

Courtney B. Thomas

Partner

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OVERVIEW

Courtney Thomas is a partner in the Corporate practice, advising companies on complex corporate and commercial transactions, including high-value commercial contracts, technology agreements, joint ventures, strategic alliances, and mergers and acquisitions (M&A). He counsels clients on contract structuring, risk allocation, governance frameworks, and transaction execution strategies that align legal risk management with long-term business objectives. Courtney represents clients across the technology, aerospace and defense, manufacturing, and financial services sectors, supporting domestic and cross-border transactions involving software, SaaS, intellectual property, data rights, supply chain arrangements, and strategic partnerships. His practice focuses on helping clients negotiate and operationalize agreements that drive revenue growth, protect enterprise value, and mitigate regulatory and commercial risk. Courtney is known for translating complex legal frameworks into practical solutions that enable innovation, accelerate deal timelines, and support sustainable business growth.

Prior to joining the firm, Courtney served as senior vice president, general counsel, and corporate secretary of an international technology company. In this role, he led global legal strategy, oversaw corporate governance and compliance, and managed complex commercial negotiations and M&A transactions. His in-house executive experience shapes his approach as outside counsel: pragmatic, business-oriented, and execution-focused, with an emphasis on efficiency, scalability, and cross-functional collaboration.

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

Immediately prior to joining K&L Gates, Courtney served as the Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary of an international technology company based in North Carolina. Before that, Courtney was a senior lawyer at a large investment bank. Courtney also has extensive private practice experience, having practiced in the New York offices of two global law firms, where he focused on lending transactions, distressed debt and other corporate transactions.

PROFESSIONAL / CIVIC ACTIVITIES

- North Carolina Bar Association Board of Governors – Board Member

- North Carolina Bar Association – Minorities in the Profession Committee
- Table, Inc. – Board Member

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- Panelist, “Use of AI in Contracts,” K&L Gates Annual Under the Wire CLE Seminar, 29 January 2026
- Presenter, “AI And Legal Contracts for In-House Counsel,” ACC Dallas Annual Meeting, 27 February 2025
- Panelist, “We Bought a Company... What Do We Do Now? Best Practices for Post-Merger Integration,” K&L Gates Annual Under the Wire CLE Seminar, 30 January 2025
- Panelist, “Demystifying the M&A Process,” RTAC-ACC Lunch-and-Learn, 13 July 2022
- Panelist, “ESG - Diligence, Reporting, and Implementation,” ACG Capital Conference, 6 April 2022
- Courtney has participated in a number of panels throughout the Triangle and guest lectures at the University of North Carolina School of Law.

ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND

- Courtney and his wife are licensed foster parents.

EDUCATION

- J.D., New York University School of Law, 2003
- B.A., Duke University, 1998

ADMISSIONS

- Bar of New York
- Bar of North Carolina

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP *POWERED BY HUB*

- January 2026, 14th Annual "Under the Wire" CLE Webinar
- January 2025, 13th Annual "Under the Wire" CLE Webinar

NEWS & EVENTS

- 29 March 2022, K&L Gates Broadens Corporate Practice With Raleigh Partner Addition

AREAS OF FOCUS

- Technology Transactions and Sourcing
- Mergers and Acquisitions

INDUSTRIES

- Healthcare
- Technology