



Donna M.D. Thomas
Partner

dthomas@gdldlaw.com
(410) 783-3522

Donna Thomas is a partner at Goodell DeVries and represents a broad range of clients in commercial and intellectual property transactions. From publicly traded corporations making mega-buck acquisitions – Donna closed \$150 million in deals in less than three months a while back working through the Thanksgiving holiday to get them done – to individuals, she does it all. She handles the clearance, registration, licensing, protection, and defense of copyrights and trademarks, and helps with the responding and resolving of cease-and-desist letters for both.

Besides being a consummate business lawyer, Donna is also an experienced intellectual property lawyer. She has taught Copyright and Media Law as an adjunct professor at the University of Baltimore. She is also a frequent lecturer on intellectual property subjects, including teaching trademark law as an instructor for the Maryland Bar Association, and she is a frequent lecturer at various Association of Corporate Counsel chapters around the country. Additionally, Donna served as the Chair of the Intellectual Property Law section of the Maryland State Bar Association and co-authors the six-volume legal treatise, [“The Law of Advertising and Mass Communications”](#) with Jim Astrachan. She is also co-author of [Goodell DeVries’s intellectual property law blog](#).

Donna has litigated a variety of cases involving intellectual property, advertising, and business issues, from state Circuit Courts to U.S. Circuit Courts of Appeals and ranging from crayons to counterfeit cigarettes to surgical products.

Donna enjoys an AV rating from Martindale-Hubbell, has been selected for Super Lawyers and Best Lawyers, and has been named Baltimore’s Best Copyright and Trademark Lawyer by the Best Lawyers publication.

Practice Areas

- Intellectual Property
- Business and Corporate Law
- Advertising and Mass Communications
- Commercial and Business Tort Litigation

Court Admissions

- Maryland
- United States Supreme Court

Education

- University of Baltimore School of Law (J.D., *magna cum laude*, 1993)
- University of Richmond (B.S., *cum laude*, 1985)

Professional Associations

- Maryland State Bar Association, Intellectual Property Section – Chair (2008-2009)
- Maryland Bar Foundation – Fellow
- Intelligence and National Security Alliance, Inc. (INSA) – General Counsel
- American Advertising Federation Baltimore – Director and Legislative Committee Co-Chair

Professional Experience

- Astrachan Gunst Thomas, P.C. – Co-owner and Managing Principal (1997-2022)

Representative Matters

BUSINESS TRANSACTIONS

- Represented The KEYW Corporation, a national security solutions provider for the intelligence, cyber and counterterrorism communities, in acquiring Geovantage, Inc.
- Represented The KEYW Corporation, a national security solutions provider for the intelligence, cyber and counterterrorism communities, in the divestiture and sale of its Systems Engineering and Technical Assistance business.
- Represented The KEYW Corporation, a national security solutions provider for the intelligence, cyber and counterterrorism communities, in acquiring Ponte Technologies, LLC
- Represented The KEYW Corporation, a national security solutions provider for the intelligence, cyber and

counterterrorism communities, in acquiring Milestone Intelligence Group, Inc.

- Represented The KEYW Holding Corporation, a national security solutions provider for the intelligence, cyber and counterterrorism communities, in acquiring the assets of NetClarity, Inc.
- Represented The KEYW Corporation, a national security solutions provider for the intelligence, cyber and counterterrorism communities, in acquiring I.D.E.A.L. Technology Corporation
- Represented The KEYW Corporation, a national security solutions provider for the intelligence, cyber and counterterrorism communities, in acquiring SenSage, Inc.
- Represented The KEYW Corporation, a national security solutions provider for the intelligence, cyber and counterterrorism communities, in acquiring Poole & Associates, Inc.
- Represented The KEYW Corporation, a national security solutions provider for the intelligence, cyber and counterterrorism communities, in acquiring Flight Landata, Inc.
- Represented The KEYW Corporation, a national security solutions provider for the intelligence, cyber and counterterrorism communities, in acquiring Forbes Analytic Software, Inc.
- Represented The KEYW Corporation, a national security solutions provider for the intelligence, cyber and counterterrorism communities, in acquiring JKA Technologies, Inc.
- Represented The KEYW Holding Corporation, a national security solutions provider for the intelligence, cyber and counterterrorism communities, in acquiring Everest Technology Solutions, Inc.
- Represented The KEYW Holding Corporation, a national security solutions provider for the intelligence, cyber and counterterrorism communities, in acquiring Sycamore.US, Inc.
- Represented seller in an asset sale of a Maryland technology company.
- Represented multiple purchasers in their acquisition of advertising agencies.
- Represented seller in an asset sale of an event planning and rental business.
- Represented a seller of security and cybersecurity solutions in the sale of its business by merger.
- Represented a magazine publishing company in the sale of its business.
- Represented a travel data research company in the sale of its business.

