



### Practice Areas

- Subrogation & Recovery
- Commercial Litigation

### Education

- Villanova University School of Law, J.D., *cum laude*, 2013
- Boston University, B.A., *cum laude*, 2010

### Bar Admissions

- New Jersey
- Pennsylvania

# Thomas A. Leonard

## Attorney

## Philadelphia

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Thomas handles subrogation matters. Prior to rejoining Cozen O'Connor in 2024, Thomas served as general counsel for a development company associated with an asset and apartment management company, where he was responsible for drafting and reviewing letters of intent, purchase and sale agreements, reviewing financial and loan documents, reviewing construction management contracts, drafting and reviewing easements and property access agreements, and managing outside litigation (including land use disputes, contract disputes, and resident complaints).

Before that, Thomas spent nearly a decade in Cozen O'Connor's business litigation practice group, where he handled a wide variety of cases, including multimillion-dollar contract disputes, catastrophic personal injury and property damage claims, white collar investigations and defense, shareholder derivative suits, and class actions. He has also been involved in complex and unprecedented disputes with the federal and state governments regarding their power and regulatory authority, resulting in one instance of a \$5 million settlement in favor of the client.

Thomas earned his J.D., *cum laude*, from Villanova University's Charles Widger School of Law, where he was a member of the *Villanova Law Review*. During law school, he served as an intern for the Honorable Berle Schiller of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, where he helped prepare for trials, analyzed pleadings, motions, and briefs, and researched areas of law. He earned his B.A., *cum laude*, from Boston University.

## Experience

Successfully represented a business in a dispute over tax breaks it applied for as part of a planned move from an expired Keystone Opportunity Zone ("KOZ") to a new KOZ. The Department of Economic and Community Affairs denied the client's application, and argued to the courts that allowing "zone-hopping" would incentivize businesses to leave the zones when they expired and avoid going back on the tax rolls. The Commonwealth Court, sitting en banc, unanimously allowed the client to claim the tax breaks, finding that the law provides for benefits in a new KOZ, and the Pennsylvania Supreme Court unanimously affirmed that decision.

Secured voluntary dismissal of a "bet-the-company" lawsuit filed against our client, a start-up company in the software development industry. The plaintiff was a strategic investor which abruptly demanded that the client pay a convertible promissory note in full. The key issue in the case was whether Simple Agreements for Future Equity constituted "equity securities" or "securities convertible into equity securities" that triggered conversion of the note under its express terms. The Cozen O'Connor team secured a favorable ruling from the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania on this issue, and secured the exclusion of the plaintiff's expert witness from trial, and the plaintiff conceded defeat. This matter drew on the experience of the firm's corporate and commercial litigation attorneys.

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