



# Thomas G. Wilkinson, Jr.

## Member

## Philadelphia

twilkinson@cozen.com | (215) 665-3737

### Practice Areas

- Appellate & Supreme Court
- Professional Liability
- Commercial Litigation
- Legal Profession Services

### Industry Sectors

- Cannabis
- Gaming
- Insurance
- Real Estate & Construction

### 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. District Court -- Western District of Pennsylvania
- U.S. Supreme Court

### Affiliations

- American Bar Association
- Association of Professional Responsibility Lawyers
- Chair of the Defense Research Institute Lawyers' Professionalism and Ethics Committee
- 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

- American Inns of Court Professionalism Award for the Third Circuit 2023

Thomas G. Wilkinson concentrates his practice in the areas of business litigation, business torts, appellate, complex insurance coverage, and lawyer 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 and responsibility cases in state and federal courts. He has experience representing lawyers and judges in disciplinary proceedings. He also has been appointed as a neutral mediator and discovery master.

Tom is a frequent lecturer and author on civil litigation and lawyer professional responsibility topics. He is the co-editor of the *Pennsylvania Ethics Handbook (5th ed.)*, 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*. He also is the co-author of the chapters on lawyer and judicial regulation in *The Supreme Court of Pennsylvania: Life and Law of the Commonwealth 1684-2017*.

Tom is a past president of the Pennsylvania Bar Association (PBA), and 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 has served on the American Bar Association Board of Governors and previously held the position of Pennsylvania State Delegate to the ABA House of Delegates. He currently is a member of the ABA's Standing Committee on Ethics and Professional Responsibility, and is a past member of the ABA Standing Committee on Professionalism and ABA Task Force on International Trade in Legal Services. He is active in the Section of Litigation and its Ethics and Professionalism Committee. Tom has served on the Philadelphia Bar Association Board of Governors and is a past co-chair of its State Civil Litigation Section and Rules and Procedure Committee. He currently co-chairs the Amicus Brief Committee, and is a past co-chair of the Appellate Courts Committee and vice chair of the Judicial Evaluation Commission. He is also an active member of the Professional Guidance and Professional Responsibility Committees. 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 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.

Successfully represented a municipality in enforcing the Political Subdivision Tort Claims Act against

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- Pennsylvania Trailblazer 2019 by *The Legal Intelligencer*
- Irish Legal 100, 2016-2021
- Villanova Law J. Clayton Undercofler Award 2013
- Legal Division Tribute Recipient, State of Israel Bonds 2013
- Villanova Law Alumni Association Gerald Abraham Award for Service to Villanova 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 2004-2024
- Best Lawyers in America 2021-2025
- American Inns of Court Professionalism Award for the Third Circuit 2023

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.

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.

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