



Joseph P. Thomas

Of Counsel

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Cincinnati - 513.698.5004

Joe is one of the nation's leading advocates in class-action, multi-district, and mass-tort litigation involving drugs and medical devices. He has served as national defense counsel in numerous high-impact mass tort litigations, including those involving fen/phen, ephedra, ADHD medications, hormone replacement therapy, fentanyl patches, propoxyphene, isotretinoin, metoclopramide, antidepressants, oral contraceptives, and the New England Compounding Pharmacy, among others.

In the 1990s, he conceived the legal argument for holding makers of generic pharmaceuticals immune from failure-to-warn suits on a preemption theory ultimately recognized by the Supreme Court in the landmark *PLIVA Inc. v. Mensing* litigation, in which Joe represented PLIVA. His tireless advocacy on that issue "transformed the landscape of litigation against the pharmaceutical industry," *The American Lawyers* aid in the course of naming Joe its Appellate Litigator of the Week, and is characteristic of his pioneering work for pharmaceutical interests.

Joe's unique background – as a licensed pharmacist, a member of the patent bar, an author of peer-reviewed scientific literature, and clinical researcher – gives him a deep understanding of the science behind his clients' work. Together with his litigation skills, it has won him consistent recognition from clients and peers, including being named annually to *The Best Lawyers in America*, as a "State Litigation Star" in Ohio by *Benchmark Litigation*, and previous designations such as MEDMARC's Defense Attorney of the Year and *Best Lawyers*® Product Liability Litigation – Defendants "Lawyer of the Year" in Cincinnati.

Education

- Washington State University (B. Pharm, 1980)
- University of Cincinnati (Pharm. D., 1982)
- Salmon P. Chase College of Law, Northern Kentucky University (J.D., *cum laude*, 1988)

Bar Admissions

- Ohio
- Kentucky

Practices & Industries

- Life Sciences
- Pharmaceutical and Medical Device Litigation
- Product Liability
- Class Actions
- Toxic Tort and Environmental Litigation
- Litigation & Dispute Resolution
- Intellectual Property & Technology
- Product Liability Litigation – Manufactured Products & Consumer Goods
- Life Sciences Industry

- New Jersey
- U.S. Supreme Court
- U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
- U.S. Court of Appeals, First Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Second Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Third Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Fourth Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Fifth Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Sixth Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Seventh Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Eighth Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Tenth Circuit
- U.S. District Court, Southern District of New York
- U.S. District Court, Western District of New York
- U.S. District Court, District of New Jersey
- U.S. District Court, Southern District of Ohio
- U.S. District Court, Northern District of Ohio
- U.S. District Court, Northern District of Illinois
- U.S. District Court, Southern District of Indiana
- U.S. District Court, Western District of Kentucky
- U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Kentucky
- U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Michigan
- U.S. District Court, District of North Dakota
- U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Texas
- U.S. District Court, Southern District of Texas
- U.S. District Court, Northern District of Texas
- U.S. District Court, Northern District of Florida

Professional Affiliations

- American Bar Association
- Cincinnati Bar Association
- New Jersey State Bar Association
- International Association of Defense Counsel
- Defense Research Institute
- Fellow, American Society for Pharmacy Law
- Drug and Medical Device Subcommittee of Products Liability and Toxic Torts Committee (Chairman 1992)

Awards & Honors

- Received the Lifetime Achievement Award, Chase Alumni Association of the Salmon P. Chase College of Law at Northern Kentucky University (2018)
- Named a "Litigation Star" in Ohio by *Benchmark Litigation* (2015-2026)
- Named to the Ohio Super Lawyers list (2004-2023, 2025; 2026)
- Named to *The Best Lawyers in America*®, Product Liability Litigation – Defendants; Commercial Litigation (2007-2026); Litigation – Antitrust; Litigation – Regulatory Enforcement (SEC, Telecom, Energy) (2007-2025)
- Named a Cincy Leading Lawyer in Biotech in a survey of lawyers by *Cincy Magazine* (2007-2024)
- Who's Who Legal: Life Sciences 2019 – Product Liability
- Designated *Best Lawyers* Product Liability Litigation – Defendants "Lawyer of the Year" in Cincinnati (2013)
- *National Law Journal's* Supreme Court Insider: Appellate Lawyer of the Week: 7/27/11
- Defense Attorney of the Year, Medmarc Insurance Group (1996)

Experience

- National counsel in fen/phen, antidepressant suicidality, antidepressant birth defect, ephedra, hormone replacement therapy, metoclopramide, propoxyphene, fentanyl patch, Ocella oral contraceptive, ADHD, and other litigations.
- Extensive experience in the areas of toxic tort defense, drug and medical device litigation, and product liability defense.
- Extensive experience in class action and mass tort litigation involving drugs and medical devices.

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- Chief, Inpatient Pharmacy, Cincinnati VA Medical Center (1982-1988)
- Adjunct Assistant Professor of Clinical Pharmacy, University of Cincinnati (1982-1988)
- Member, Veterans Administration Research and Development Committee (1986-1988)
- Member, Institutional Review Board, University of Cincinnati, College of Medicine (1987-1988)
- Pharmacology Instructor, University of Cincinnati, College of Nursing and Health (1982-1984)
- Residency Training Program, Cincinnati VA Medical Center (1980-1982)
- Instructor, College of Pharmacy, Washington State University (1980)
- Registered Pharmacist

News & Media

October 30, 2025

UB Greensfelder and Attorneys Receive Honors in Illinois, Missouri, and Ohio in 2026 Edition of Benchmark Litigation Guide

August 21, 2025

UB Greensfelder Attorneys Recognized in The Best Lawyers in America® 2026 List

December 17, 2024

Ohio Super Lawyers Recognizes 57 UB Greensfelder Attorneys in 2025

October 9, 2024

UB Greensfelder and Attorneys Receive Honors in Illinois, Missouri, and Ohio in 2025 Edition of Benchmark Litigation Guide

August 15, 2024

UB Greensfelder Attorneys Recognized in The Best Lawyers in America® 2025 List

December 29, 2023

Ohio Super Lawyers Recognizes 50 Ulmer Attorneys in 2024 Lists

October 12, 2023

Benchmark Litigation Honors Ulmer Litigation and Employment Partners in 2024 Reports

August 17, 2023

Ulmer Attorneys Recognized in The Best Lawyers in America® 2024 Report

January 6, 2023

Ohio Super Lawyers Recognizes 69 Ulmer Attorneys in 2023 Lists

October 5, 2022

Benchmark Litigation Honors Several Ulmer Partners in 2023 Reports

August 18, 2022

Ulmer Attorneys Recognized in The Best Lawyers in America® 2023 Report

January 4, 2022

Ohio Super Lawyers Recognizes Ulmer Attorneys in 2022 Lists

October 5, 2021

Benchmark Litigation Honors Several Ulmer Partners in Latest Reports