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Morgan Lewis Adds Ex-IRS Special Counsel As DC Partner

By **Jack Rodgers**


Randall Thomas

Law360 (October 15, 2025, 4:23 PM EDT) -- A former special counsel at the Internal Revenue Service's chief counsel's office has moved to Morgan Lewis & Bockius LLP's tax-exempt organizations team, where he'll continue working on issues related to charitable giving groups and other organizations.

Randall Thomas has joined Morgan Lewis as a partner in Washington, D.C., where he'll continue working on issues similar to those he worked on in government.

Morgan Lewis said Thomas's focus at the IRS included counseling the U.S. Department of Justice's Tax and Appellate Divisions and the Solicitor General's Office on high-impact litigation related to exempt organizations and charitable giving.

Thomas also supported IRS audit teams, responding to congressional inquiries and those from other federal agencies. At Morgan Lewis, Thomas will focus his practice on advancing the firm's tax-exempt organizations and broader tax capabilities, the firm said.

In an interview with Law360 Pulse Wednesday, Thomas said the move to a private practice firm was a natural step for his career. It was a difficult decision to leave the agency, where his work had spanned three presidential administrations.

"It was terrific throughout," he said of his time at the IRS. "My colleagues were outstanding, it was not an easy choice, because it was such good work — everything about it."

Thomas said he was excited to join Morgan Lewis, an opportunity to build public sector experience in an evolving tax industry.

Thomas called it a privilege to work in the tax space, saying he has a lot of gratitude to be able to get up every day and do something he enjoys.

"Not many people find tax interesting, they think it's pretty boring, which is neither here nor there for me, because I like it a lot, and I stay up late thinking about it, and I get up early, and I think about it," Thomas said. "And it's just a real privilege to ... have clients with these difficult questions, and to help them answer them."

Thomas said he found it rewarding to work for tax-exempt groups, such as universities, hospitals, public charities and private foundations.

"These pillars of American society that handle so much and provide so many of the public goods that our government always doesn't provide, and provide us these benefits by way of art and education and healthcare and things like this," he said. "So it's pretty nice to be helping these efforts generally."

More specifically, Thomas said, he enjoyed helping his clients understand the ambiguity in statutory language.

"I like puzzles, and I like difficult problems, and I like getting to positions where I believe I win on, in the court of highest appeal," he said. "Where I'm confident that I have, among several answers, the best right answer."

Jami McKeon, the firm's chair, said in a statement that Thomas "brings a sharp policy lens and seasoned judgment" to the team "at a pivotal moment for U.S. tax policy."

"His perspective and government service experience further enhance our ability to provide our clients with valuable insight into today's regulatory decision-making as well as the broader policy shifts shaping the future of the tax-exempt sector," McKeon said.

Bart Bassett, leader of the firm's global tax practice, said in a statement that Thomas's experience has a "unique blend of technical depth and broad experience advising on complex tax issues."

"His versatility and intricate familiarity with IRS processes, shaped by years of senior government experience, will strengthen our ability to guide clients through evolving rules, manage litigation risks, and pursue long-term planning challenges," Bassett said.

Thomas earned his law degree from Louisiana State University's Paul M. Hebert Law Center and also holds a masters of laws from New York University School of Law, focusing on taxation.

He started his career as a research assistant at the National Center on Philanthropy and the Law at NYU, then moved to KPMG LLP for nearly 5 1/2 years. He joined the IRS in 2019, according to his LinkedIn profile.

--Editing by Drashti Mehta.
