

TRAILBLAZERS

CRIMINAL LAW

ANJAN SAHNI

WILMERHALE



PIONEER SPIRIT Anjan Sahni's interest in criminal law started while clerking after law school and before joining WilmerHale. After more than 10 years as an assistant U.S. attorney in the Southern District of New York, he returned to the firm. "These cases are incredibly meaningful and professionally satisfying, and involve the highest stakes possible: the potential loss of liberty."

TRAILS BLAZED Sahni and the Wilmer team secured an acquittal for foreign exchange trader Rohan Ramchandani, who was indicted for price fixing in the eurodollar market. Insisting that he was innocent of the charges, Ramchandani waived extradition from the UK to the U.S. to face trial. After a three-week trial and five hours of deliberation, he was acquitted. "Like me, Rohan is of Indian background, and we had a lot in common. Representing him through the trial and standing by him when he was acquitted was among the most professionally meaningful experiences I've ever had." During the trial, Ramchandani's wife gave birth to their second child in the UK. "So when the jury came back and uttered 'not guilty,' Rohan and I both became quite emotional. That's the reason why I'm in this profession: to have that kind of impact on someone's life and future. I can't think of anything as rewarding in the law."

FUTURE EXPLORATIONS Sahni believes the government's interest in white-collar prosecution will always remain strong. "These are frequently cases where what is in dispute is an individual's intent and mental state. As the DOJ brings the criminal law to bear in increasingly sophisticated white-collar cases, issues of intent are absolutely vital to explain in simple terms to a jury."