

# MAZANEC, RASKIN & RYDER CO., L.P.A.

*attorneys and counsellors at law*

*Celebrating More Than Thirty Years of Excellence*



## **Thomas S. Mazanec**

PARTNER

### **AREAS OF PRACTICE**

Auto & Commercial Trucking

Construction Litigation

Insurance Coverage & Bad Faith

Medical Malpractice

Professional Liability & Licensing

Business Law & Real Estate

General Liability

Liquor Liability

Product Liability

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### **PROFILE**

Tom Mazanec co-founded Mazanec, Raskin & Ryder Co., L.P.A. in 1980 and has played an essential role in establishing many of the firm's present practice specialties. Tom is a partner in the firm, serving as a lead trial attorney in MRR's Cleveland office. Before MRR, Tom worked with Progressive Insurance Company for four years as a claims attorney and senior claims attorney.

Tom is a lifelong Ohio resident and has practiced in all of Ohio's 88 counties. Tom has comprehensive experience and has established an excellent reputation among the attorneys and judges of both small and large counties. Tom has handled cases running the spectrum of legal practice. This includes writing Wills and Trusts, probating estates, filing personal bankruptcies, handling real estate transactions, forming corporations, and handling OVI/DUI defense. Throughout his career, Tom's clients have repeatedly called on him to handle cases with high exposure and complexity.

### **LIQUOR LIABILITY**

Tom has handled liquor liability cases for more than 30 years. He has tried to verdict numerous liquor liability as well as premises liability cases for permit holders.

Across Ohio, Tom has handled more liquor liability cases himself than most defense firms have as a group. He has worked with professionals from alcohol training organizations such as TIPS and lectured at numerous seminars on liquor liability.

### **REAL ESTATE**

Tom has handled real estate cases of all types. He has represented realtors, sellers, buyers, homeowners, homeowners' associations, developers, builders, general contractors and subcontractors in his real estate practice. Tom has a special expertise in construction defects.



Reply to:

**Cleveland**

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Tom's father was a realtor for over 50 years and thus Tom grew up in the real estate industry. He has numerous relationships with those engaged in all aspects of real estate and construction which has proven to be a great benefit to his clients.

### **PRODUCT LIABILITY**

Tom has handled product liability cases for more than 30 years. He has represented manufacturers, sellers and distributors in numerous product categories including recreational equipment and heavy machinery.

Tom's innovative use of demonstrative evidence including digital presentations has enabled him to be extremely persuasive with the juries. Tom's eldest son Drew has been a developer in digital presentations for a leading Cleveland company for a number of years. This relationship gave Tom unique insight into the entire world of computer graphics and demonstrative evidence.

### **DEFENSE OF PROFESSIONALS**

Tom has defended doctors, lawyers, insurance agents, accountants, appraisers, home inspectors and professionals of all types during the past 30 years. Tom's expertise in this field has been developed to the point where he has been asked to serve as an expert witness with regard to the standards of care and duties of attorneys.

### **GENERAL LIABILITY & AUTOMOBILE ACCIDENTS**

Tom has handled automobile and general liability cases throughout his entire legal career. In one case where Tom defended his client from a multimillion dollar exposure, Tom's re-creation, during final argument, of an incident which rendered a plaintiff a paraplegic, as well as his cross-examination and use of plaintiff's own "day in the life" video for his client's defense, resulted in a significant victory.

### **ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION**

Tom is one of the leaders in the State of Ohio in the area of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR). With the high costs of taking a case to trial as well as the uncertainties of jury verdicts, Tom aggressively pursues private mediations on his cases to reduce costs and exposures of his clients. Tom has been highly successful in getting cases mediated and saving his clients from protracted and expensive litigation.

In addition to acting as an advocate, Tom has served as a mediator on numerous occasions. Tom has been appointed by several local judges to serve as an arbitration chairman.

## **COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

Tom, his wife Sandy, and their four sons take seriously their obligation to give back to the community and to those in need. Tom and his family have travelled to New Orleans to assist in the reconstruction of homes damaged by Hurricane Katrina, worked in the inner cities of Cleveland, Chicago and Akron, along with rural areas in Kentucky, with the poor and underprivileged and travelled to foreign countries such as Haiti and India in order to serve the needs of the people of these countries.

## **BAR ADMISSIONS**

- Ohio, 1976
- U.S. District Court Northern District of Ohio, 1980
- U.S. District Court Southern District of Ohio, 1976
- U.S. Court of Appeals 6th Circuit, 1986
- U.S. Supreme Court, 1981

## **EDUCATION**

- Cleveland State University, Cleveland-Marshall College of Law, J.D., 1976
- Xavier University, 1971

## **INDUSTRY RECOGNITION**

- Martindale Hubbell AV Rated

## **PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

- Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association
- Cleveland Association of Civil Trial Attorneys
- Ohio State Bar Association
- Defense Research Institute
- Professional Liability Defense Federation
- Professional Liability Underwriters Society
- Christian Legal Society (Mediator/Arbitrator)
- International Amusement and Leisure Defense Association
- National Retail and Restaurant Defense Association

## **PROFESSIONAL LECTURES AND ARTICLES**

Tom has lectured and authored articles and served as an expert in the following areas of law:

- Nursing Home Abuse
- Ohio's Uninsured and Underinsured motorists
- Use of technology in the courtroom
- Trial tactics
- Jury persuasion – opening and closing arguments

- Proper use of experts at trial
- Insurer's duty to defend
- Defense of lawyers in legal malpractice claims
- Construction defects and how to avoid being sued