

Thomas W. Tinkham

Of Counsel

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Minneapolis – 612.340.2829



Tom develops a personal relationship with clients to fully understand their goals, and then, using years of experience, obtains the best professional result for those clients.

Tom is currently of Counsel and past Chair of the 30-lawyer Commercial Litigation practice group. He was a member of the Management Committee for 15 years and former Minneapolis Office Head.

Select Experience

- *Whitaker v. 3M* (Age class action – represented 3M)
- *SUPERVALU v. Cal Growers Corp.* (represented SUPERVALU) (Colorado arbitration of contract claim and Robinson Patman counterclaim - decision for plaintiff)
- *Cargill v. Lonestar Steel* (represented Cargill as plaintiff in \$30,000,000 jury verdict for plaintiff)
- *ABC Corp. v. XYZ Corp.* (Confidential arbitration - contract/restraint of trade) (prevailed on \$17,000,000 claim)

Court Admissions

- U.S. District Court for the District of Minnesota
- U.S. Federal Circuit
- U.S. Supreme Court

Professional Affiliations

- Minnesota State Bar Association, past President
- Hennepin County Bar Association, past President
- The Fund for the Legal Aid, past chair and current emeritus Board member
- National Lawyers Committee, Board member, 1995–2009
- Volunteer Lawyers Network, past chair and on Board for 36 years; 40 years attending Clinics to provide pro bono advice, Past Chair, Founder and current member VLN Benefactors Board

Education

- Harvard Law School (J.D., 1969)
 - *cum laude*
- University of Wisconsin (B.S., 1966)
 - With honors

Bar Admissions

- Minnesota

- Hennepin County Bar Association Judicial Evaluation Committee, chair, 1994-2000
- Numerous invited CLE presentations (evidence, technology, civil procedure)
- Legal Teaching
 - William Mitchell College of Law – Visiting Professor, 2010
 - William Mitchell College of Law – Adjunct Professor, 2009, 2011
- Founder and current chair Hennepin County Pro Bono Project
- Past Board Member: Call for Justice
- Past member MSBA Civil Gideon Committee

Charitable & Civic Involvement

- Chair, Minnesota Dance Theatre Board
- Founder and original Board Member, The Advocates
- Minnesota Gender Bias Task Force, 1988-1992
- Past Board Member, Minnesota Public Television
- Periodically active in DFL party, past co-chair 3rd Congressional District
- Past Board Member, Children's Theatre Board Member
- Past Board Member, Planned Parenthood Board Member
- Trustee, William Mitchell College of Law, 2005–2013
- Co-Chair or Treasurer of many judicial campaigns
- Past Board Member, Osceola Medical Center Foundation

Accolades

- Minnesota State Bar Association, Professionalism Award, 2026
- *Best Lawyers in America*®, Commercial Litigation, 1989-2026
- Consistently providing pro bono legal assistance to those in need through Dorsey's Pro Bono program
- MSBA, North Star Lawyer, 2012-2025
- *Minnesota Monthly*, "Top Lawyers in Minnesota," 2024
- Minnesota Supreme Court, Outstanding Pro Bono Service, 2019
- Hennepin County Bar Association, Professionalism Award, 2015
- VLN Pro Bono Distinguished Service Award, 2012
- Hennepin County Bar Association, Distinguished Service Award, 2011
- VLN Distinguished Leadership in Justice Award, 2000
- Dorsey & Whitney, Lifetime pro bono award
- *Chambers*, Minnesota's Best Business Lawyers
- Harvard Law School Moot Court Finals Winner

Insights

August 2, 2019

"Navigating the Benefits, Risks, and Limitations of Entity Depositions," Bench & Bar of Minnesota

July 18, 2019

HOUSING: Aid helps make evictions more fair, Star Tribune

February 5, 2019

In Eviction Proceedings, Lawyers = Better Outcomes, Bench & Bar of Minnesota

August 3, 2018

So you are going to trial, Bench & Bar of Minnesota