

Matthew D. Donovan

Partner

New York City

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Matthew D. Donovan is a business and commercial litigator who resolves complex disputes involving the management and operation of closely-held and family-owned businesses, including disagreements among owners of New York corporations, LLCs, and partnerships. Matt regularly prosecutes and defends derivative claims, as well as corporate dissolution proceedings, appraisal proceedings, and books-and-records proceedings, on behalf of minority and control owners of closely-held businesses. Matt also litigates cases involving commercial real estate and insurance coverage. Matt works closely with forensic accountants, business and real-estate appraisers, and other financial and business professionals to ensure that his clients' interests are protected.

A native of Minnesota, Matt frequently serves as lead and co-counsel for Minnesota-based commercial clients compelled to litigate in the New York metropolitan region, including under contractual forum-selection provisions. Following law school, Matt served as a law clerk for Judges (now retired) Gordon W. Shumaker, Terri J. Stoneburner, and Bruce D. Willis of the Minnesota Court of Appeals.

Matt is a leader within the Commercial Litigation and Business Divorce practice groups. He shares his deep knowledge of law and procedure in these areas by authoring thought-leadership articles and is a regular contributor to Farrell Fritz's blog concerning practice in the New York Commercial Division where he litigates the majority of his cases.

Experience

PRACTICE AREAS

Commercial Litigation

Business Divorce

EDUCATION

University of St. Thomas School of Law
(Minnesota), J.D.

Boston College, M.A.

Marquette University, B.A.

AFFILIATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

New York State Bar Association, Committee on
the Commercial Division, Commercial &
Federal Litigation Section, Member

Westchester County Bar Association, Board of
Directors, Member

Westchester County Bar Association, Business
& Commercial Law Committee, Co-Chair

Association for Family-Held Enterprises,
Member

ADMISSIONS

Bar Admissions

New York

Connecticut

Court Admissions

United States District Court, Eastern District of
New York

United States District Court, Northern District of
New York

United States District Court, Southern District of
New York

United States District Court, District of
Connecticut

United States Supreme Court

- Successfully opposed applications for injunctive relief and obtained pre-answer dismissal of derivative claims by minority member alleging breach of fiduciary duty and contract on behalf of LLC control owner of real estate development project in Long Island City.
- Successfully opposed pre-answer motion to dismiss claim for tortious interference with contract on behalf of industrial-services provider.
- Successfully obtained *Yellowstone* injunctions preventing commercial landlords from terminating commercial leases in Queens and Nassau Counties on behalf of property management company and other commercial tenants.
- Successfully defended former CEO and shareholder of Minnesota-based epigenetic-technology and artificial-intelligence company in dispute with New York investors.
- Obtained directed verdict on behalf of apparel design/manufacturing company in AAA arbitration with minority owners alleging breach of fiduciary duty and contract.
- Obtained favorable post-trial judgment for dissenting shareholder in fair-value appraisal proceeding concerning minority interests in New York real estate holding companies.

Community Work

- Marquette University, Circles & New York Regional Alumni Group, Member
- Celiac Disease Center at Columbia University Medical Center, Benefits Committee
- University of St. Thomas School of Law, Alumni Advisory Board and Annual Giving Committee
- Catholic Lawyers Guild of New York, Member

Recognition

- Super Lawyers, New York Metro, Business Litigation, 2022-23
- Super Lawyers, New York Metro Rising Stars, Business Litigation, 2014-2016
- Martindale Hubbell, AV Preeminent Peer Review Rating