



Partner

Mailing Address

Thomas, Thomas & Hafer LLP
P.O. Box 1275
Harrisburg, PA 17001

Contact

pspeaker@tthlaw.com
717.255.7644 phone
717.237.7105 fax

Pete began his career as a trial lawyer as a Deputy Attorney General in the Torts Litigation Unit of the Pennsylvania Attorney General's Office, where he defended state agencies and employees in personal injury cases.

A native of central Pennsylvania, Pete joined the firm in 1986 and focuses his practice on the defense of personal injury cases and representation of insurers in UM/UIM, first-party benefits ("PIP"), coverage and bad faith litigation.

Pete served as President of the Pennsylvania Defense Institute (PDI) for 2013-2014 and is a member of the Claims Committee of the Pennsylvania Association of Mutual Insurance Companies (PAMIC).

Cases that reflect Pete's success in representing insurers include the following:

- Pennsylvania National v. Black, 916 A.2d 569 (Pa. 2007) (Supreme Court holds that UIM set off for amounts payable under liability coverage is valid).
- Paden v. Baker Concrete Construction, 658 A.2d 341 (Pa. 1995) (Supreme Court affirms dismissal of defendant based on defective joinder).
- Donegal Mutual v. Long, 597 A.2d 1124 (Pa. 1991) (Supreme Court holds that excess insurer is not required to "drop down" where primary insurer went insolvent).
- Cont'l Cas. Co. v. Pa. Nat'l Mut. Cas. Ins. Co., 525 F.Supp.3d 562 (E.D. Pa. 2021), *as amended*, 2021 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 239241 (Dec. 14, 2021) (judgment for Penn National, as insurer of employer, in \$8,700,000 equitable subrogation suit, on grounds that driving vehicle does not equate to "borrowing" it, and since employer has right of indemnity from employee who was sole active tortfeasor, there is no obligation to reimburse employee's insurer for settlement of claims against employee and employer).
- McFarland v. Harford Mut. Ins. Cos., 2019 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 124308 (M.D. Pa. 2019) (Bad faith discovery stayed pending resolution of insurance claim).
- Canopus US Insurance v. RN'G Construction, No. 1768 Sept. Term 2013 (Md. Sp. Appeals, August 1, 2016) (Affirming verdict and judgment for Penn National in equitable subrogation case regarding \$8,000,000 settlement, on grounds that crane truck was "mobile equipment" not "auto," and awarding litigation costs to Penn National).

Practice Areas:

Appellate, General Liability, Insurance Coverage & Bad Faith

Education:

Temple University School of Law, J.D., 1985

La Salle University, B.A., maxima cum laude, 1980

Bar Admissions:

Pennsylvania, 1985
U.S. Court of Appeals 3rd Circuit, 1987
Middle District of Pennsylvania, 1987
Eastern District of Pennsylvania, 1998
U.S. Supreme Court, 1990
Western District of Pennsylvania, 2001

Professional Associations and Memberships:

- American Bar Association
- Dauphin County Bar Association
- Federal Bar Association
- Defense Research Institute
- Pennsylvania Defense Institute, Past President
- Pennsylvania Association of Mutual Insurance Companies (PAMIC), Claims Committee

Professional Honors and Awards:

- Super Lawyers
- AV Preeminent Rating by Martindale-Hubbell