GOLDBERGSEGALLA



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Raleigh

PRACTICES

Commercial Litigation and Arbitration

Construction Litigation and Counsel

Civil Litigation and Trial

Employment and Labor

INDUSTRIES

Construction

Municipalities and Public Entities

Thomas More Buckley

PARTNER

EXPERIENCE

A trial-tested commercial litigator, Thomas More Buckley has more than 35 years of experience representing businesses, professionals, and insurers in high-stakes disputes. His practice encompasses unfair and deceptive trade practice matters, professional liability actions, catastrophic personal injury and wrongful death claims, employment disputes, and complex business and contract litigation, including matters involving business dissolution. Tom has successfully defended clients in professional liability and licensing board proceedings involving insurance carriers, architects, engineers, real estate brokers, dental practitioners, pharmacists, and other professionals. He also serves as vice chair of Goldberg Segalla's Construction Litigation and Counsel practice, representing businesses in construction and design defect disputes as well as claims arising from construction-related injuries and fatalities.

Drawing on decades of litigation experience and a deep understanding of business operations across a wide range of industries, Tom is a trusted advisor to companies and professional practitioners. He counsels clients on matters including business formation, contract drafting and negotiation, risk management strategies, safety programs, and employee handbook development. In addition, he is certified as a mediator by the North Carolina Dispute Resolution Commission.

Tom has held multiple leadership roles in the International Association of Defense Counsel (IADC) and is currently chair of Continuing Legal Education for the organization's 2027 Annual Meeting. Widely respected by clients, colleagues, and industry leaders, Tom holds an AV Preeminent® rating from Martindale-Hubbell and is recognized by The Best Lawyers in America in six important areas of law: Commercial Litigation, Insurance Law, Litigation – Construction, Personal Injury Litigation – Defendants, Professional Malpractice Law – Defendants, and Litigation – Labor and Employment.

EXPERIENCE HIGHLIGHTS

Representative Matters

- *Goins v. Time Warner Cable*, North Carolina Court of Appeals (2018): The court granted a new trial on the grounds that sudden emergency instruction was improperly given.
- *Lancaster v. Harold K. Jordan and Company, Inc.*, 776 SE2d 345 (2015): The court upheld summary judgment by the North Carolina Business Court on the grounds of collateral estoppel, holding that the Lancasters were bound by prior arbitration findings because they controlled the litigation, maintained a financial stake in its outcome, and had notice of it.
- *Cantillana v. Five Oaks Homeowners Association* (2012): The court upheld a 12(b)(6) motion to dismiss a complaint by a homeowner that sought injunctive relief preventing the association from imposing fines for failure to comply with architectural guidelines. The court found that the trial court was correct in dismissing the action, given that the association's guidelines provided the requisite authority to impose fines to enforce those guidelines.
- *Harris v. Barefoot*, 704 SE2d 282 (2010): The court upheld summary judgment in a dog bite case on the grounds that the plaintiffs had failed to project evidence that the dog had a vicious propensity, and further that the defendant had reason to know of a vicious propensity. The court noted that the plaintiff's attempt to establish a vicious propensity of the breed based on a Wikipedia article was not persuasive.

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- *Haynes v. B&B Realty Group*, 663 SE2d 691 (2006): The court upheld summary judgment of claims of a profit sharing agreement breach and unfair trade practice. The court held that because the profit sharing had not vested at the time of the relationship's termination, there was no breach of contract, and further that the plaintiff's past services for the company could not constitute legal consideration for any transfer of ownership.

HONORS & AWARDS

- Martindale-Hubbell Peer Review Rating: AV Preeminent
- *Best Lawyers in America*
  - Commercial Litigation, 2013–27
  - Insurance Law, 2013–27
  - Litigation – Construction, 2024-27
  - Personal Injury Litigation – Defendants, 2024-27
  - Professional Malpractice Law – Defendants, 2025-27
  - Litigation – Labor and Employment, 2026-27
- North Carolina *Super Lawyers*, 2010–22, 2024-26
- *Business North Carolina* Magazine Legal Elite, 2009–18

BACKGROUND

ADMISSIONS

- North Carolina
- U.S. District Courts for the Eastern and Middle Districts of North Carolina

