

## Christopher P. Thorman

Chris Thorman is a principal with the Thorman Petrov Group where he focuses primarily on discrimination and employee rights litigation, and advising senior executives, managers and physicians in contract and severance negotiations. Over the course of his career, Chris' clients have obtained judgments, settlements and verdicts well in excess of \$100 million.

In 2016, Chris received the Ohio Association of Justice's *Craig T. Spangenberg Distinguished Advocate Award* for his work in representing victims of discrimination and harassment. He has successfully tried age, gender, disability and race discrimination claims, as well as sexual harassment, whistle-blower and retaliation claims. He has won a number of multi-million dollar verdicts including (among others) a \$16 million age discrimination verdict; a \$7.765 million verdict in an age discrimination and unlawful retaliation case; a landmark \$6.7 million award in the arbitration of an age and disability case; and a \$1.88 million verdict in a federal case on behalf of a \$14 an hour municipal employee. He litigates throughout the United States.

Chris represented Michael J. Genaro, Sr., in the case *Genaro v. Central Transport Co., et al.*, in which the Ohio Supreme Court recognized individual liability for discrimination under Ohio Revised Code Section 4112. He served as lead counsel in *Dworning v. City of Euclid, et al.*, in which the Ohio Supreme Court unanimously determined that public employees may forego city civil service commissions and proceed directly to court to pursue their rights not to be discriminated against. He authored the amicus curiae brief in *Oncale v. Sundowner Offshore Services, Inc.*, and represented the plaintiff in *Hampel v. Food Ingredients Specialties, Inc.*, in which the United States Supreme Court and the Ohio Supreme Court held that same-sex sexual harassment violates the law. Mr. Thorman also has served as lead counsel in civil rights and voting rights cases, including litigation that resulted in the extension of voting hours at polls and a declaratory judgment prohibiting Secretary of State Blackwell from barring election observers from polling places.

He was a law clerk to Judge Ann Aldrich of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Ohio, and an associate with the firm Baker & Hostetler. As an Assistant Regional Attorney for the Office for Civil Rights for the U.S. Department of Education, he was instrumental in de-segregating an interscholastic athletic league in suburban Detroit, affecting more than 40,000 public school students. He is admitted to practice before the Ohio and U.S. Supreme Courts, the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit, and the U.S. District Courts for the Northern and Southern Districts of Ohio.

Chris graduated from Kenyon College with High Honors and Distinction in History and holds a Master's degree from Columbia University. He graduated from Case Western Reserve University's law school, *cum laude*, where he served as the Executive Notes Editor on the Law Review. He is a former high school social studies teacher. Chris serves on the Board of Trustees for Public Justice, a national non-profit law firm. He is a Trustee for the Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Foundation, and is a current member of the Executive Board of the Ohio Employment Lawyers Association. Chris is a past Officer of the Employment Rights Section and former member of the Executive Board of the Civil Rights Section of the American Association for Justice. He is a former member of the Board of Directors for the Ohio Environmental Council, a non-profit environmental group. He is listed among the Best Lawyers in America. For more than a decade Chris has been identified by his peers as an Ohio Super Lawyer, and routinely appears in the Top 100 list for Ohio.