

Thomas L. Johnson

Principal



Direct: 612.632.3207
thomas.johnson@gpmlaw.com

Minneapolis, MN

80 South 8th Street
500 IDS Center
Minneapolis, MN 55402
Phone: 612.632.3000
Fax: 612.632.4444

Industries

- Health Care

Practices

- Complex Investigations
- Business Litigation
- Investigations & White Collar Defense
- Environmental Law & Land Use Management
- Government Relations
- Real Estate Litigation
- Health Law
- Health Care Regulatory Counseling
- Nonprofit & Tax-Exempt Organizations
- Litigation

Education

- London School of Economics, LL.M., with distinction, 1992
- University of Minnesota Law School, J.D., 1970
- University of Minnesota, with honors, 1967, Bachelor of Physics

Tom Johnson practices in the areas of internal investigations, regulatory and legislative affairs, and environmental and land use law. He represents a variety of public and private clients in matters involving local, state, and federal government activities. Tom was the Hennepin County Attorney from 1979-1991 and served on the Minneapolis City Council from 1973-1977.

He lectures frequently on legislative, regulatory, investigative, and environmental issues and has published numerous articles for both legal and business audiences. He has provided counsel in many high-profile matters, including investigations of higher education institutions and the environmental review of the Minnesota Gopher football stadium and Minnesota Twins' baseball stadium. He regularly assists developer and landowner clients in land use issues, particularly relating to environmental remediation, project financing, and development agreements.

Tom has been an adjunct professor at the University of St. Thomas Law School. He has also served on the board of directors for many state and national organizations and has been the recipient of numerous awards including the Environmental Protection Agency's Environmental Quality Award, the President's Award from the National District Attorney's Association, the Minnesota State Bar Association's Professional Excellence Award, and the Attorney Professionalism Award from the Hennepin County Bar Association. Most recently, he was awarded the Attorney of the Year/Circle of Excellence Award from Minnesota Lawyer.

Professional Strengths

Tom brings three strengths to his client representation. First, he has a vast knowledge of litigation and investigative strategies, public policy issues, and political solutions gained from his 16 years in public office, including 12 years as the elected prosecutor for Hennepin County. Second, Tom has a creative, problem-solving mind that often allows him to quickly find solutions to legal problems at less cost to his clients. Finally, Tom is widely respected for his professionalism and personal integrity.

Honors / Activities

Professional Activities

- Minnesota State Bar Association
- Hennepin County Bar Association
- Volunteer Lawyers Network, benefactors board member
- Minnesota Justice Research Center, founder, board member, and past chair
- Bench and Bar Committee, HCBA, former chair and committee member
- Environmental Law Committee, HCBA, former chair and committee member

Honors and Distinctions

- Attorney of the Year/Circle of Excellence Award, Minnesota Lawyer, 2019
- Customer Service Award, Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee, 2019
- Community Leadership Award, Hennepin County Attorney, 2015
- Attorney Professionalism Award, Hennepin County Bar Association, 2015
- “North Star Lawyers,” Minnesota State Bar Association, 2012, 2014-2018
- CornerHouse Sweetheart for Kids Award, 2009
- Outstanding Service to the Profession, Minnesota Lawyer, 2008
- Council on Crime and Justice Equal Justice Award, 2008
- Minnesota Association of Black Lawyers (MABL) Profiles in Courage Award, 2008
- Environmental Protection Agency’s Environmental Quality Award
- The President’s Award from the National District Attorney’s Association
- Minnesota State Bar Association’s Professional Excellence Award

Community Involvement

- Klobuchar for Minnesota 2018 LLC, President and board member, 2012 to present
- Volunteer Ombudsperson for Clerical Sexual Abuse within the St. Paul/Minneapolis Archdiocese, 2017 to present
- University of Minnesota Institutional Conflict Review Panel, member
- Minneapolis Riverfront Partnership, past board member and chair
- Project Innocence, founder and past board member
- WATCH, past advisory board member
- Council on Crime and Justice, past president
- Advisory Committee for Minnesota U.S. Attorney, past member
- Minnesota Federal District Court Judicial Selection Committee, past member
- Illusion Theater, past board member
- CornerHouse, founder, past board member and chair
- Advocates for Human Rights, founder, past board member and chair
- Marcy Holmes Neighborhood Association, member
- Advisor to numerous political candidates and campaigns at the local, state, and federal level