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2021 NLJ Awards: Professional Excellence

DC RISING STARS

Jenner & Block

■ **Describe your biggest win or accomplishment in practice.**

I was part of the team that successfully challenged President Trump's attempted rescission of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals ("DACA") program from the D.C. District Court through to the U.S. Supreme Court. The case was extremely interesting from a legal perspective, dealing with difficult administrative law issues. But more important, the case was deeply meaningful because we as a team knew that winning would mean more than 700,000 young people could continue to live successfully in the U.S., the only home they had ever truly known.

■ **What was the most valuable lesson you learned in your first year practicing law?**

I learned there is no substitute for knowing the details of a case inside and out. It's only with a true attention to detail that you can then come up with creative and innovative solutions for your client.

■ **Who is your greatest lawyer mentor and what has he or she taught you?**

Attorney General Merrick Garland. I clerked for then-Judge Garland my first year out of law school and learned so much from his



ISHAN K. BHABHA

integrity, intelligence, and commitment to get to the right outcome in every case.

■ **Please share a brief key to your success.** The most important thing is to truly understand what's driving the client and what their bigger strategic goals are. Without that, any legal strategy is necessarily incomplete and you can't provide the real reassurance and counseling great lawyers are known for. ■