

Background for Thomas J. Lester

Thomas Lester has a diverse business law, school law and litigation practice involving municipal law, school law, commercial lending, commercial litigation, injunctions/special remedies, and debtor-creditor issues.

Tom represents multiple financial institutions in complex commercial lending relationships. He served as a bankruptcy trustee and has represented financial institutions in large workout real estate matters. Tom provides counsel and business advice to business clients including contracts, buy-sell agreements, and other day-to-day business advice. In addition, Tom represents large commercial real estate developers.

Among his municipal entity clients, Tom has a particular focus on representing school districts. He advises on school law issues, finance, and litigation. Tom is also general counsel for two of the busiest general aviation airports in Northern Illinois after O'Hare and Midway.

Tom began representing the Rockford School District in 1996 and works with the Rockford School District to this day. Tom resides in Rockford and has three children, now grown adults, who attended Rockford School District schools in the 1990s.

Tom also assists governmental entities in securing state and federal grants.

Tom was a partner in a national AmLaw 200 law firm where he practiced for over 30 years, until January 1, 2020, when he and several partners left the national firm to form Allen Galluzzo Hevrin Leake where they continue to represent the same clients. AGHL has quickly grown to be the largest law office in Rockford.