is shaped by being fortunate enough to have some of the mentors that I had, where you only really learn the stuff by doing it. You kind of have to have people who are really going to trust you to do it. And I think people tend to rise to the challenge," Gupta said.

For the last seven years, he has also taught at Harvard Law School — a job he said he loves — and has visited other legal programs to share his knowledge.

Gupta said he feels lucky to be able to represent vulnerable people and fight for justice while working with other talented attorneys who can help him manage a steady stream of litigation.

The work "still feels to me like a kind of magic where you get to research things and think about a problem, and write things down on a piece of paper, and then, somehow, that piece of paper goes out into the world and can actually change the shape of the world," Gupta said.

--Additional reporting from Rachel Riley, Katie Buehler, Jon Hill, Linda Chiem and Bryan Koenig. Editing by Melissa Treolo.