

Thomas C. Ryan

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OVERVIEW

Thomas Ryan is a first-chair trial lawyer and former federal prosecutor who represents energy, manufacturing, and healthcare companies in bet-the-company litigation, class actions, internal investigations, and government enforcement matters. He advises boards, senior executives, and legal and compliance teams when criminal, civil, regulatory, and reputational risks converge.

Thomas leads complex litigation involving oil and gas royalties, mineral rights, commercial contracts, environmental obligations, government contracting, and healthcare billing. His recent work includes serving as lead counsel in significant federal class actions involving Marcellus and Utica shale assets, royalty payments, and mineral interests.

Thomas also conducts sensitive internal investigations and defends clients in grand jury investigations, regulatory enforcement actions, and parallel criminal and civil proceedings. His matters have involved alleged fraud, executive misconduct, the False Claims Act, the Anti-Kickback Statute, environmental enforcement, public procurement, and financial controls. Before returning to the firm, Thomas served as an assistant US attorney, where he tried numerous cases to verdict and argued appeals before the Fourth Circuit.

In recognition of the depth and breadth of his practice, Thomas has been repeatedly recognized by *Chambers USA* in three categories, including Band 1 rankings in two categories; by *The Best Lawyers in America*® for both white-collar defense and energy litigation; and by *The Legal 500 United States*.

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

Thomas began his career at K&L Gates, representing clients in complex commercial litigation, including during a year-long secondment with an international construction company working with an Italian joint-venture partner to design and build an offshore gas-to-liquids facility in the Niger Delta. He later served as an assistant US attorney in the White Collar Crime Section of the US Attorney's Office for the Southern District of West Virginia, where he tried numerous cases to jury verdict, argued appeals before the US Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, and prosecuted political corruption, business fraud, money laundering, tax offenses, and other federal crimes. He returned to K&L Gates in 2014.

Thomas has also been selected for significant public matters. In 2015, he served as special counsel to the Pennsylvania State Senate's bipartisan Special Committee on Senate Address, which considered the removal of then-Attorney General Kathleen Kane. In 2018, the Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia engaged him to coordinate the court's cooperation with multiple federal grand jury investigations and related impeachment proceedings involving alleged misconduct by sitting members of the court. Recently, Thomas assisted a state court judge in obtaining complete exoneration in a high-profile judicial ethics investigation.

Thomas's investigations experience includes guiding a global nuclear engineering company through a cross-border internal accounting-fraud investigation, a multibillion-dollar bankruptcy, and parallel federal and state criminal investigations. He led a multidisciplinary team conducting multilingual document reviews and interviews, helped the company obtain an audited balance sheet and emerge from bankruptcy, and ultimately secured federal and state prosecution declinations for the company.

Thomas also devotes substantial time to pro bono and community service, including mentoring law students through the Leadership Council on Legal Diversity and serving on the boards of Leadership Pittsburgh, March of Dimes, and Devereux/PLEA, a nonprofit focused on improving the lives of people with intellectual disabilities.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Recognized by *The Best Lawyers in America*® in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, 2023-2024, 2027
  - Criminal Defense: White-Collar
  - Litigation - Regulatory Enforcement (SEC, Telecom, Energy)
- Recognized by *Chambers USA*
  - Energy & Natural Resources in Pennsylvania, 2021-2026
  - Litigation: White Collar Crime & Government Investigations in Pennsylvania, 2020-2026
  - Oil & Gas Litigation, USA - Nationwide, 2026
- Recognized by *The Legal 500 United States* as a Recommended Lawyer
  - Energy Litigation: Oil & Gas – Mid-Market ($0-250m), 2026
  - Corporate Investigations and White-Collar Criminal Defense, 2026
  - Energy Litigation: Oil & Gas, 2025
  - Investigations and White-Collar Criminal Defense, 2019-2023
- Recognized by *Pittsburgh Business Times*, "C-Suite Award Honoree", 2026
- Recognized by *Pittsburgh Business Times*, “Pittsburgh Power 100,” 2025

