



Thomas H. Fusonie

PARTNER

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Practice Areas

Appellate Practice

Employment Litigation

Labor and Employment

Land Use, Zoning, Real Property
and Eminent Domain

Litigation and Appeals

Professional Liability and
Discipline

Trusts, Estates and Wealth
Transfer

Education

Vanderbilt University Law School,
J.D., 2001

*Vanderbilt Journal of
Transnational Law*, Student

Tom is a partner and a member of the litigation practice group. His practice is focused in oil and gas litigation, eminent domain litigation, constitutional rights, fiduciary litigation, employment litigation, real property and commercial disputes. Tom also has extensive experience before the Supreme Court of Ohio with extraordinary writs of mandamus and prohibition, having successfully obtained writs or other remedies from the Supreme Court of Ohio on numerous occasions.

Career highlights include:

- Jury verdict in eminent domain proceeding involving flooding of farmland in favor of landowner clients four times the original offer from the condemnor and obtained affirmance of jury verdict at the Court of Appeals
- Obtaining on behalf of a family farm a federal court order invalidating Toledo's Lake Erie Bill of Rights as unconstitutional on its face
- Obtaining affirmance from U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit of judgment in putative class action dismissing lawsuit seeking to invalidate oil and gas leases
- Obtaining a writ of mandamus against the Director of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources vindicating Ohio farmers' constitutional just compensation and property rights against the Director's ongoing violation of the same
- Obtaining a writ of mandamus against the Director of the Ohio Department of Transportation vindicating a Wendy's franchise's constitutional just compensation and property rights against the Director's ongoing violation of the same
- Maximizing compensation for landowner clients in various Ohio eminent domain lawsuits involving pipelines, transmission lines, road projects, bike paths and government flooding
- Jury verdict in favor of employer against former employees in a case involving misappropriation of trade secrets, breach of duty of loyalty and breach of non-compete agreement

Writing Editor, 1999-2001

Hamilton College, B.A., *magna cum laude*, 1998

Bar & Court Admissions

Ohio

Pennsylvania

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit

U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Ohio

U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Ohio

U.S. Supreme Court

Admitted to practice law only in the states listed above.

Industries

Agriculture

Energy, Utilities, Oil and Gas

- Vindicating farmers' First Amendment rights by pursuing Section 1983 First Amendment retaliation claim against Director of an Ohio state agency
- Briefing and arguing cases before U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit, Supreme Court of Ohio and the Ohio Court of Appeals
- Obtaining dismissals of lawsuits to void or terminate oil and gas leases
- Obtaining for a landowner a unanimous stay ruling from Supreme Court stopping a trial court judge from holding proceedings in violation of Ohio's Eminent Domain statute
- Obtaining temporary restraining orders and preliminary injunctions on behalf of companies seeking to protect their businesses from unfair competition
- Jury verdict in eminent domain proceeding involving land for a recreational trail of river frontage, farmland and development land in favor of the landowner client over five times the offer from the condemnor
- Maximizing compensation for commercial, industrial and residential properties involved in eminent domain with Pennsylvania Department of Transportation and Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission throughout Pennsylvania
- Representing various parties in claims involving estates or trusts
- Representing charitable remainder beneficiaries concerning the misappropriation of trust assets and concealment of same by a fiduciary for a charitable remainder trust
- Obtaining dismissals of employment discrimination cases in state and federal courts

Tom received his J.D. from Vanderbilt University Law School where he served as the student writing editor of the *Vanderbilt Journal of Transnational Law*. He received his B.A. *magna cum laude* from Hamilton College.

Events

Speaking Engagement, 4.10.2025

Southeastern Ohio Oil & Gas Association Spring Membership Meeting

May 17-18, 2018

Eminent Domain Conference

3.9.2018

Ohio Oil & Gas Association Winter Meeting 2018

5.14.2015

Shale Drilling Disputes and Litigation Seminar

