



Thomas E. Terrell Jr.

Partner

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Tom Terrell has handled land use, zoning and environmental matters in more than 300 counties and municipalities throughout the State of North Carolina and in parts of Virginia and South Carolina, representing a variety of difficult-to-permit industries and several local governments. His environmental practice includes the regulation of surface waters and the regulation of solid waste (landfills, waste hauling and recycling). He also has represented numerous clients in the telecommunications, solar, renewable energy, aggregates and retail industries needing site approvals.

Numerous city and county governments have retained Tom as litigation counsel. He serves as general counsel to the Piedmont Authority for Regional Transportation and speaks regularly to industry, trade, governmental and attorney groups on evolving land use and environmental regulations affecting the development of land.

Tom chaired the North Carolina Bar Association drafting committee that rewrote the statute governing boards of adjustment, and he currently chairs the North Carolina Bar Association committee that is preparing a comprehensive reorganization of North Carolina's zoning and land use statutes.

Zoning and General Land Use

Commercial, industrial and residential developers in municipalities and counties in every region of North Carolina rely on Tom to represent them in all phases of the permitting and entitlement processes, including representations in the pre-zoning stages and before all local boards. He has also counseled clients on matters related to local ordinance interpretation, vested rights, general incentives and statutory and constitutional limitations on governmental exactions.

Litigation

Tom has represented both private parties and local governments in state and federal courts on matters related to land use/zoning denials, real estate contract disputes, developer partnership matters and various torts related to land and real estate.

Development Agreements

Tom has negotiated several complex development agreements on behalf of both local governments and private developers, seeking to carefully define the long-term relationship between the developer and the government(s) involved so that matters related to utility and road construction, entitlements, dedications and land use allowances and restrictions are carefully articulated and practically interpreted.

Solid Waste



Both private companies and local governments count on Tom to represent them in matters related to franchises, local approval and state permitting for over 30 MSW, C&D and LCID landfills or transfer stations.

Telecommunications

Tom has represented three cellular carriers and three tower construction companies in the local approval of cellular tower sites across the state as well as in Virginia and South Carolina.

Before Fox Rothschild

Tom was a partner at Smith Moore Leatherwood LLP, which combined with Fox Rothschild in 2018.

Client Resources

Tom regularly offers legal updates and commentary on the blog [North Carolina Legal Landscapes](#).

Honors & Awards

- Recipient, North Carolina Bar Association Zoning, Planning & Land Use Section Award of Excellence (2019)
- North Carolina *SuperLawyers*, Listed Environmental/Land Use Law (2006, 2010), Environmental (2011-2013), Land Use and Zoning (2017-2020)
- Named to "The Best Lawyers in America" list for Litigation-Land Use & Zoning (2007-2021), Real Estate Law (2018-2021) in North Carolina by *Best Lawyers*
- Recognized by *Chambers USA* for Real Estate: Zoning/Land Use - North Carolina (2014-2020)
- Martindale-Hubbell's top "AV" Peer Review Rating
- *Business North Carolina's* Legal Elite, Real Estate (2013)



Practice Areas

- Environmental
- Zoning & Land Use
- Infrastructure & Development
- Real Estate
- Litigation
- Energy & Natural Resources
- Energy & Natural Resources Litigation
- Renewable Energy & Project Development
- Appellate Practice

Bar Admissions

- North Carolina



Court Admissions

- U.S. District Court, Eastern District of North Carolina
- U.S. District Court, Middle District of North Carolina
- U.S. Supreme Court

Education

- University of Chicago (M.A., 1980)
- University of North Carolina School of Law (J.D., 1985)
- University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (B.A., 1979)

Memberships

- North Carolina Bar
 - Chairman, Zoning, Planning and Land Use Section Council
 - Administrative Law Section Council

Board of Directors

- Board of Directors, High Point City Project
- Chairman, Board of Trustees, North Carolina State Health Plan
- Chairman, Board of Trustees, Winston-Salem State University
- Board of Directors, UNC-CH General Alumni Association
- Guilford College Board of Visitors
- Board of Directors, High Point Chamber of Commerce
- Center for Creative Leadership, Board of Center Associates
- Chairman, High Point Core City Board
- Trustee, N.C. Shakespeare Festival