



Thomas G. Wilkinson, Jr.

Member

Philadelphia

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Practice Areas

- Litigation
- Appellate
- Professional Liability

Industry Sectors

- Cannabis
- Gaming
- Insurance
- Media & Entertainment

Education

- Villanova University School of Law, J.D., 1981
- University of New Hampshire, B.A., 1978

Bar Admissions

- Massachusetts
- Pennsylvania

Court Admissions

- Pennsylvania Supreme Court
- Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit
- U.S. District Court -- Eastern District of Pennsylvania
- U.S. District Court -- Middle District of Pennsylvania
- U.S. Supreme Court

Affiliations

- American Bar Association
- Association of Professional Responsibility Lawyers
- Defense Research Institute
- Montgomery Bar Association
- Pennsylvania Bar Association
- Pennsylvania Bar Institute
- Philadelphia Bar Association
- Eastern District Historical Society
- Bar Association of the Third Federal Circuit

Awards & Honors

- Irish Legal 100, 2016-2018
- Villanova Law J. Clayton Undercoffer Award 2013
- Legal Division Tribute Recipient, State of Israel Bonds 2013
- Villanova Law Alumni Association Gerald Abraham Award for Service to Villanova

Thomas G. Wilkinson concentrates his practice in the areas of business litigation, business torts, appellate, complex insurance coverage and professional responsibility matters. He also has substantial experience in advising lawyers and law firms on risk management and professional liability issues. He has been retained and accepted as an expert witness in attorney professional liability cases in state and federal courts, and has been appointed as a neutral mediator and discovery master.

Tom is a frequent lecturer and author on civil litigation and professional responsibility topics. He is the co-editor of the *Pennsylvania Ethics Handbook*, a comprehensive review of the rules of conduct governing lawyers, with extensive citations to case decisions and ethics opinions addressing all aspects of lawyer-client relationship. He is co-author (with Cozen O'Connor attorney Dan Harrington) of the chapter on "Conflicts of Interest" in the *Pennsylvania Ethics Handbook*. Tom has testified as an expert witness in state and federal proceedings concerning lawyer professional liability, standard of care and professional responsibility matters.

Tom is a past president of the Pennsylvania Bar Association (PBA), and a past president of the Pennsylvania Bar Institute. He is a master of the Villanova Law J. Willard O'Brien American Inn of Court and has been a lecturer in law on professional responsibility at Villanova University School of Law. He is a member of the American Bar Association's House of Delegates and has been appointed by the ABA President to serve a three-year term on the ABA Standing Committee on Professionalism. He also has served on the ABA Task Force on International Trade in Legal Services and as co-chair of the conflicts of interest subcommittee for the Section of Litigation's Ethics and Professionalism Committee. Tom is a past member of the Philadelphia Bar Association Board of Governors and past co-chair of its State Civil Litigation Section and Rules and Procedure Committee. He is also the editor of the DRI Lawyers Professionalism and Ethics Committee newsletter. He is a frequent author and lecturer on civil litigation and professional responsibility topics.

He is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of the University of New Hampshire in 1978 and received his law degree in 1981 from Villanova University Law School, where he was managing editor of the *Villanova Law Review*.

Experience

Successfully represented a municipality in enforcing the Political Subdivision Tort Claims Act against various constitutional challenges in the Pennsylvania appellate courts.

Represented various amici parties in successful appellate litigation addressing the scope of the attorney-client privilege and work product doctrine.

Participated in successful amicus briefing concerning the scope of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court's authority over interim judicial discipline.

Represented a major gas company in pursuit of breach of fiduciary duty and conflict of interest claims against a major law firm leading to a settlement after the federal court rejected efforts to dismiss the claims.

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- University School of Law 2013
- Friends of Farmworkers 2009
- Pro Bono Honor Roll of the First Judicial District of Pennsylvania 2007-2008
- National Law Journal Pro Bono Award 2008
- Pennsylvania Bar Association Special Achievement Award 2003, 2007
- Pennsylvania Bar Association President's Award 2000, 2002, 2011
- Pennsylvania Super Lawyer 2004-2019

Represented insurers in the successful defense of coverage claims arising from numerous chemical and other toxic tort exposure claims in the railroad industry.

Represented a major chemical company in the successful defense of a \$2.1 billion breach of contract claim arising over a failed acquisition.

Represented general contractor in substantial claims arising over the construction of Atlantic City casinos.

Successfully represented the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA) before the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, defeating an effort to overturn the statutory damages cap that limits recovery against state agencies to \$250,000. Responding to the plaintiffs' King's Bench petition, the Cozen O'Connor team argued that the extraordinary relief sought was improper and that the plaintiffs' arguments regarding potential changes to the sovereign immunity statute were inappropriately directed to the Court, rather than to the legislature.