



## Gregory B. Thomas

Partner

Oakland

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### PRACTICES

Insurance Coverage and  
Litigation

Litigation

Public Law

### EDUCATION

J.D., University of San Diego  
School of Law, 2005

B.A., University of Pennsylvania,  
1997

### ADMISSION

State Bar of California

Supreme Court of the United  
States

United States Court of Appeals  
for the Ninth Circuit

United States District Court for  
the Northern District of  
California

United States District Court for  
the Eastern District of California

United States District Court for  
the Central District of California

United States District Court for  
the Southern District of  
California

### AFFILIATIONS

Gregory Thomas is a partner at Burke, Williams & Sorensen, LLP who litigates complex cases in the following areas: government tort liability, civil rights, [constitutional law](#), jail conditions of confinement, wrongful arrest, excessive force, catastrophic personal injury and wrongful death, products liability, writs and appeals, moving and storage claims and professional liability.

Greg has focused on [litigation](#) since becoming a member of the State Bar of California in 2005. He is admitted to practice before all the courts of the State of California, all United States District Courts in California and the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. Greg has extensive experience in all phases of civil litigation from pre-litigation negotiations to pleadings, law and motion, discovery, alternative dispute resolution, jury trials to verdict, writs and appeals, and enforcement of judgments and settlements.

During law school, Greg served as a Judicial Extern for Justice Patricia D. Benke, California Court of Appeal, Fourth Appellate District, Division One and for Judge J. Richard Haden (Ret.), Superior Court of California, County of San Diego. He was also a member of the University of San Diego's National Moot Court Team and Moot Court Executive Board.

From 1997 to 2002, Greg served as an officer in the United States Navy aboard surface combatant ships actively deployed to areas ranging from the Persian Gulf to the Sea of Japan.

### PUBLICATIONS

Are Deputy Sheriffs Who Provide Courthouse Security Entitled to Eleventh Amendment Immunity in California?

### REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS

- Recently obtained summary judgment in police excessive force case.
- Recently obtained summary judgment in case involving various constitutional claims against a Sheriff's Department after pre-trial

Alameda County Bar  
Association

Northern California Association  
of Defense Counsel

detainee ingested drugs and died.

- Obtained defense verdict after complex six-week jury trial involving fraud, conversion, professional negligence and negligence.
- Obtained summary adjudication of indemnitor's present contractual duty to defend indemnitee against claims prior to factual adjudication of claims on the merits.
- Successfully responded to multiple Ninth Circuit appeals resulting in affirmance of underlying motions to dismiss.