PROFESSIONAL / CIVIC ACTIVITIES

- Leadership Pittsburgh Inc. Board of Directors
- March of Dimes Western Pennsylvania Board of Directors
- Independent Director of Devereux/PLEA
- Leadership Pittsburgh, 2021 Class XXXVIII
- Leadership Council on Legal Diversity, Law Student mentor
- United Way of Southwestern Pennsylvania, Tocqueville Society member
- WDPA Criminal Justice Act Panel member
- American Bar Association, Criminal Justice Section member
- Allegheny County Bar Association, Federal Court Section member
- Energy & Mineral Law Foundation Strategic Planning Committee member
- Republican National Lawyers Association member
- The Federalist Society member
- McCandless Township Republican Executive Committee member
- Leadership Pittsburgh Inc. Board of Directors

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- Thomas C. Ryan, “Navigating Government Fraud and Corruption Investigations: Corporate Counsel Best Practices” CLE panel discussion, Schneider Downs, Pittsburgh, P.A., 11 September 2025
- Thomas C. Ryan, “*Race to the Truth: Leveraging Data Analytics in Government Investigations*,” Pittsburgh Chief Compliance Officer Roundtable fall 2023 meeting, Pittsburgh, P.A., 1 November 2023
- Thomas C. Ryan and Kristen M. Frost, “*Juries, Jury Consultants, and White Collar Defendants*,” Lightfoot White Collar Institute, Washington, DC, 26 April 2023
- Thomas C. Ryan and Adam J. Tejeda, “*Financial Accounting*,” K&L Gates Mini-MBA Professional Development Program, Washington, DC, 28 February 2023
- Thomas C. Ryan moderated “Insights from In-House: A Panel Discussion with Key Energy Players,” 13th Appalachian Law Conference, September 2022
- Thomas C. Ryan, et al., wrote and moderated panel session CLE on “*Houston We Have A Problem: Agents With Badges Are At The Front Door - The Basics for Companies in Responding to a Government Investigation*.,” September 2020

- Thomas C. Ryan et al. wrote and moderated a CLE panel session titled “Houston, We Have a Problem: Agents With Badges Are at the Front Door—The Basics for Companies Responding to a Government Investigation,” September 2020
- Thomas C. Ryan, et al., *Considerations for What Your Lease Doesn't Say: An Update on Implied Covenants in the Appalachian Basin*, Energy & Mineral Law Foundation 40th Annual Institute, Washington, DC, 9-11 June 2019
- Thomas C. Ryan et al., *What You Don't Know Can't Hurt You, Right? Resolving the Inherent Tension Between the Yates Memo and the Collective Knowledge Doctrine in Environmental Criminal Enforcement Actions*, Energy & Mineral Law Foundation 39th Annual Institute, Nashville, TN, 17-19 June 2018
- Thomas C. Ryan and Katherine Gafner, *Minimizing the Intrusion of an Enforcement Action*, In-House Counsel Presentation, 6 October 2017
- Thomas C. Ryan et al., *Phases and Considerations of a Government Investigation*, section presentation, “The Criminalization of Environmental Regulation: How to Respond and Is there More to Come?,” K&L Gates CLE Program, Houston, TX, 28 February 2017
- Thomas C. Ryan et al., *Corporate Responses to Investigative Requests by the Federal Government*, Western Pennsylvania Chapter of the Association of Corporate Counsel, 1 November 2016
- Thomas C. Ryan, *The Life Cycle of a Complex Federal Financial Crime: FinCEN Coming Full Circle?*, West Virginia Bankers' Association Annual BSA/AML School, 20 October 2016
- Thomas C. Ryan et al., *Law Firm Beware: Environmental Due Diligence in Corporate Transactions*, 26 September 2016, K&L Gates Firmwide training seminar
- Thomas C. Ryan, *Federal Rule Changes Affecting e-Discovery Are Here - What are the Implications?*; section presentation, “The Interplay of the Ethics Rules,” K&L Gates CLE Program, Pittsburgh, PA, 3 December 2015
- Thomas C. Ryan and Nicholas J. Ranjan, *Ethical Considerations Arising In Depositions*, K&L Gates Associate Training Program, Pittsburgh, PA, 3 September 2015
- Thomas C. Ryan, *Money Laundering Concerns in M&A Transactions*, Pennsylvania Bar Institute Ethics CLE Program: “Mergers and Acquisitions: Developments and Practice Tips,” Pittsburgh, PA, 18 June 2015
- Thomas C. Ryan and Mark A. Rush, *A Guide to the Development of a Cyber Data Breach Action Plan*, K&L Gates CLE Program: Cybersecurity: Minimizing Risk and Managing Consequences, Pittsburgh, PA, 9 December 2014
- Thomas C. Ryan and Allison L. Burdette, *Tracking the Trends in BSA Prosecutions and AML Regulatory Compliance*, CNB Bank, Inc. Bank Secrecy Act employee training program, Berkeley Springs, WV, 28 October 2014
- Thomas C. Ryan, *Bankruptcy Fraud and Criminal Prosecution*, West Virginia State Bar, CLE Program, 26 May 2011

