

Thomas James

Partner, New York
212.554.1399
thomas.james@blbglaw.com



Tom James, a BLB&G partner, prosecutes corporate governance and fiduciary duty litigation on behalf of the firm's institutional investor clients. He has significant experience prosecuting cases in the Delaware Court of Chancery—the preeminent forum for corporate governance litigation in the United States—and is one of the firm's go-to litigators for cases involving special purpose acquisition companies ("SPACs"). Tom practices out of the firm's New York office.

Since joining the firm in 2020, Tom has been an integral member of the BLB&G teams that prosecuted several notable corporate governance matters. Most recently, he played a key role on that trial team that won one of the largest shareholder verdicts in Delaware Chancery Court history: a \$350 million post-trial opinion in a case challenging Columbia Pipeline's \$13 billion merger with TransCanada. Tom's other significant corporate governance victories include:

- *In re CVR Refining, LP Unitholder Litigation*: Playing a key role in helping BLB&G obtain a \$78.5 million recovery for investors in this class action concerning the unfair squeeze-out of CVR Refining minority unitholders.
- *The Williams Companies Stockholder Litigation*: Playing a pivotal role in BLB&G's successful challenge against a novel and "extreme" poison pill adopted by the board of pipeline giant The Williams Companies.
- *In re AVX Corporation Stockholders Litigation*: Helping to secure a \$49.9 million recovery for stockholders in this litigation concerning a controller squeeze-out transaction.
- *In re Pivotal Software Inc. Stockholders Litigation*: Helping the firm obtain a \$42.5 million recovery for minority stockholders shortly before trial in this class action concerning the controller buy-out of Pivotal Software.
- *Fishel, v. Liberty Media, et al.*: Leading the BLB&G case team that secured a \$36 million recovery in this class and derivative lawsuit challenging a creeping takeover of Sirius by Liberty Media and the extraction of non-ratable benefits from Sirius by Liberty Media.

Tom has also taken the lead in prosecuting BLB&G's portfolio of SPAC-related cases. His experience in this area includes, among other cases:

- *In re Lordstown Motors Corp. Stockholders Litigation*: Under Tom's leadership, BLB&G prosecuted a class action challenging the 2020 merger between SPAC DiamondPeak Holdings Corp. and Lordstown Motors Corp. and secured a \$15.5 million recovery for DiamondPeak's public stockholders.

- *Jesse Newbold v. Craig McCaw, et al.*: Under Tom's leadership, BLB&G prosecuted a class action challenging the 2021 merger between SPAC Holicity and Astra Space, a satellite launch services company, and secured at \$16.5 million recovery for Holicity's public stockholders.

Tom is also a frequent speaker and guest lecturer, having taught classes at Boston College Law School, Harvard Law School, and Villanova Law School concerning issues in corporate law and M&A.

Before joining the firm, Tom was a securities litigation associate at Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP, where he represented clients in corporate governance, appraisal, and securities actions. Before joining Weil, Tom clerked for Vice Chancellor J. Travis Laster of the Delaware Court of Chancery. Tom received his J.D., *cum laude*, from Boston College Law School, where he served as Senior Editor of the *Boston College Law Review*.

Education

- Boston College Law School, 2014, J.D., *cum laude*, Senior Editor, *Boston College Law Review*
- Hamilton College, 2011, B.A.

Admissions

- New York
- United States District Court for the Southern District of New York
- United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York

News

- January 24, 2024 - BLB&G Announces Elevation of Three Partners and One Senior Counsel
- July 3, 2023 - BLB&G Secures Significant Post-Trial Victory for Former Stockholders of Columbia Pipeline
- February 1, 2023 - BLB&G Announces Elevation of Two Senior Counsel
- November 7, 2021 - Delaware Justices Affirm BLB&G's Post-Trial Win in *Williams*, Establishing Critical Delaware Legal Precedent on Poison Pills
- January 13, 2021 - Press Coverage: *Williams Companies Stockholder Litigation* Trial Challenging Novel Anti-Shareholder Corporate Governance Provision

Publications

- February 26, 2025 - Andrew Blumberg, Tom James, and Benjamin Potts Debunk a Common Myth of Delaware Common Law in the *Harvard Law School Forum on Corporate Governance*
- November 25, 2020 - "Acting-in-Concert Poison Pills: This Pill Comes With a Silencer" by Gregory V. Varallo and Thomas James published by *The New York Law Journal*

Awards

- March 10, 2025 - BLB&G Named 2025 Plaintiff Firm of the Year and Impact Case Award Recipient by *Benchmark Litigation*
- October 24, 2024 - BLB&G Partners and Associates Recognized as Leading Attorneys by *Super Lawyers*

- August 14, 2024 - Five BLB&G Partners Named to *Benchmark Litigation's* “40 & Under” List
- June 28, 2024 - Seven BLB&G Partners Named to 2024 “Lawdragon 500 X – The Next Generation” List
- June 17, 2024 - BLB&G Achieves Tier 1 Status in *Legal 500 USA* Practice Area Rankings
- May 24, 2024 - All 24 BLB&G Partners Named to *Lawdragon's* “500 Leading Plaintiff Financial Lawyers” List

Events

- April 21, 2025 - Catherine van Kampen, Jim Harrod, and Tom James to Speak at the ABA 2025 ILS Annual Conference
- February 28, 2025 - BLB&G Partner Tom James Speaks at the 41st Annual Federal Securities Institute and M&A Conference
- November 20, 2024 - BLB&G Partners Christopher Orrico and Tom James to Speak at Villanova School of Law
- November 8, 2023 - BLB&G Senior Counsel Thomas James to Teach “Mergers and Acquisitions” Class at Boston College Law School
- October 4, 2023 - BLB&G Partner Jeroen van Kwawegen and Senior Counsel Thomas James Teach “M&A Litigation” Class at Harvard Law School
- March 15, 2023 - BLB&G Partner Christopher Orrico and Senior Counsel Thomas James Teaches Seminar at Villanova University Charles Widger School of Law