



Thomas P. Bernier
Partner

410.783.7004 Main 410.783.7221 Facsimile

Baltimore, MD [Email](#)

Assistant(s): Mallie J. Cookus

Thomas P. Bernier - Background

Biography

Thomas Bernier is a partner and trial attorney in DeHay & Elliston's Toxic Tort and Environmental Practice Groups and serves as the firm's National Legionnaires' Disease Litigation Coordinating Counsel. He is certified as a water safety and management specialist by American Society of Sanitary Engineers (ASSE) and is the first and likely only attorney in the country defending Legionnaires' disease claims holding this certification. With more than three decades of experience successfully defending complex and high-profile civil and criminal cases in the state and federal courts throughout Maryland and Washington, D.C., and in other parts of the country, he focuses his civil practice on the defense of toxic tort actions against companies in a wide range of industries, with particular concentration on claims alleging exposure to Legionella, asbestos, lead paint, carbon monoxide, and mold. Tom also has extensive experience defending personal injury, premises liability, and product liability. He is a frequent author and presenter on personal injury defense and other topics in his areas of concentration.

Further demonstrating his trial prowess and litigation capabilities, Tom has litigated hundreds of serious criminal cases over the past 30-plus years, including two capital cases. He is the author of *Defending Allegations of Sexual Child Abuse in Maryland*, an original treatise published in 2004 that highlights a subspecialty of his criminal practice and is used by the District Court of Maryland in the training of District Court Commissioners. Tom has been asked to testify before the House and Senate Judiciary Committees of the Maryland General Assembly on matters of criminal law and evidence, and he has counseled the writing staff of NBC's *Law and Order: Special Victims Unit* on the perspective of a defense attorney in a sex crimes case and on technical accuracy of potential script ideas.

Working *pro bono* on the ABA "Death Penalty Project," Tom obtained a life-without-parole verdict in death penalty resentencing jury trial in Miller County, Arkansas as part of a three-lawyer defense team.

Honors

Martindale-Hubbell Peer Judicial and Review Rating: AV Preeminent; Top-Rated Lawyer in Mass Torts (2014-16) and Insurance Law (2014-16)

Best Lawyers in America

- Lawyer of the Year (Baltimore), 2018, 2020
- Product Liability Litigation - Defendants, 2016-22
- Insurance Litigation, 2016-22

Expert Network Distinguished® Lawyer

Top 100 Trial Lawyers in Maryland, American Academy of Trial Attorneys
Maryland Super Lawyers, 2014-22

Selected for Rue Ratings' "Best Attorneys of America"

Top 100 Litigation Lawyers in Maryland, American Society of Legal Advocates

Admissions

Bar Admissions

Maryland
District of Columbia

U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland
U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia
U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit

University of Baltimore School of Law, J.D.,
University of Notre Dame, B.A.,

Professional Associations & Memberships

Legal Associations

Defense Research Institute
Maryland Defense Counsel, Inc.

Practices

Toxic Torts