



## Suma S. Thomas

Of Counsel

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Suma S. Thomas is recognized as a trusted litigator and a dedicated asset to her clients and colleagues. With more than 20 years of experience in the state and federal courts of New York, Suma is adept at using the various resources of the court and legal practice to deliver client-focused results.

No stranger to the fast-paced nature of litigation, Suma also appreciates the nuances necessary to finding a middle ground for early and cost-effective resolutions. She often is called on to monitor high-exposure local and out-of-state litigations, applying her firm grasp on prioritizing the client's needs by acting as a mindful liaison throughout information-gathering, defense strategy analysis and settlement. Suma has deep experience with alternative dispute resolution methods, successfully handling arbitrations and mediations for domestic and international clients for more than two decades.

Suma also handles a diverse roster of actions involving vessels, washing machines, blenders, laptops, cosmetics, parking garages, electric bicycles, public transportation, power tools, heaters, cargo-loaders, automated milking systems, egg-packing machines, diving equipment, hotels and construction claims. She uses her unique experience in litigating both insurance coverage and defense claims to offer a global approach to defending litigation. Suma served as a valued professor at Wilson Elser's Legalign Global University 2023, held in conjunction with the other member firms of Legalign Global, an alliance of best-in-region law firms working as one for multinational insurers, brokers and businesses in addressing cross-border risks and claims.

### **Product Liability**

Focusing on the defense of manufacturers, distributors and retailers in products liability claims, Suma prides herself on being a responsive and knowledgeable resource for international clients who may not be familiar with the American legal system and to advise whether litigation is the best choice in the state or federal arena. In handling both domestic

### **Services**

- Product Liability, Prevention & Government Compliance
- Complex Tort & General Casualty
- Construction
- Insurance & Reinsurance Coverage

and international claims, she understands the importance and effect of quick turnarounds when answering the immediate needs of a client dealing with a variety of losses, including fire and water damage, and the necessity of enlisting the assistance of astute experts to properly assess time-sensitive situations. Suma has assisted European and local manufacturers in navigating the (voluntary) recall process and provided the necessary logistical assistance in what may otherwise be an overwhelming experience for the client.

### **Insurance**

Suma began her career representing insurers in investigating and litigating insurance fraud claims and is familiar with the insurance policies and issues involving homeowners, general liability and cybersecurity claims from the initial investigation stage onward. She is well-versed in preparing coverage opinions and tenders of defense, evaluating reconsideration requests and drafting coverage letters. She routinely holds adversaries accountable for their indemnification obligations. Further, Suma appreciates the importance of business relationships between various entities and analyzing the strength of pursuing risk transfer.

### **Appellate**

Suma is experienced in appellate practice, having successfully briefed and argued the appeals of lower courts' denial of motions to achieve affirmance and summary judgment.

### **Education**

- Pace University School of Law (J.D., 2001)
- University of Toronto (B.A., 1998)
  - Honours

### **Bar Admissions**

- New York
- Massachusetts

### **Awards & Honors**

Selected for inclusion in *The Best Lawyers in America® Ones to Watch™*, 2026

## **Client Wins**

### **Perez and Thomas Win Summary Judgment as Contractual Obligation Did Not Give Rise to Tort Liability**

Raymond Perez (Partner-White Plains, NY) and Suma Thomas (Of Counsel-White Plains, NY) obtained summary judgment in a case in which a welder sought recovery for personal injuries sustained when a piece of hot metal fell and burned through work pants provided by our client, a uniform supplier. Ray and Suma moved for summary judgment on the grounds that the client had no duty to the welder, whose non-party employer ordered uniforms that were not fire retardant. The court agreed that the employer, not the uniform supplier, was in the best position to know the type of uniform required. The supplier's duty

was based solely on its contractual relationship with the employer. The supplier did not owe the welder a duty to recommend a fire retardant uniform absent a request.