



Ralph C. Thomas III

SENIOR COUNSEL

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BIOGRAPHY

Mr. Thomas specializes in Government Contracts Law and has substantial experience in all phases of the field. He has represented government contractors before federal courts, federal agencies and arbitration tribunals in contract terminations, bid protests, size protests, contract claims and dispute resolution. He also advises firm teams on government contracts issues arising in mergers and acquisitions, intellectual property and corporate structuring.

Mr. Thomas is the immediate past Chair of the Government Contracts Section of the Federal Bar Association (FBA), which recognized him with its "Outstanding Leader Award." He was also named the 2025 "Lawyer of the Year" in Government Contracts by the District of Columbia Bar.

In academia, Mr. Thomas taught Government Contracts Law at the University of Virginia's School of Continuing and Professional Studies and spent five years as an Adjunct Professor of Law for five years at Concord School of Law (now a part of Purdue University Global), teaching in its LL.M Program. He also served as a Clinical Law Instructor at George Washington University Law School. He has drafted and

PRACTICES & INDUSTRIES

[Government Contracts](#)

[Business and Corporate](#)

EDUCATION

Harvard Law School, 1978, J.D.

University of California at Berkeley, 1975, B.A.

ADMISSIONS

District of Columbia

England and Wales

U.S. Court of Appeals: District of Columbia Circuit

U.S. Court of Appeals: Federal Circuit

U.S. Court of Appeals: Armed Forces

U.S. District Court: District of Columbia

U.S. Court of Federal Claims

U.S. Court of International Trade

U.S. Supreme Court

reviewed numerous joint venture, subcontract and teaming agreements, including cross-border agreements involving UK companies, and has published more than 80 articles on issues related to government contracts.

On small business issues, Mr. Thomas served 13 years as Associate Administrator of NASA's award-winning Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization Office and now serves as Vice-Chair of the Small Business and Other Socioeconomic Programs Committee of the ABA's Public Contracts Law Section. He has testified in Congress more than 30 times on issues facing small government contractors and has spoken frequently at small business conferences nationwide, including as an invited panelist at a 2023 White House contracting summit. He has addressed conferences in Europe, the Middle East, Southeast Asia and South America

Mr. Thomas's government service was recognized with the Presidential Rank of Distinguished Executive, awarded to roughly one percent of federal Senior Executives (President George W. Bush) and the Presidential Rank of Meritorious Executive, awarded to five percent of Senior Executives (President Bill Clinton). He is a UK Solicitor admitted to the Senior Courts of England and Wales and a member of the U.K.'s Procurement Lawyers Association. A military veteran, he served four years in the U.S. Air Force and achieved the rank of Staff Sergeant.

RECOGNITIONS

- Federal Bar Association (FBA), "Outstanding Section and Division Leader Award" as Chair of the Government Contracts Section, 2025
- D.C. Bar, Lawyer of the Year in Government Contracts, 2025

MEMBERSHIPS & ACTIVITIES

- Chair: Federal Bar Association, Government Contracts Section
- Vice-Chair: American Bar Association, Public Contract Law Section - Committee on Small Business & Other Socioeconomic Programs
- Member: District of Columbia Bar Association
- Member: U.K. Procurement Lawyers Association

- Member: London Court of International Arbitration
- Member: Law Society of England and Wales
- Member: Supreme Court Historical Society

INSIGHTS

Moderator, "Practical Impact of the New SBA Recertification Regulations on the M&A Industry", Federal Bar Association Webinar, (March 2025).

Panelist, "Equity in Government Contracting: Realizing Opportunities and Overcoming Barriers", White House Contract Summit, (September 2023).

Panelist, "New Legislation and the Construction Industry" and "Governmental Compliance Solutions in Federal Contracting" National Association of Minority Contractors (November 2022).

Speaker, "New SBA Rules for Subcontracting, JV Past Performance and Other Trends in Government," Howard County Chamber BizBreakfast (September 2022).