



James L. Thompson



## James L. Thompson



James Thompson is a member of the American College of Trial Lawyers (restricted to the top 1% of trial lawyers in the United States). He concentrates his practice in eminent domain and real estate valuation litigation (including ad valorem tax appeals) in addition to civil litigation involving complex real estate and business/commercial disputes, and has done some mediation as well. He led his firm's litigation department for over 25 years and has taught trial advocacy. He has been a regular lecturer in national eminent domain litigation seminars conducted by ALI-ABA, as well as in the State of Maryland where he has lectured in CLE activities for lawyers, appraisers and right-of-way agents. Also, in 2011, he traveled to Beijing China with a group of scholars and lawyers to exchange ideas as a panelist on property rights in the Brigham Kanner Property Rights Conference. In addition, he has authored a variety of articles involving eminent domain and has worked with the Maryland legislature to reform eminent domain laws and protect the rights of property owners. He has been elected as the Maryland member for the Owner's Counsel of America restricted to the top eminent domain lawyer in each state.

He was named a winner of the Leadership in Law Award for 2006 by the Daily Record and was listed by Super Lawyers magazine in 2007, as one of the top 5% of Maryland litigation attorneys, for that year and each year thereafter. In addition he's been designated as a Top Lawyer in Baltimore & Washington DC for the last 5 years, named to Who's Who for Business and Professionals and given an A rating by Martindale Hubbell Law Directory.

Several of the notable cases he has tried include cases of first impression:

- **Mayor and City Council v. George Valsamaki**, 397 Md. 222 (2007). John Murphy and Mr. Thompson represented George Valsamaki in his successful challenge to the quick-take condemnation of the Magnet Bar at 1924 North Charles Street in Baltimore City for urban renewal / economic development. This was the first successful taking challenge to a Baltimore City condemnation in history.
- **IRS vs. Browning** in the United States Tax Court, (109 Tax Ct. 303 1997), which required the IRS to permit charitable tax deductions in connection with the donation of agricultural land preservation easements in Howard County at full fair market value.
- **GenOn vs. Supervisor of Assessments of Charles County**, (2015) Maryland Tax Court (MTC) No's. 10-RP-CH-0743, 0778; 11-PP-OO-1343, 1396; 13-PP-OO-0400(1), 0415, a case where he successfully defended the \$1.5 billion valuation of the Morgantown Electric Generating Plant for Charles County against efforts by GenOn to reduce its assessed value by more than 50%.
- **Chod vs. Board of Appeals for Montgomery County**, Civil No. 398704-V (2015), a case where we challenged the legality of the "Rain Tax" as adopted and applied by Montgomery County, Maryland. The trial court (Judge Rupp) ruled that it was invalid on its face and as applied. The case was appealed by the County and it was settled and vacated.
- **Montgomery County vs. Polinger**, 217 WL 2482556 (Md. Ct. Spec. App. June 8, 2017) a case involving the improper imposition of a golf course catch-up tax on our client when she sold the course to a real estate developer. The court ordered a refund and awarded a judgment with interest exceeding one million dollars to our client.

## James L. Thompson –CONTINUED

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In addition to his legal work as a trial lawyer, he has served the legal community at large by his service with the county, state and national bar associations. Mr. Thompson has served as President of the Montgomery County Bar Association, President of the Maryland State Bar Association, 1999-2000, (representing over 20,000 lawyers) and was active in the American Bar Association in 2001 to 2003 where he served in The ABA House of Delegates. Currently he is serving on a select committee appointed by Maryland's Court of Appeals (chaired by Chief Judge Bell) the Committee on Public Trust & Confidence. He has been recognized for his excellence in serving the interest of justice by receiving the Century of Service Award (recognizing the 32 most outstanding judges and lawyers in Montgomery County, Maryland during the 20th Century) and by receipt of the Peter D. Dirito Endowment Award (recognizing his role in the successful effort to establish a Southern Division of the Federal Court in Maryland).

With his record of legal experience and proven results, maturity and judgment and leadership within the bar and judicial system generally, he brings ideal talents and abilities to client representation.

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“Miller, Miller & Canby’s Jim Thompson has my eternal appreciation and respect. He exhibited great vision, assembled a superb team of land planners, appraisers and others to support our case, and stuck with it until he got it done. In the end, thanks to his experience and innovation, our property yielded a better return than I could ever have imagined.”

—Alan Bruzee, Realtor, Long & Foster

“The guy’s a wizard when it comes to condemnation...five out of five stars...”

—Tom Tracy  
Regional Counsel, Toll Brothers, Inc.

# James L. Thompson –CONTINUED

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## AREAS OF PRACTICE

- Trial & Appellate Advocacy
- Real & Personal Property Tax Assessments
- Eminent Domain and Condemnation
- Civil Litigation

## BAR ADMISSIONS

- Maryland
- Virginia
- U.S. Court of Military Appeals
- U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Fourth Circuit
- U.S. Supreme Court

## PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

- American College of Trial Lawyers
- Owners Counsel of America (Eminent Domain Lawyers)
- Affiliate Member, Institute for Property Taxation, IPT)
- Maryland State Bar Association (Past President)
- Bar Association of Montgomery County (Past President)
- American Inns of Court (Counselor, LXI)
- American Bar Association (Past Delegate of ABA House of Delegates)
- Fourth Circuit Judicial Conference
- Maryland Bar Foundation, Inc.
- American Bar Foundation

## EDUCATION

- Yale University, B.A.
- University of Virginia, LL.B.

## LECTURES

- "Experts in Litigation Series," University of Maryland Law School (Maryland Institute for Continuing Professional Education of Lawyers, Inc. — MICPEL)
- "Hot Tips in Litigation Lectures," University of Baltimore Law School — MICPEL)
- "Litigation Skills," (Practical Law Institute)

## PUBLICATIONS

- "Motion Practice in the State Appellate Courts," in *Appellate Practice for the Maryland Trial Lawyer: State and Federal*, 135 (Sandler & Levy, eds., 3d ed. 2007)
- "Discovery and Practice Techniques That Work in Condemnation Cases," (2005).
- "Compensation For Loss of Visibility To and View From the Owners Property," (2006).
- "The Condemnation Landscape Across the Country Post Kelo - A Maryland Perspective," (2007).
- "Condemnation of the Whole. Why a Full Taking Involves Unique Considerations that Condemnors Often Overlook," (2007).
- "How Do the Kelo Case and Post-Kelo Developments Impact Your Case," (2007).
- "Pre-Condemnation Planning," (2006); and "Preparing Your Condemnation Case: How to Obtain More Than the Condemnor's Offer," (2007).

## HONORS & AWARDS

- Century of Service Award (recognizing the 32 most outstanding judges and lawyers in Montgomery County)
- Member, American College of Trial Lawyers
- Winner, Leadership in Law Award
- Named by Super Lawyers magazine as top 5% of Litigation Attorneys in the state of Maryland every year since 2007
- Peter D. Dirito Endowment Award (recognition for role in the successful effort to establish a Southern Division of the Federal Court in Maryland)
- Designated as Top Lawyer in Baltimore and Washington, DC for past five years
- Received 2012 "Lawyer of the Year" Award by Best Lawyers in the area of Eminent Domain and Condemnation Law
- Received "AV" rating by Martindale Hubbell Law Directory
- Elected as the Maryland member for the Owner's Counsel of America (restricted to the top eminent domain lawyer in each state)