- Represented purchasers in acquiring the stock of an orthotics and prosthetics company.
- Represented sellers in an asset sale of a Maryland landscaping company.
- Represented a number of independent service station dealers in real property acquisitions from Southside Oil, LLC.
- Represented seller in the sale of its business assets, and acquisition of an ownership interest in the buyer in the civil engineering, landscape architecture and surveying industries.
- Represented Aquatic Ventures, LLC, a business venture between Michael Phelps and Bob Bowman, in negotiating, documenting and closing a Lease and License to Operate the Meadowbrook Swim Club in Baltimore, Maryland.
- Represented Gallagher & Associates, L.L.C., a professional design services firm, in the purchase of commercial real estate.
- Represented Gallagher & Associates, L.L.C., a professional design services firm, in the sale of commercial real estate.
- Represented Gallagher & Associates, L.L.C., a professional design services firm, in negotiating and documenting an international joint venture to promote, identify and develop opportunities to secure museum, visitor, science center and exhibit design and development projects in Asia and the Middle East.
- Represented Imperial Stone Paving, Inc. (a stone and concrete paving installation business) and its sole stockholder in the sale of their business under an asset purchase agreement and purchase and sale agreement for personal goodwill.
- Represented a seller and its sole stockholder in the sale of a skilled nursing facility in Maryland, including the real property and substantially all of the assets of the facility.
- Represented sellers in the sale of four skilled nursing facilities in Maryland, including real property and substantially all of the assets of the facilities.
- Represented purchasers in the acquisition of four assisted living and Alzheimer's/dementia care facilities in Maryland.
- Represented Essex Corporation, a technology company focused on the government intelligence industry, in acquiring The Windermere Group LLC for more than \$69 million dollars.
- Represented Applied Signal and Image Technology, Inc., an engineering and technology company specializing in signal processing systems, in the sale of its business to L-3 Communications Corporation, a publicly traded company providing intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance systems, secure communications systems, aircraft modernization, training and other services to U.S.

government defense and intelligence agencies, contractors and other companies.

- Represented the stockholders of Curtis Engine & Equipment Company, Inc., a provider of generators, power solutions equipment and engineering services, in a multi-million dollar sale of the business.
- Represented Chodak, Inc., a publisher of genealogical reference books, in negotiating and closing a multi-million dollar content license agreement.
- Represented a psychologist in connection with his purchase of a 50% ownership interest in a psychology practice and the purchase and lease of real property to the practice.
- Represented New Millennium Eyewear Group, Inc., a wholesale distributor of eyewear products, in concluding trademark license and distribution agreements.
- Represented corporation in the consolidation and merger of multiple affiliated entities.

