

WADE A. THOMSON, Partner

Wade A. Thomson is a partner in the firm's Complex Commercial Litigation Practice. He has significant experience in high-stakes commercial disputes and government investigations around the world, practicing out of both the Chicago and London offices.

Mr. Thomson has been recognized as one of the "[40 Under Forty](#)" lawyers in Illinois and as a "Rising Star" by *Illinois Super Lawyers*.

In particular, Mr. Thomson has substantial experience in complex contract disputes across industries and fora, including international arbitrations and domestic courts. In 2020, he co-led a team in a three-week federal trial involving trade secret, Lanham Act, and contract claims that resulted in a jury verdict of approximately \$114 million on behalf of his radio remote control manufacturer client (Click [here](#) for Reuters coverage). *The American Lawyer* named Mr. Thomson a "[Litigator of the Week](#)" runner-up for the victory. The court later granted a worldwide injunction against the defendants.

Mr. Thomson works closely with the firm's Investigation, Compliance and Defense Practice and has significant experience with internal and government investigations, including preparing submissions, presentations and witnesses for the Department of Justice, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Internal Revenue Service, the Department of State, the Securities and Exchange Commission, grand juries and gaming commissions. Mr. Thomson has counseled many companies in Anti-Money Laundering and Bank Secrecy Act matters and is a certified anti-money laundering specialist.

Mr. Thomson also has extensive experience in matters involving the First Amendment and media law. In particular, he has successfully defended media clients in numerous defamation and newsgathering matters. He has written extensively on media law issues.

Mr. Thomson is highly active in the civic community, including serving on several boards. He is a recent Fellow of [Leadership Greater Chicago](#).

Mr. Thomson is a member of several firm committees, including the Pro Bono Committee, and has dedicated thousands of hours to pro bono representation in a wide variety of matters and received several awards for his work.

While not exhaustive, his recent pro bono results include:

- Obtaining asylum for over a dozen individuals, including several journalists from different countries who were persecuted because of their reporting, and children fleeing Central America.
- Obtaining a jury verdict of not guilty for a client charged with first-degree murder in a widely publicized case (click [here](#) for *Chicago Tribune* coverage).



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PRACTICE GROUPS

Aviation and Aerospace

Complex Commercial Litigation

FinTech

International Arbitration

Investigations, Compliance and Defense
Litigation

Media and First Amendment

Sports and Gaming

Trade Secrets and Restrictive Covenants

INDUSTRY GROUPS

Cannabis

Hospitality

EDUCATION

University of Illinois College of Law, JD,
2003; *magna cum laude*; Harno Scholar;
Assistant Editor, *University of Illinois Law
Review*

Universidad de Belgrano, Buenos Aires,
Argentina, 2002; Rotary Foundation
Ambassadorial Scholar

Kalamazoo College, BA; *cum laude*

ADMISSIONS

Illinois, 2004

COURT ADMISSIONS

US District Court, Northern District of Illinois,
2004

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Awards

- *The American Lawyer*
"Litigator of the Week" finalist, [March 6, 2020](#)
"Litigator of the Week" finalist, [April 24, 2020](#)
- Burton Award for Distinguished Legal Writing - 2018
["New Horizons and High Stakes: Money Laundering through Skill-Based Gaming"](#)
- ["40 Under Forty" Illinois Attorneys to Watch](#)
Chicago Daily Law Bulletin - 2015
- [Leadership Greater Chicago](#)
Fellow - 2017
- *Illinois Super Lawyers*
"Rising Star," Business Litigation - 2012, 2013, 2014
- Illinois Legal Aid On-line
"Illinois Pro Bono Attorney of the Month" – January 2009
- Jenner & Block LLP
Albert E. Jenner, Jr. Pro Bono Award - 2006
Mentor Award - 2020
- Korean American Bar Association of Chicago
Distinguished Service Award, 2014
- Law Bulletin Publishing Company - Leading Lawyers Network
"Emerging Lawyer," Commercial Litigation - 2015

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Community

- Chicago Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights
Former Member, Board of Directors
- National Immigrant Justice Center – A Heartland Alliance Program
Member and former co-chair, Leadership Board
- Art Institute of Chicago
Alumni member of Evening Associates Board of Directors
- International Institute for Conflict Prevention and Resolution (CPR)
Arbitration Committee

Service to the Bar

- U.S. District Court, Northern District of Illinois – Trial Bar
Member
- American Bar Association – Forum On Communication Law
Member

- Media Law Resource Center – Internet Law Committee Member
- Illinois Bar Association Member
- Chicago Bar Association Co-Chair, Gaming Law Committee