EDUCATION

- J.D., West Virginia University College of Law, 2004 *(Order of the Coif, Law Review, federal judicial extern to the late Charles H. Haden II, Chief Judge, Southern District of West Virginia)*
- M.B.A., West Virginia University, 2004 *(Capstone Challenge Champion)*
- B.A., West Virginia University, 1999 *(magna cum laude, Mr. Mountaineer Award Recipient — Most Outstanding Senior, Student Representative to University System Board of Trustees)*

ADMISSIONS

- Bar of Pennsylvania
- Bar of West Virginia
- United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit
- United States District Court for the Northern District of West Virginia
- United States District Court for the Southern District of West Virginia
- United States District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP *POWERED BY HUB*

- 8 December 2025, 2025 in Review: International Nuclear Energy Updates
- 30 October 2025, US Government Announces Historic $80 Billion Nuclear Partnership With Westinghouse Electric Company, Cameco Corporation, and Brookfield Asset Management to Construct AP1000 Reactor Fleet
- 31 October 2023, Addressing Whistleblower Claims Under Sarbanes-Oxley and Beyond: US Supreme Court Hears Argument on Burden of Proof Requirements
- 20 September 2021, Certified Question: Will West Virginia Take Another Bite At the Tawney Apple?
- 8 July 2020, Qui Tam Quarterly - Strategies for Avoiding the "Battle of the Experts" in False Claims Act Cases Based on Medical Necessity
- 20 May 2019, Not Your Average Lessor: The False Claims Act and Treble Damages in Royalty Disputes With the Federal Government
- 18 September 2017, Fourth Circuit Concludes that West Virginia State Law Preempts Local Ordinance Banning Oil and Natural Gas Wastewater Storage
- 14 December 2016, Supreme Court Finds Bank Fraud Need Not Target Banks; Resolves Circuit Split in Prosecutors' Favor

- 1 November 2016, Corporate Responses to Investigative Requests by the Federal Government

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- "BNA Insights: Imbalance of Power: Federal Prosecutors' Nearly Unilateral Discretion to Resolve Allegations of Corporate Misconduct After D.C. Circuit Panel Overrules District Court's Rejection of Deferred Prosecution Agreement in *U.S. v. Fokker*," *Securities Regulation & Law Report*, 2016
- "U.S. District Court Judge Rejects Deferred Prosecution Agreement with Non-U.S. Company: Lessons for Companies Considering Similar Agreements," *Bloomberg BNA*, World Securities Law Report, Volume 21, Number 5, May 2015
- "West Virginia is Not the Best Comparison for Proposed Pennsylvania Tax," *The PIOGA Press*, May 2015