REPORTED CASES

- *IOMAXIS, LLC v. Nicholas Hurysh, Jr. and Hillcrest Farm, LLC*, Case No. 8:20-cv-3612-PJM (D.Md.). (Represented Defendant in trade secret case)
- *Acme Pad Corp v. Warm Products, Inc.*, Case No.: S98-2830 (D. Md.). (Represented Plaintiff /Counter-Defendant in case involving trademark and trade dress infringement, false advertising and unfair competition.)
- *Applera Corporation v. Alpha Genesis, LLC*, Opposition No.: 91153994 (TTAB). (Represented Applicant in trademark opposition action.)
- *Applied Signal & Image Technology, Inc. v. Harlesyville Mutual Insurance Co.*, Case No.: CCB02CV1944 (D. Md.) (Represented Plaintiff in case involving breach of insurance contract.)
- *Bareco, Inc. v. Bare Necessities, Ltd.*, Case No.: 00CIV.5464 (SDNY) (Represented Defendant in case involving trademark infringement and unfair competition.)
- *Chicago Cubs Baseball Club, LLC v. Warschawski Public Relations, Inc.*, Opposition No.: 91228016 (TTAB). (Represented Applicant in trademark opposition action.)
- *Jean-Claude Cesar v. Raymond Geddes & Company, Inc.*, Case No.: CV 02 0685 (EDNY). (Represented Defendant in case involving copyright infringement.)
- *Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates v. Repik, et al.*, Case No.: 99-CV1 (M.D. Pa.). (Represented Plaintiff in case involving copyright infringement.)

- *Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates v. Teknology-Laine, L.L.C., et al.*, Case No.: 6:99-1676-24 (D. S.C. Greenville Div.). (Represented Plaintiff in case involving trademark infringement.)
- *First Action Security Team, Inc. v. Ross Security Systems, Inc.*, Case No.: 1:15-cv-01743 (D. Md.). (Represented Plaintiff in a breach of contract and declaratory judgment action regarding trademark ownership.)
- *James W. Gonos t/a American Security Educators v. National Sheriffs' Association*, Case No. 98-912-A (E.D. Va.). (Represented Defendant/Counter-Plaintiff in case involving trademark infringement and unfair competition.)
- *GrandBanks Yachts Pte Ltd. v. Old European Brewery Company*, Opposition No.: 118,303 (TTAB). (Represented Opposer in trademark opposition action.)
- *GrandBanks Yachts Pte Ltd., et al. v. Oviatt Marine, Inc., et al.*, Case No.: 01-7813 (SD Fl.). (Represented Plaintiff in case involving trademark infringement and unfair competition.)
- *Joseph M. Hejl, Jr. v. Applied Signal and Image Technology, Inc. et al.*, Case No. C2001-72790-OC (Circuit Court Anne Arundel County, Maryland). (Represented Defendant in case involving a shareholder dispute.)
- *Heroes, Inc. v. Hogs and Heroes Foundation*, Opposition No.: 91224481 (TTAB). (Represented Applicant in defending against a trademark opposition action.)
- *LabWare, Inc. v. InnaPhase Corporation*, Case No.: 03-6199 (E.D. Pa.). (Represented Plaintiff in case involving false advertising.)
- *LabWare, Inc. v. Thermo Labsystems, Inc.*, Case No.: 04-CV-2545 (E.D. Pa.). (Represented Plaintiff in case involving false advertising.)
- *Lorillard Tobacco Company v. Creative Management, Inc., et al.*, Case No. 03-CV-4844 (D. N.J.) (Represented Defendant in case alleging trademark counterfeiting and infringement, dilution, and unfair competition.)
- *Mayor and City Council of Baltimore v. Sande Riesett*, Opposition No.: 91213310 (TTAB). (Represented Applicant in defending against a trademark opposition action.)
- *National Sheriffs' Association v. International Printers d/b/a National Neighborhood Watch Institute and George L. Grossman*, Case No.: 98-275-A (E.D. Va.). (Represented Plaintiff in case involving trademark infringement, unfair competition, false advertising, and deceptive trade practice.)
- *Paramount Pictures Corporation v. The Gunfather LLC*, Opposition No. 91231477 (TTAB). (Represented Applicant in defending against a trademark opposition action.)

