



Thomas B. Wassel

Partner

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Thomas B. Wassel is a partner in the firm's Commercial Litigation department, focusing on labor and employment advice and litigation. He has been advising employers on a wide range of labor and employment law matters since 1983. He has extensive experience providing labor and employment advice for private and public employers, including utilities, municipalities, educational institutions, banks, health care institutions, not-for-profit organizations, and public and private corporations.

Thomas provides advice for ensuring client compliance with federal, New York, New Jersey, and local human rights laws (including issues of racial, sexual, and religious discrimination and harassment) and employment laws. He also assists clients with developing policies and procedures designed to maintain compliance and help minimize employer liability. Should litigation arise, Thomas works closely with other attorneys in the firm's Commercial Litigation department to develop and achieve optimal results.

Thomas serves as labor and employment counsel to a number of the firm's higher education clients, representing these clients in discrimination claims and labor union contract negotiations. He also regularly advises the firm's clients with regard to student rights and obligations, faculty rights and obligations, harassment claims, and all other employment-related legal matters.

Thomas also has extensive experience advising municipal clients on all aspects of civic and educational affairs. He has served as general and special counsel to municipal zoning, planning, and architectural design review boards, as well as school boards in educational, labor, and real property tax matters. He regularly counsels clients on compliance with all statutes affecting local government, and he also represents clients seeking review of their commercial real property assessments.

Practices

- Commercial Litigation
- Civil Rights and Employment Litigation
- Labor and Employment
- Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)
- Higher Education
- Zoning, Land Use and Permitting
- Appellate Litigation
- Commercial Contracts
- Real Estate Property Tax Challenges
- Banking and Financial Services
- Financial Regulatory and Compliance
- Internal Investigations Unit

Industries

- Financial Institutions
- Higher Education
- Not-for-Profit and Religious Organizations
- Real Estate

Bar Admissions

- New Jersey
- New York
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit
- U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York
- U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York
- U.S. District Court for the District of Connecticut

Education

- J.D., Georgetown University Law Center, 1983
- B.A., Adelphi University, 1980

Professional and Community Activities

- Director, Nassau County Bar Association, 2016—2019
- Member, New York State Bar Association, Labor Law Section and Executive Committee of the Municipal Law Section, 1984—present

- Chair, Nassau County Bar Association, Municipal Law Committee, 2016—2017
- Member, Nassau County Bar Association, Labor Law Committee, 1984—present
- President, Long Island Chapter of the Labor and Employment Relations Association, 2015—2016
- Membership Chair, Long Island Chapter of the Labor and Employment Relations Association, 2010—present
- Adjunct Professor, State University of New York (SUNY) at Old Westbury, 2011—2019
- Member, National Association of College and University Attorneys (NACUA)