NEWS & EVENTS

- 16 November 2026, "Under the Wire" CLE Seminar | The Post-Midterm Landscape: What Legal and Business Leaders Need to Know
- 4 June 2026, K&L Gates Receives Nearly 235 Firm, Individual Rankings in 2026 *Chambers USA* Guide
- 5 June 2025, K&L Gates Receives More Than 240 Firm, Individual Rankings in 2025 *Chambers USA* Guide
- 15 November 2024, K&L Gates Named Among the Top 30 Investigations Firms Worldwide by *Global Investigations Review*
- 6 June 2024, K&L Gates Receives More Than 200 Firm, Individual Rankings in 2024 *Chambers USA* Guide
- 16 May 2024, K&L Gates Grows Corporate M&A Practice With Pittsburgh Partner Addition
- 1 June 2023, K&L Gates Receives Firm, Individual Rankings in 2023 *Chambers USA* Guide
- 8 September 2022 , 13th Appalachia Energy Law Conference, Hosted by Institute for Energy Law
- 18 August 2022, More Than 350 K&L Gates Lawyers Named Among 2023 Best Lawyers in America, Ones to Watch
- 1 June 2022, K&L Gates Receives Firm, Individual Rankings in 2022 *Chambers USA* Guide
- 21 May 2021, K&L Gates Policy and Regulatory Practice, Lawyers Ranked Among Leaders in 2021 Chambers USA Guide
- 21 May 2021, K&L Gates' Energy, Infrastructure, and Resources Practice, Lawyers Named Among Leaders in 2021 Chambers USA Guide
- 23 April 2020, K&L Gates, Lawyers Recognized in 2020 Chambers USA Guide

OTHER MEDIA MENTIONS

- Featured, "Thomas Ryan, Managing Partner, K&L Gates LLP," *Capital Analytics Associates*, 22 February 2026
- Quoted, "What's fueling growth at local law firms," *Pittsburgh Business Times*, 14 January 2026
- Quoted, "U.S. Government Invests $80B to Accelerate Nuclear Power Expansion," *Connect Money*, 29 October 2025
- Quoted, "US partners with Westinghouse, Cameco and Brookfield on $80B nuclear deployment," *Utility Dive*, 28 October 2025
- Quoted, "Industry Corner: Legal and accounting leaders embrace AI for efficiency gains," *Capital Analytics Associates*, 15 July 2025
- Quoted, "Akers Files written Objection to her JIC Admonishment," *Legal Newsline*, 2 July 2025
- Quoted, "Face Off: Pittsburgh leaders on growth through trust and technology," *Capital Analytics Associates*, 26 June 2025
- Quoted, "K&L Gates Inks 15-Year Lease For Smaller Pittsburgh Office," *Law360*, 14 January 2025
- Quoted, "K&L Gates law firm staying in Downtown Pittsburgh under new 15-year lease," *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, 7 January 2025
- Quoted, "Pittsburgh Power 100: Meet the region's most influential business leaders of 2025," *Pittsburgh Business Times*, 7 January 2025

AREAS OF FOCUS

- White Collar Defense and Investigations
- Commercial Disputes
- Construction and Infrastructure
- Energy Disputes
- Federal, State, and Local False Claims Act
- Healthcare Fraud and Abuse (US)
- Internal Investigations

INDUSTRIES

- Energy
- Healthcare

- Life Sciences
- Nuclear Energy
- Oil and Gas

REPRESENTATIVE EXPERIENCE

Government Enforcement Experience

- Conducted an investigation and navigated a state criminal investigation involving allegations of child abuse against a multistate behavioral health facility focused on the treatment of children on the autism spectrum.
- Represented the Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia in cooperating with multiple federal grand jury investigations and overlapping impeachment proceedings involving alleged misconduct by certain sitting members of the Court.
- Obtained dual federal and state cooperation agreements securing declination of prosecution of a global nuclear engineering company in a multibillion-dollar securities and fraud parallel criminal prosecution.
- Represented an international construction company in responding to information requests related to high-profile litigation involving a prominent American politician.
- Obtained declination for a midstream gas company following yearlong investigation by the EPA and DOJ involving allegations of criminal Clean Air Act violations.
- Defended a specialty metals manufacturer in an investigation by the criminal enforcement division of the US DOT and DOJ Main Justice involving an allegation of the illegal, cross-country transportation of a hazardous material.
- Represented a Fortune 500 company cooperating with multiple simultaneous federal grand jury investigations focused on violations of the Bank Secrecy Act and other international fraud and anti-money-laundering related allegations.
- Represented an energy executive of one of the nation's largest coal companies related to a parallel federal and state government investigation arising out of an alleged underground fire involving a longwall operation.
- Defended a couple alleged to have been involved in an insider trading scheme involving a sitting member of Congress.
- Represented a multinational energy company in an SEC investigation focused on potential securities fraud violations related to revenue recognition manipulation by the parent company.
- Represented one of the nation's largest natural gas producers in a grand jury investigation arising out of a natural explosion that leveled a residence and resulted in personal injury to the residents.
- Represented members of the oil and gas industry responding to inquiries initiated by the Pennsylvania Attorney General’s Antitrust Section and Bureau of Consumer Protection.

