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Thomas is a seasoned litigator with more than 30 years of experience representing aviation and transportation clients. He has litigated complex aviation claims and regulatory actions on behalf of airlines, airline employees, manufacturers of aircraft and avionics, government contractors and their insurers, federal agencies and the military.

He has represented clients in matters ranging from mass disaster accidents such as the Swissair accident near Nova Scotia and Northwest Airlines accidents at Detroit, to train derailments and pilot and mechanic certificate actions.

Thomas is particularly well versed in transportation accident investigations involving both aviation and railroads, helping clients develop appropriate responses to passengers, investigative entities and the media. He has extensive contacts at the National Transportation Safety Board and in the investigative and legal offices of the Federal Aviation Administration.

In addition, Thomas is experienced in pursuing and defending transportation-related insurance coverage matters, including cases on the limits of federal employee status. He has tried and argued cases in federal and state courts throughout the United States.

Before Fox Rothschild

Prior to joining Fox Rothschild, Thomas was a partner in the aviation practice group of a national law firm.

Representative Matters

- Claims against air traffic control contract services providers
- Claims against Part 135 operators
- Presidential Airways crash in Afghanistan
- Colgan aircrash near Hyannis, Massachusetts
- Sunjet charter crash (Payne Stewart)
- LAN Chile 747 fire at Miami, Florida
- Circuit City crash near Pablo, Colorado
- US Airways crashes at New York and Charlotte, North Carolina
- Northwest Airlines crashes at Detroit, Michigan
- Tiffany v. US, midair off Cherry Point, North Carolina (non-justiciability of military actions)
- Operation Babylift orphan claims (C-5A crash), Vietnam 1975



Honors & Awards

- In 2014, the Legal 500 recognized Thomas as one of the nation's leading lawyers in the area of Product Liability and Mass Tort Defense: Aerospace/Aviation.

Practice Areas

- Aviation

Bar Admissions

- District of Columbia
- Maryland
- Virginia

Court Admissions

- U.S. Court of Appeals, Fourth Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Fifth Circuit
- U.S. District Court, District of Columbia
- U.S. District Court, District of Maryland
- U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Virginia
- Courts of the Commonwealth of Virginia
- Courts for the District of Columbia
- Courts for the State of Maryland

Education

- Georgetown University Law Center (LL.M., 1983)
 - Barrett Prettyman Fellow, 1978-1980
- Georgetown University Law Center (J.D., 1978)
- Brown University (B.A., 1971)