Profile: Sarvenaz "Nazy" Fahimi

An Iranian immigrant, she uses her legal acumen to protect vulnerable clients

By Jennifer McEntee

Sarvenaz "Nazy" Fahimi, a partner in the Burlingame office of Cotchett, Pitre & McCarthy, LLP, is committed to helping vulnerable clients understand the law and how the legal system can hold parties accountable for the harm they cause.

For example, Fahimi is representing a 23-year-old woman in a negligence complaint against rideshare company Uber. In *Jane Doe v. Uber Technologies Inc.*, filed in San Francisco Superior Court, the young woman alleges an Uber driver abandoned her eight miles from her destination without her cell phone and keys because he was annoyed that she was intoxicated and vomited in his car. She was subsequently sexually assaulted at knifepoint by a pair who claimed they would help her get home.

Uber advertises its services as an alternative to drinking and driving, and partners with organizations including Mothers Against Drunk Driving, Anheuser-Busch, and the Governors Highway Safety Association to promote rideshare services as a safe means of transport after a night out. That's what makes Uber's inadequate driver training and the rideshare driver's actions so remiss, Fahimi said.

"It's not just a random person pulling up to get them. It's somebody they're being told is a safe option through Uber's own advertising," Fahimi explained. "Your company makes your profit. But you're literally advertising to, and you're making money off of this group of people – including young women and lots of people who drink – with the idea, here's what's smart and safe, right? Don't get behind the wheel, or don't walk somewhere. You just take an Uber."

The Uber complaint was filed in September 2025 and is in the discovery stage. Fahimi, who has been conducting depositions in the case, anticipates it could reach trial by the end of the calendar year.

Fahimi represents clients in a range of cases, from whistleblowers under the federal False Claims Act to individuals and companies in fraud and commercial cases. Ultimately, it's the clients and their suffering that compels her plaintiff work.

"There's really been a human consequence," she explained, citing the Uber case as illustrative of someone's life being forever altered. "It's really been a horrible toll on this person, so I feel very invested in it. I would like to see and hope that (the defendant) will be held liable."

Appreciation for U.S. law

Fahimi joined Cotchett, Pitre & McCarthy, LLP, in 2018 after nearly six years as senior director of the legal department at the Pars Equality Center. The nonprofit has offices throughout California to provide social and legal services to Iranian Americans and other immigrant communities.

At Pars Equality Center, Fahimi provided in-house counsel, led community outreach and education, and oversaw immigration law training for paralegals who wanted to represent clients in immigration courts.



Fahimi

Fahimi has a personal connection to the people Pars Equality Center serves, as she is a Persian-speaking immigrant from Iran. Born in Tehran, Fahimi's family immigrated to the United States when she was a toddler amid the political upheaval that led to the Iranian Revolution.

"Nazy" is the nickname she uses for people who have trouble pronouncing her legal first name, Sarvenaz, as listed with the California state bar.

Growing up in a suburb of Minneapolis, Minnesota, Fahimi came to appreciate the laws and privileges that came with living in the U.S.

"I learned somewhere along the way, at a very young age, that we had certain freedoms here that other people don't in many other places. I think that is one of the drivers that pushed me towards the law," said Fahimi, explaining that many of her family members practice medicine rather than law. "I have a strong sense of the justice system and am appreciative of what we have here. Not that it's perfect, of course, but overall, we have amazing rights here that we don't have everywhere."

Fahimi said her immigration story

influenced her career path and her moral compass.

"I do think we are all shaped by our background and our experience. So, I do think it shapes a lot of me," she said.

Fahimi earned her bachelor's degree and law degree at Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, before practicing commercial litigation at Winthrop & Weinstine, P.A., in Minneapolis. She furthered her legal career in the San Francisco Bay Area at firms including Collins & Schlothauer, and Coddington, Hicks, & Danforth.

Seeking accountability

Fahimi went from nonprofit counsel to Cotchett, Pitre & McCarthy, LLP on the recommendation of a contact who suggested she might enjoy working with firm partner Niall McCarthy's team.

"I've learned a lot from him, in terms of being a mentor and specifically when it comes to a trial," said Fahimi, noting McCarthy has served as a good role model as she's moved back into private litigation. "I think he is the best, especially when it comes to trials or closing deals."

Lawyers at Cotchett, Pitre & McCarthy, LLP often work as teams, handling different aspects of a case as their expertise and schedules permit.

For instance, she was among the team of lawyers who, in August 2026, filed a class action lawsuit in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California's San Jose division against global company Logitech Inc. A proposed nationwide class of consumers alleges Logitech inflated the cost of its computer products to cover the costs of tariffs that the federal government ultimately refunded.

Fahimi is also part of the Cotchett, Pitre & McCarthy, LLP legal team that filed a lawsuit in May 2026 in Alameda Superior Court on behalf of a Hayward family whose rental home was destroyed in a massive gas explosion last year. The complaint names Pacific Gas and Electric Co., its parent PG&E Corp., the county of Alameda, Redgwick Construction Co., Mayo Asphalt Milling, and the home's landlord as defendants.

According to the complaint, a subcontractor damaged a gas service line while excavating a county road. Despite knowing for more than two hours that there was a gas leak, no one notified the family in a nearby home. The gas ignited, destroying the home and causing severe injuries to its occupants.

Fahimi said she and her colleagues are often defending clients against the "big dogs" of their respective industries. Despite their size, even large organizations must abide by state and federal legal protections.

"They have some responsibilities under the law," she said. "We really want to hold folks, companies in particular, accountable where a true injustice has happened."

The gift of experience

Beyond her caseload, Fahimi makes time for professional and community-oriented organizations. She serves on the board of directors of the Consumer Attorneys of California and as a board member of the Washington, D.C.-based Public Affairs Alliance of Iranian Americans and its political arm, the Iranian American Political Action Committee. The Public Affairs Alliance is a nonpartisan nonprofit that represents the domestic interests of Iranian Americans.

Among its advocacy efforts, the alliance has voiced its support for bipartisan U.S. bills designed to compel internet freedom in Iran. Widespread internet blackouts have limited Iranians' access to independent news and hindered their ability to contact loved ones abroad.

"The APAC helps with things like that to address Iranian American concerns here in the United States," Fahimi explained.

She also enjoys spending time with her family – including three children, ages 13 to 21 – and playing tennis, hiking, and walking her dog, a Cavapoo-breed dog named Chloe.

After 23 years in the legal field, Fahimi can be involved with her family while still lending her know-how to organizations she values and mentoring newer firm associates during collaborative trial preparation.

"There are things that you just get from experience," she said. "I think it just comes up in daily stuff as you're working a case together as a team."



Jennifer McEntee is a freelance writer based in San Diego.