- Represented a Midwest natural gas producer and processor in response to an investigation undertaken by the US Department of Interior Office of Inspector General related to the alleged underpayment of helium royalties.
- Represented a private provider of drug and alcohol rehabilitation services in a Pennsylvania statewide grand jury investigation involving unique issues of confidentiality under both state law and 42 C.F.R. Part 2.
- Defended a high-net-worth individual charged in multimillion-dollar mortgage fraud scheme.

Internal Investigation-Related Experience

- Assisted a university in responding to and cooperating with federal law enforcement in response to the indictment of a former Division I basketball player accused of involvement in a point-shaving conspiracy.
- Conducted an internal investigation involving the misappropriation of a natural gas producer's land department employee who was diverting suspended royalty payments to a family member, resulting in a successful state criminal prosecution.
- Guided an audit committee of a publicly traded company through an investigation of alleged wrongdoing by the company's Chief Legal Officer during a bet-the-company litigation.
- Conducted an internal investigation for an international energy company into a decade-long scheme by a high-ranking accounts payable manager diverting frozen payments to personal bank accounts, involving a detailed forensic investigation.
- Conducted an investigation into a sexual assault allegation of a "final mile" driver during a home delivery for an international transportation and logistics conglomerate.
- Conducted a yearlong, cross-border internal investigation involving allegations of accounting fraud that required the collection of evidence from the United States and Japan for a client in the energy sector as a result of a US$6 billion cost overrun on a first-of-a-kind construction project.
- Represented an international construction management company in navigating a high-profile Maltese public corruption investigation.
- Represented a multinational company in assisting the DOJ and IRS investigate and prosecute a former employee who embezzled nearly US$15 million.
- Conducted an internal investigation for a wastewater utility arising out of alleged violations of a first-of-a-kind industrial pretreat program, which required analysis of unique environmental regulatory compliance issues.
- Conducted a cross-border internal investigation involving evidence in the United States and France for a client in the energy sector arising out of a whistleblower complaint of management's alleged failure to timely recognize costs in its estimate to complete a construction project for a state-owned utility.
- Advised one of the world's largest tire recyclers on anti-money-laundering issues related to cross-border transactions between US and Mexico.
- Investigated allegations of systemic sexual harassment by a mid-level manager of an energy client.

- Conducted a cross-border internal investigation involving allegations of workplace and financial misconduct by the manager of a US-based energy client's Korean subsidiary.
- Conducted an internal compliance investigation for a client in the energy sector arising out of an ethics hotline complaint alleging the Chief Operations Officer was authorizing improper promotions and salary increases based on a sexual relationship.
- Conducted an investigation into allegations of employee sexual misconduct on behalf of a nonprofit client who services the adult mentally handicapped community.
- Advised a nonprofit that provides mental health services to youth in Western Pennsylvania in responding to inquiries regarding alleged fraudulent billing practices initiated by the Pennsylvania Attorney General's Medicaid Fraud Control Unit.
- Obtained dismissal of multiple royalty class actions for several Marcellus Shale gas play producers by strategically invoking arbitration provision and defeating class status.