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EDUCATION

- University of California Hastings College of Law, J.D., 1990
- Boston College, B.A. (Political Science and Film Production), 1987

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- International Association of Defense Counsel
  - CLE Program Chair – Annual Meeting, 2026-present
  - Chair, Employment Law Committee, 2023-25
  - Vice-chair for Membership, Construction Law and Litigation Committee, 2020-22
  - New Member Ambassador, 2019-present
  - Chair, Construction Law and Litigation Committee, 2017-18
  - Vice-chair for Publications, Professional Liability Committee, 2017-18
  - Committee Member, Construction Law and Litigation, Employment, Professional Liability, 2013-present
- North Carolina Bar Association
- Wake County Bar Association

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TRAINING AND CERTIFICATIONS

- Mediator, North Carolina Resolution Commission

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- Counsel for Board, Metals Services Center Institute, SE Chapter

PUBLICATIONS & EVENTS

PUBLICATIONS

- Quoted in "Prepare for When OSHA Interviews Employees," *SHRM*, June 2, 2026
- "OSHA Safety and Reporting Guidelines: Changes in Response to the Novel Coronavirus Pandemic and Impact on the Construction Industry," IADC *Construction Law and Litigation Committee Newsletter*, April 2020
- Quoted in "Subcontractor Injuries: Determining Liability and the Responsible Party," *Modern Contractor Solutions*, October 2019
- "Construction Defect Claims in the Concrete Industry: An Overview," *Modern Contractor Solutions*, July 2019 magazine
- "Navigating OSHA's Rules on Silica Dust Exposure," *Modern Contractor Solutions*, January 2019
- "When Eating Crow is the Best Item on the Menu: Stipulating to Liability in Professional Liability Actions" (Co-Author), *IADC Professional Liability Committee Newsletter*, May 2018
- "A Lawyer's Duty to Inform a Client of Errors Made in Representation" (Co-Author), *IADC Professional Liability Committee Newsletter*, May 2018
- "Welcome to the Party: Risk Sharing in Construction Defect Disputes," *Modern Contractor Solutions Magazine*, November 2016
- "OSHA's 'Nudge' On Workplace Safety," *Modern Contractor Solutions Magazine*, March 2016

PRESENTATIONS

- "Life in the Point Cloud: The Use of 3D Scans in Defending Liability Claims," International Association of Defense Counsel Annual Meeting, Quebec, Canada, July 9, 2025
- "Preparing for and Responding to Regulatory Investigations," International Association of Defense Counsel Annual Meeting, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, July 10, 2024
- "The Law Firm of the Future–What Will 'Return to Work ' Look Like?" Moderator, IADC Mid-Year Meeting, Austin, TX, February 2022
- "Preparing a Safety Director for Deposition," Presenter, North Carolina Trucking Association Annual Meeting, Myrtle Beach, SC, September 2021
- "OSHA's at the Door–Now What? OSHA Investigation Overview for Employment Lawyers," Presenter, NCADA 2020 Winter Workshop, Durham, NC, January 31, 2020
- "Employment Claims: How Recent Supreme Court Decisions and EEOC Enforcement Trends Can Impact Employers," NCPRIMA Annual Educational Conference, Wrightsville Beach, NC, September 10, 2019

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- "Liability for Injuries for a Subcontractor's Employee," IADC Mid-year Meeting, Asheville, NC, July 2019
- "Navigating Construction Delay Claims," IADC, 2018
- "Reptile Trial Tactics," ADTA, 2017
- "New ABA Ethical Guidelines on Diversity in the Courtroom," ADTA, 2017
- "Pre-judgment Issues in Construction Litigation," IADC, 2017

WEBINARS

- "Holiday Classics and Employment Law: Lessons Learned," (Co-Presenter), GS Webinar Series, December 3, 2025
- "CD in 3D: Defending Construction Defect Cases Using 3D Point Cloud Scanning," (Co-Presenter), GS Webinar Series, August 27, 2025
- "Holiday Classics and Employment Law: Lessons Learned," International Association of Defense Counsel, December 18, 2024
- "OSHA and COVID-19: Enforcement Update, Exposure Control Plans, and PPE," Co-Presenter, GS Webinar Series, August 20, 2020
  "OSHA'S Response to COVID-19," Presenter, American Association of Safety Professionals, July 2020