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Bradley Thoreson

Partner
Commercial Litigation

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Partner
Litigation



Jeffrey G. Frank

Partner
Commercial Litigation



Bradley W. Hoff

Partner
Commercial Litigation



Ian S. Taylor

Partner
Real Estate Law



Michelle Pham

Partner
Litigation - IP



Midori Sagara

Special Counsel
Product Liability Litigation



Tereza Simonyan

Partner
Corporate Law



Kripa Upadhyay

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Associate General Counsel
Labor and Employment

Kimberly Holdiman

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Grace Jang

Associate
Corporate Law

Chris Lindemeier

Associate
Commercial Litigation

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Real Estate Law

Dakota Pearce

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Insolvency & Financial Law

Alexandra Shulman

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Labor and Employment

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Q&A: Brad Thoreson Named Seattle “Lawyer of the Year” for Real Estate Litigation

Puget Sound Business Journal

Q: Congratulations on being named Best Lawyers’ “Lawyer of the Year” for Real Estate Litigation in the Seattle region.

What does this recognition mean to you?

It was a surprise and honor to receive this recognition, particularly as it comes near the end of almost four decades of practicing real estate litigation. What makes Best Lawyers especially meaningful is that it’s entirely peer-rated and peer-reviewed — it isn’t a pay-to-play list, and lawyers can’t buy their way onto it. Because it’s based on the respect and evaluations of fellow attorneys, it remains one of the most credible honors in the profession. While the award bears my name, it really reflects the mentors who helped shape my career, the talented colleagues I work alongside today, and the clients who have trusted me and my team with some of their most important legal matters.

Q: Can you share a client or matter that reflects the kind of work that earned this recognition?

Over the years I’ve had the privilege of working with many sophisticated national, regional, and local developers — from Blackstone to Holland Partner Group, LBA to Wallace Properties, Wright Runstad & Co. to Madison Development Group, Hines to Vulcan, and many others.

One of the most significant matters of my career involved representing property owners and landlords across the country in COVID-era rent litigation against LA Fitness. The litigation spanned 13 states over five years, and we prevailed in every jurisdiction, including securing favorable decisions from two state supreme courts and the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals. Ultimately, our clients recovered tens of millions of dollars in contested rent, interest, and most of their legal fees.

The matter required coordinating strategy across multiple jurisdictions on behalf of sophisticated owners facing high-stakes, highly complex disputes. It’s also a strong example of how Buchalter’s national platform allowed us serve clients seamlessly across the country although it all started with litigation in Seattle — the outcome reflected not just the legal strategy, but also ended up requiring collaboration and assistance of attorneys



BRAD THORESON

*Buchalter
Partner*

throughout the firm.

Q: You helped launch Buchalter’s Seattle office more than eight years ago. How has the office evolved since then?

When Jeff Frank, Brad Hoff, and I left Foster Pepper — one of the Pacific Northwest’s most respected firms — we did so because our practices increasingly required a larger national platform and broader geographic reach. It was a risk to leave an established firm and brand, but we believed our clients would benefit from a firm with greater capabilities and a stronger national presence, allowing us to handle disputes primarily on the West Coast, while at times reaching the East Coast and Southeast.

That decision has exceeded our expectations. Since opening, the Seattle office has grown more than tenfold and now includes strong practices in corporate M&A, trusts and estates, labor and employment, immigration, mass tort defense, real estate, construction, and insurance policyholder coverage. The growth reflects both the vision of Buchalter’s national leadership led by President and CEO Adam Bass and our ability to attract talented lawyers looking for a collaborative, entrepreneurial environment where they can build thriving practices.

Q: One thing that stands out is the caliber of talent you’ve attracted, including several

women recognized by Best Lawyers or Ones to Watch. What makes you particularly proud of that accomplishment?

One of the things I’m most proud of is core quality of talented women we now have in the Seattle office, mirroring Buchalter offices in other regions. Those lawyers include Kripa Upadhyay, Amanda Hailey, Marissa Alkhazov, Tereza Simonyan, Alexandra Shulman, Michelle Pham, Kimberly Holdiman, Midori Sagara, and Grace Jang, all of whom have earned recognition as Best Lawyers or Best Lawyers “Ones to Watch”.

Their success reflects both the culture we’ve created locally and culture that exists at Buchalter, as a whole. Talented lawyers want to work alongside other talented lawyers, serve sophisticated clients, and have real opportunities for professional growth. Seeing these attorneys build exceptional careers and earn recognition from their peers is incredibly rewarding, and it speaks to the strength of the team we’ve assembled.

Q: What are you seeing in the commercial real estate market right now?

Commercial real estate is navigating a period of significant disruption driven by economic uncertainty, interest rates, tariffs, technological change, and broader geopolitical factors. Companies and property owners are facing difficult decisions as they work through challenges affecting development, leasing, financing, and operations.

This is the fifth major market cycle I’ve experienced, having advised clients through

the savings and loan crisis, the early-2000s technology downturn, the 2008 financial crisis, and the pandemic. Every cycle has its own characteristics, but history suggests markets eventually adapt and stabilize. I believe we’re in a period that will reshape portions of the commercial real estate industry over the next decade — but opportunities will emerge for organizations that remain disciplined, strategic, and patient.

Q: What advice would you give to younger lawyers hoping to build a long-term practice?

First, always be willing to outwork your opponent, but never underestimate them. Preparation and attention to detail remain among the most important advantages a lawyer can have — and so is common sense, which is rarely discussed but every bit as valuable.

Second, find a specialty you genuinely enjoy, both in the work itself and the clients you serve. A legal career is a marathon, and real enthusiasm for your practice area makes an enormous difference over time.

Finally, be patient. Early in my career, I wanted every problem solved immediately. Experience teaches you that most situations call for thoughtful strategy and persistence rather than a quick fix — it’s rarely a last-second, game-winning shot; more often it’s the long game. The combination of hard work, patience, and a genuine commitment to helping clients solve complex problems is what ultimately builds both a successful practice and a rewarding career.



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