Energy and Construction Practice Experience

- Defeated class certification in a multimillion-dollar fraud case brought against a mineral-interest owner company alleging a widespread practice of misrepresentations to mineral sellers during the course of acquiring the rights to acreage in the Marcellus and Utica Shale gas plays.
- Defended a prolific Marcellus Shale and Utica Shale producer in a bet-the-company class action related to allegations of underpayment of royalties.
- Represented a midstream company and an interstate pipeline in a contested Public Service Commission proceeding regarding the acquisition of 1,000 miles of intrastate gathering lines, which included oral argument before the Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia.
- Defended multi-plaintiff litigation challenging a producer's approach to royalty calculation under West Virginia's seminal cases of Wellman v. Energy Res., Inc., 557 S.E.2d 254, 256 (W. Va. 2001) and Estate of Tawney v. Columbia Natural Resources, L.L.C., et. al., 633 S.E.2d 22 (W. Va. 2006).
- Represented a natural gas producer in resolving a series of commercial disputes arising out of a digital asset mining operation conducted on-site at the well pad, including regulatory compliance issues.
- Defended a producer in a lessor litigation alleging a breach of a duty to further explore.
- Defended a producer in an alleged "washout" case brought by an overriding royalty interest holder.
- Represented a midstream company in pursuing a US$20 million claim for defective design and construction of one of the largest retaining walls in the eastern United States.
- Represented a pipeline company in dismissing mechanic's lien filed by terminated contractor on US$10 million pipeline project.
- Defended a midstream company in a right-of-way dispute.

- Represented a non-operator in the acquisition of a field of hundreds of shallow wells in southwestern Pennsylvania from the natural gas producer.
- Defended a gas fractionation facility in a series of nuisance claims.

Healthcare Fraud Practice Experience

- Defended a physical therapy practice in a 22-defendant indictment alleging a US$22 million false billing scheme, the largest financial fraud case in the history of the Western District of Pennsylvania's Erie Division.
- Defended a community-based hospital system in a federal grand jury investigation focused on alleged violations of 18 U.S.C. § 1347 involving the performance of medically unnecessary procedures in the cardiology program.
- Defended a community-based hospital system in the defense of a qui tam action that included allegations of Anti-Kickback Statute and Stark Law violations related to physician-practice acquisitions and False Claims Act violations arising out of the facility's "Incident to" billing procedures.
- Conducted an internal investigation on behalf of a podiatry practice following a UPIC audit request involving "impossible day" billing allegations.
- Represented a podiatry practice in responding a government inquiry related to billing and claims procedures for skin grafting and related procedures.

Other Representative Experience

- Defended a sitting state court judge against charges brought by the judicial ethics commission alleging violations of extra-judicial statements made during the course of a statewide radio interview involving the investigation into the death of a 12-year-old foster child in the custody of the state health department.
- Appointed as special counsel to the Pennsylvania State Senate's bipartisan Special Committee on Senate Address to consider the removal of then-Attorney General Kathleen Kane.
- Appointed as bipartisan committee counsel for the Pennsylvania House Select Committee on Restoring Law and Order charged to investigate conduct of a sitting elected official.
- Represented a candidate for the Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia in the appeal of two rulings by the West Virginia State Election Commission to provide public campaign financing to candidates for the Supreme Court in the May 2016 election.
- Prosecuted a financial institution through the use of a deferred prosecution agreement for failing to file Suspicious Activity Reports, Currency Transaction Reports, and other willful violations of the Bank Secrecy Act, and coordinated settlement with DOJ Asset Forfeiture and Money Laundering Section, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, and the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network. United States v. Bank of Mingo, No. 2:15-00129.
- Prosecuted one of the only "internal cyberattack" cases involving a former information technology network engineer for an exploration and production company, who was convicted under 18 U.S.C. § 1030, the federal

cybercrime statute, for crashing the company's data storage area network server and backup systems after he learned of his imminent termination. United States v. Ricky Joe Mitchell, No. 2:13-00201.

- Prosecuted a criminal trademark infringement case involving an equipment repair shop owner, who was convicted of an intellectual property crime under 18 U.S.C. § 2320 arising out of the misuse of counterfeit labels affixed to refurbished electrical breakers, which had originally been manufactured specifically to heightened standards for use in the coal mining industry. United States v. Freddie Dean Ball, Jr., No. 2:13-00212.