



Shawn Thomas, Partner
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EXPERIENCE

Shawn Thomas represents businesses and individuals in a broad and diverse range of complex commercial, employment, and general civil litigation matters. He has worked with clients ranging from Fortune 500 companies and large financial institutions to startups and high net worth individuals. He has particularly deep experience representing manufacturers and sellers of heavy equipment, such as passenger jets, rail cars, large-scale water treatment equipment, and passenger automobiles and components in matters ranging from employment litigation to warranty and contract disputes arising under the Uniform Commercial Code.

Mr. Thomas has extensive experience advising in all stages of litigation, mediation, and arbitration. Mr. Thomas guides and assists clients through the whole life of a dispute, including initial claims, pleadings, discovery, motions practice, trial and appeal, providing a zealous defense.

Mr. Thomas is admitted to practice in New York and California and he has first or second chaired trials in California state courts as well as several arbitration proceedings under the auspices of AAA and the ICDR. He also has extensive experience representing clients in litigation in New York State courts, federal district courts, and arbitrations before JAMS and ICC tribunals.

REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS

Mr. Thomas represented the City of Los Angeles in high-profile, high-stakes litigation involving allegations of whistleblower retaliation. Mr. Thomas second-chaired the SR trial team that secured a unanimous 12-0 defense verdict after a month-long trial in Los Angeles County Superior Court.

Mr. Thomas successfully represented an independent financial research startup in a lawsuit against one of its founders, seeking to enforce non-competition and non-solicitation agreements and to cancel the founder's shares for breach of fiduciary duty and misconduct.

Mr. Thomas defended a hotel chain against claims by a former manager of gender and race discrimination. Mr. Thomas succeeded in having the plaintiff's complaint dismissed in New York Supreme Court prior to the parties incurring any discovery costs.

Mr. Thomas successfully defended a Japanese steel importer against several millions of dollars in warranty and delivery claims brought by a large-scale customer in a AAA arbitration.

Mr. Thomas helped a rail car manufacturer reach a highly favorable settlement in a dispute with a multistate commuter rail agency regarding alleged project delays and cost overruns.

Mr. Thomas represented an orthopedic device manufacturer in an AAA arbitration brought by its parent company alleging fraud and fraud in the inducement in connection with the sale of the company several years prior. On Mr. Thomas's motion, the arbitral panel agreed to hear a nearly-unprecedented motion to dismiss, which it subsequently granted, dismissing all claims.

Mr. Thomas represented a Swiss Government official and IMF board member who was served with a third-party subpoena while he was in the United States on official IMF business. Mr. Thomas successfully argued diplomatic and sovereign immunity in federal district court to have the subpoena quashed.

Mr. Thomas defended a law firm in a suit brought by its former client's expert witness seeking to have the firm pay funds owed to the expert by the former client. Mr. Thomas successfully disposed of all claims via motion to dismiss in New York Supreme Court.

EDUCATION

J.D., Brooklyn Law School, 2008

B.A., Political Science, University of California, Santa Barbara, CA, 1999

ADMISSIONS

New York State

California

Federal District Court, Southern District of New York