Educational

- University of Illinois College of Law Former member, Alumni Board

Publications

- Co-Author, “Funds Travel Rule Compliance Obstacles Facing Crypto Firms,” *Law360*, August 31, 2020
- Co-Author, “FinCEN Will Pay Closer Attention to Certain Casino Practices,” *Casino Journal*, November 2019
- Co-Author, “FinCEN Investigates Secret Real Estate Buyers in Chicago,” *Chicago Daily Law Bulletin*, November 21, 2019
- Co-Author, “FinCEN Has Eye on Sports Betting, Crypto Money Laundering Risks,” *Bloomberg*, September 17, 2019
- Co-Author, “New FinCEN Action Is A Warning To P2P Crypto Exchangers,” *Law360*, April 25, 2019
- Co-Author, “Cannabis Cash: Tips for Financial Institutions,” *ABA Criminal Litigation*, February 6, 2019
- Co-Author, “A Look at the Senate’s Bipartisan Sports Betting Bill,” *Law360*, January 2, 2019
- Co-Author, Client Alert: FinCEN’s New Rule Setting Forth Minimum Standards for Financial Institutions to Identify Beneficial Owners Now In Effect, May 21, 2018
- Co-Author, Client Alert: Update - Sports Betting and AML Compliance, May 17, 2018
- Co-Author, “Cryptocurrency and Cannabis Proceeds: Federal Government Focuses on Emerging Money-Laundering Risks,” *Futures Magazine*, March 20, 2018
- Co-Author, “New Horizons and High Stakes: Money Laundering through Skill-Based Gaming,” *American Bar Association Commercial & Business Litigation Committee Newsletter*, December 18, 2017
- *Testimonial Privileges*, Thomson Reuters Trial Practice Series, Fall 2017
- Co-Author, Client Alert: If Sports Betting Goes National, AML Risks Will Proliferate, September 13, 2017
- Co-Author, “Key D&O Insurance Considerations for Companies and Compliance Officers in Light of the US Government’s Settlement with MoneyGram’s Chief Compliance Officer,” *Compliance & Ethics*, June 23, 2017
- Client Alert: UPDATE: FinCEN Implements Order Targeting Secret All-Cash Real Estate Buyers in Two Markets; Expansion Set for Six Additional Markets on August 28, July 28, 2016
- Co-Author, “FinCEN Continues Emphasis on ‘Know Your Customer’ Money Sources – This Time, Secret Real Estate Buyers,” *Business Law Today*, June 2016

- FinCEN Continues Emphasis on “Know Your Customer” Money Sources – This Time, Secret Real Estate Buyers, January 19, 2016
- Co-Author, “The Rapid Evolution of Illinois’s Anti-SLAPP Statute,” *Communication Lawyer*, March 2014
- “Appealing Denials of Right to Counsel in Deportation Hearings: Do Noncitizens Have to Show Prejudice?” *Westlaw’s Interpreter Releases*, April 8, 2013
- “Court Significantly Reduces Punitive Damages In Defamation Per Se Case Rejecting Evidence Of Defendant’s Malicious Intent,” *Media Law Resource Center MediaLawLetter*, May 2010
- “‘Tweet’ About Moldy Apartment Held Non-actionable in Illinois Defamation Case,” *Media Law Resource Center MediaLawLetter*, February 2010
- “Illinois Appellate Court Affirms Fair Report Privilege for Newspaper In Holiday Misidentification Mishap,” *Media Law Resource Center MediaLawLetter*, February 2010
- “Illinois Supreme Court Bolsters Innocent Construction Rule and Raises Pleading Standards For Certain Defamation Per Se Claims,” *Media Law Resource Center MediaLawLetter*, October 2009
- “Wikijurisprudence - References to Wikipedia in the Law,” *Media Law Resource Center Internet Law Committee Report*, July 2009
- “Illinois’ Anti-SLAPP Statute: A Potentially Powerful New Weapon for Media Defendants,” *Communications Lawyer*, March 2009
- “Indecent Proposal: The FCC and Four-Letter Words,” *Lawdragon.com*, November 25, 2008
- “Seventh Circuit Affirms Summary Judgment for Paramount Pictures in ‘Hardball’ Movie Litigation,” *Media Law Resource Center*, February 2007
- “Agency’s Coercive Letters to Broadcasters Violate First Amendment Rights,” *MediaLawLetter*, September 2005
- Paramount Pictures Wins Summary Judgment in ‘Hardball’ Movie Litigation, *Media Law Resource Center*, July 2005
- “Accountant-Client Privileges,” *Testimonial Privileges*, Thomson West, Third Edition, 2005

Speaking Engagements

- “#MeToo: Ethics, Compliance and Investigations,” Jenner & Block and the Nevada chapter of the Association of Corporate Counsel, April 24, 2019
- Panelist, “The Inside Scoop: Internal Investigations, the Government and Ethics,” Association of Corporate Counsel Nevada, January 25, 2017