



## Thomas H. Segars

*Partner*

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Tom Segars litigates complex business disputes. He represents both plaintiffs and defendants from many different industries in a wide variety of business cases.

Tom understands the importance of learning early in every engagement what his clients realistically hope to achieve. Tom recognizes that litigation is often a useful means to an end, but rarely a core business strategy for his clients. He believes that litigators must not lose sight of their clients' broader business goals, and he assists clients in developing litigation strategies that are consistent with their overall objectives. He helps his clients evaluate and pursue any opportunities to minimize legal expenses while reaching favorable business outcomes.

When resort to the litigation process is necessary, however, Tom has the experience to help clients successfully navigate all stages of litigation, including trial. Tom has had primary responsibility for conducting pleading, discovery, and pre-trial motion practice in more than 100 federal and state court matters. He has extensive arbitration, jury trial, and bench trial experience, and has also handled appeals in state and federal courts.

A significant portion of Tom's cases arise from the departure and subsequent competition of key employees, officers, business partners, and/or sellers of businesses. He has litigated many so called "departing employee" cases that involve bids for emergency injunctive relief; expedited forensic discovery; covenants not to compete or solicit; tortious interference claims; fiduciary duty claims; and unfair and deceptive trade practice claims. Through these experiences, Tom has become familiar with the law and strategic considerations that frequently come into play in this context.

Tom graduated from Wake Forest University (B.A., *magna cum laude*, 1997) and the University of North Carolina School of Law (J.D., with *High Honors, Order of the Coif*, 2000). During 2001 and 2002, he served as a law clerk to the Honorable Jane R. Roth of the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit.

When he is not practicing law, Tom enjoys spending his time with his wife and two daughters, especially when they are travelling, camping, or hiking together. He loves to watch his daughters pursue their gifts and passions: violin, ballet, and competitive rock-climbing. Tom and his family are also active parishioners at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church in Raleigh.

Tom credits his mother, an entrepreneur and business consultant, with sparking his interest in the law. After witnessing how valuable good legal counsel can be for a small-business owner like his mother, Tom knew that he wanted to serve others as a lawyer.

## Practice Areas

- Complex Commercial and Business Litigation
- Construction Litigation
- Intellectual Property Litigation
- Securities Litigation
- Tort Trial and Insurance Practice
- Trial and Litigation
- Appeals