



Thomas J. Francella, Jr.

Member

Wilmington, Miami

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Thomas has practiced bankruptcy law for more than 16 years representing corporate debtors, trusts, plan administrators, creditors, and creditors' committees in various Chapter 7 and Chapter 11 bankruptcy cases and related federal and state court litigation matters. Thomas also represents corporate clients in complex civil litigation and commercial real estate matters.

Thomas has represented Chapter 11 debtors in numerous Chapter 11 cases, including: NNN 400 Capitol Center LLC (a high-rise office building), Gourmet Express Acquisition Fund, LLC (a national producer of frozen skillet meals), LSP Energy Limited Partnership (the owner/operator of a large gas-fired energy plant), Pipeline Data, Inc. (a credit and debit card payment processing company), Durable Manufacturing Company (a distributor of mechanical sealing products, including sheet gasket material and cut gaskets), Linden Ponds, Inc. (a continuing care retirement community), Southfield Office Building (a high-rise office building), and Monarch Landing, Inc. (a continuing care retirement community).

Thomas has also advised creditors' committees, creditors, trustees, landlords, and other parties in interest in various large Chapter 11 cases, including: Tidewater, Inc. (the owner and operator of one of the largest fleets of OSVs (Offshore Support Vessels)), TK Holdings, Inc. (a/k/a Takata) (the world's largest producer of airbags for motor vehicles), Prestige Industries LLC (a large commercial laundry operator), Charming Charlie Holdings Inc. (a national fashion and accessory retailer), American Apparel Inc. (a national fashion retailer), and Southeastern Grocers, LLC (a/k/a Wynn Dixie) (a large supermarket chain located in the southeast).

Prior to joining Cozen O'Connor Thomas was a partner in the Wilmington office of a northeastern-based law firm. He was a member of the firm's Business Reorganization and Bankruptcy practice.

Thomas earned his undergraduate degree from West Chester University and his law degree from the University of Pittsburgh School of Law.

Experience

Represented TradeGlobal, LLC, Jagged Peak, Inc., and TradeGlobal North America Holding, Inc. in their Chapter 11 cases. (*In re Jagged Peak, Inc., et al.*)

Represented the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors in the Chapter 11 cases of Warrior Custom Golf, Inc., Warrior Acquisitions, LLC, and affiliated entities. The debtors operate a custom golf business and hold a nationwide portfolio of public golf courses. (*In re Westwind Manor Resort Association, Inc., et al.*)

Practice Areas

- Bankruptcy, Insolvency & Restructuring
- Commercial Litigation
- Corporate
- Distressed Real Estate

Industry Sectors

- Health Care & Life Sciences
- Real Estate & Construction

Education

- University of Pittsburgh School of Law, J.D., 1998
- West Chester U. of Pennsylvania, B.S., 1992

Bar Admissions

- Florida
- Delaware

Court Admissions

- U.S. District Court -- Delaware
- U.S. District Court -- Southern District of Florida
- U.S. District Court -- Northern District of Florida
- U.S. District Court -- Middle District of Florida

Affiliations

Delaware Bar Association, Member

Florida Bar Association, Member

American Bar Association, Member

American Bankruptcy Institute, Member

Delaware Bankruptcy Inn of Court, Member

Awards & Honors

- Martindale Hubbell, AV Preeminent Peer Review
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