- *Partners HealthCare System, Inc. v. Pahrtners Deaf Services, LLC*, Cancellation No. 92060388 (TTAB). (Represented Registrant in defending against a trademark cancellation proceeding.)
- *Performance Technology Group, Inc. v. SupplyForce* (Represented Claimant in arbitration involving breach of contract.)
- *Pelikan Technologies, Inc. v. The Johns Hopkins University*, Cancellation No. 92040705 (TTAB). (Represented Applicant in defending against a trademark cancellation action.)
- *Phillips v. Kidsoft, L.L.C.*, Case No.: CCB-96-3827 (D. Md.). (Represented Plaintiff in case involving internet, copyright and trademark infringement.)
- *Primary Investments Group Limited v. Ayeasta, LLC dba Biovi, LLC*, Opposition No.: 91222224 (TTAB). (Represented Applicant in defending against a trademark opposition action.)
- *Reed Elsevier Properties Inc. v. Hexis Cyber Solutions, Inc.*, Opposition No. 91216786 (TTAB). (Represented Applicant in defending against a trademark opposition action.)
- *Rose Art Industries, Inc. v. Raymond Geddes and Co.*, 31 F. Supp. 2d 367 (D.N.J. 1998), rev'd, 235 F.3d 165 (3d Cir. 2000). (Represented Defendant in case alleging trade dress infringement and trade secret misappropriation.)
- *Sande Reisettt v. Mayor and City Council of Baltimore*, Case No.: 1:13-cv-01860 (D.Md.). (Represented Plaintiff in declaratory judgment action involving ownership of trademarks and copyrights.)
- *Sandler v. Lifetime Books, Inc.*, Civil Action No.: MJG-96-4078 (D. Md.). (Represented Plaintiff in case involving copyright and trademark infringement.)
- *Starad, Inc. v. Inge-Glas GMBH & Co. KG, et al*, Case No.: 01CV8828 (SDNY). (Represented Defendant in case alleging trademark infringement.)
- *Stone Care International, Inc. v. PMC Stonecare Enterprises, Inc., et al*, Case No.: 03-CV2521 (D. Md.). (Represented Plaintiff in case involving trade dress infringement.)
- *Teal Bay Alliances, LLC v. Southbound One, Inc.*, Case No.: 1:13-cv-02180 (D. Md.). (Represented Defendant in case involving trademark infringement and unfair competition.)
- *United States Surgical Corporation v. Abbott Cardiovascular Systems, Inc.*, Opposition No. 91171428 (TTAB). (Represented Opposer in trademark opposition action.)
- *United States Surgical Corporation v. Linvatec Corporation*, Opposition No. 91162613 (TTAB). (Represented Opposer in trademark opposition action.)

Publications

- Donna is a frequent speaker on business, intellectual property, and advertising law issues for advertising clubs, corporate counsel groups, trade associations, bar associations, and other organizations. She is co-author of the legal treatise *The Law of Advertising and Mass Communications* published by Matthew Bender – Lexis/Nexis.

RECENT ARTICLES AND PRESENTATIONS

- Author, “[Updated FTC Endorsement Guides,](#)” A Universe of IP Insights, Goodell DeVries IP Blog (July 21, 2023)
- Co-presenter, “Copyright: How and What to Protect,” Association of Corporate Counsel (ACC), Baltimore Chapter (June 2023)
- Author, “[Chew on This: Parody of Famous Mark Not Protected by First Amendment or Excluded from Dilution Liability,](#)” A Universe of IP Insights, Goodell DeVries IP Blog (June 12, 2023)
- Co-presenter, “How to Prepare for Selling Your Business,” Goodell DeVries Seminar (April 12, 2023)
- Co-author, “The Anatomy of a Trademark Case,” Association of Corporate Counsel (ACC), Baltimore Chapter (September 2022)
- Presenter, “Trademark Basics and Anatomy of a Trademark Case,” Association of Corporate Counsel (ACC), Baltimore Chapter (July 2022)

Honors and Awards

- Chambers USA
 - Intellectual Property (Maryland), Band 2 (2022-2024)
- Best Lawyers in America
 - Baltimore Lawyer of the Year for Trademark Law (2017, 2019, 2023)
 - Baltimore Lawyer of the Year for Copyright Law (2021, 2023)
 - Trademark Law (2015-2025)
 - Copyright Law (2015-2025)
- Maryland Super Lawyers
 - Intellectual Property (2007-2025)
 - Business/Corporate (2007-2025)
 - Intellectual Property Litigation (2007-2025)

- 
- SmartCEO Bravo! Women in Business Achievement Award (2008)
 - Legal Elite, SmartCEO Magazine (2007)