



## Thomas W. Tobin

Senior Counsel

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Tom Tobin is a seasoned trial lawyer focusing on complex commercial transportation and product liability matters, and is one of the country's most experienced attorneys assisting companies and public authorities with National Transportation Safety Board investigations of transportation calamities.

During his more than 30-year career at the firm, Tom has defended transportation providers and manufacturers, as well as pipeline operators, in the aviation, rail, marine, and on-road and off-road motorized vehicle industries. Tom has tried or been involved in lawsuits filed in more than a dozen states and has defended clients in nearly every state. He coordinates clients' defenses of generic claims and "pattern litigation" around the country. He also consults with international manufacturers and distributors on product safety and containment of product liability exposure. It was Tom's work for transportation industry clients that led to his involvement more than a dozen years ago in NTSB investigations of train, plane, boat, truck and bus accidents, in addition to pipeline explosions. Since then, Tom has represented clients in more than 30 major NTSB investigations involving more than 100 fatalities and literally thousands of serious injuries. He is widely published and a frequent lecturer on NTSB issues and has participated as an instructor in the NTSB's "GC 101" course.

Tom's legal practice is enhanced by the technical insight and perspective he gained through his previous work as a mechanical engineer at Union Carbide Corporation. In the product liability context, Tom's appreciation for the balanced decision-making process that engineers employ when designing and developing products and processes enables him to effectively defend clients' design strategies and refute alternate designs presented by opposing counsel. Tom further applies his technical background in the area of e-discovery. As the founding chair of Wilson Elser's e-Discovery practice, Tom has substantial experience managing e-discovery projects, from directing preservation of electronically stored information to coordinating document review and production.

### Services

- Asia
- Aviation & Aerospace
- Canada
- Commercial Contracts & Agreements
- Commercial Litigation
- Cybersecurity & Data Privacy
- e-Discovery
- Germany
- Intellectual Property & Technology
- Product Liability, Prevention & Government Compliance
- Railroad
- Transportation

Early in his career, Tom was the founding partner of a firm office in Tokyo, Japan. At that time, he was registered with the Japanese Ministry of Justice as the 25th *Gaikokuho Jimu Bengoshi* (foreign law solicitor). He has lectured extensively on product liability prevention and commercial litigation in the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, Europe, Japan, Korea, the People's Republic of China and Taiwan.

Tom is an active member of several of our firm's practice teams, including those in the area of transportation, rail, product liability, e-discovery and information governance.

## **Education**

- Pace University School of Law (J.D., 1980)
  - cum laude
- University of Illinois College of Engineering (B.S.G.E., 1976)

## **Bar Admissions**

- New York
- U.S. Patent & Trademark Office

## **Court Admissions**

- Supreme Court of the United States
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Second Circuit
- U.S. District Court, Southern District of New York
- U.S. District Court, Eastern District of New York
- U.S. District Court, Western District of New York
- U.S. District Court, Northern District of New York

## **Professional Affiliations**

- American Bar Association
- Defense Research Institute (DRI)
- Transportation Lawyers Association
- National Association of Railroad Trial Counsel (NARTC): member, Executive Committee
- Society of Automobile Engineers
- American Boat & Yacht Council
- American Short Line & Regional Railroad Association (ASLRRA)
- Japanese Bar Association (Nichibenren), October 1987-December 1990
- First Tokyo Bar Association, October 1987-December 1990

## **Awards & Honors**

- Selected for inclusion in *The Best Lawyers in America*®, 2024-2026
- Ranked in the Chambers USA Guide: 2016, 2021–2025, Transportation – Nationwide: NTSB Specialists
- AV® Preeminent™ Rated by Martindale-Hubbell
- Selected as one of *The Best Lawyers in America*® in the Railroad Law area, 2015-2021, 2023

## Publications

July 28, 2021

**Westlaw Today Publishes Tobin and Braude Article on Recent 5th Circuit Ruling Addressing NTSB Communications**

*Westlaw Today*

February 3, 2021

**Factual Phase of NTSB Investigations**

*International Law Office / Shipping & Transport – USA*

January 27, 2021

**Anticipating NTSB Investigations – How Best to Prepare**

*International Law Office / Shipping & Transport – USA*

September 25, 2020

**Guide to NTSB Investigations**