

Christopher D. Thomas

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Attorney | Mediator | Legal Consultant

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Attorney, mediator, and legal consultant with 20+ years of experience across civil and criminal litigation, military justice, and federal court practice, including service as a U.S. Air Force Judge Advocate and Special Assistant U.S. Attorney. Known for delivering mission-critical legal support in high-stakes environments, advising commanders, federal agencies, and multidisciplinary teams on complex criminal, administrative, and mental-health-related matters. Proven ability to translate statutory requirements, evidentiary standards, and operational realities into actionable legal guidance that strengthens compliance, reduces risk, and supports organizational readiness.

A former Air Force prosecutor and defense counsel with extensive experience across the Pacific theater, I bring servant leadership, disciplined execution, and high emotional intelligence to every engagement—qualities that consistently build trust with military clients and enable effective collaboration across command structures. My background spans courtroom advocacy, legislative engagement, mediation, and corporate counsel work, positioning me to support military organizations, federal contractors, and defense-aligned programs with clear, reliable, and operationally informed legal expertise.

- Secured first-ever Assisted Community Treatment (ACT) court order on the Big Island of Hawaii, establishing legal precedent for court-ordered mental health intervention under Hawaii state law.
- Managed a high-volume litigation practice across Hawaii state and federal courts for 10+ years as Managing Attorney, overseeing associate counsel and serving clients across family law, criminal defense, and military law matters.
- Directed felony-level criminal prosecutions as a Special Assistant U.S. Attorney in the District of Hawaii, achieving successful outcomes across multiple hundreds of cases prosecuted in federal magistrate and district courts.

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Civil & Criminal Litigation | Family Law | Military Law | Mediation & Arbitration | Mental Health Law (ACT/Orders to Treat)
Legislative Advocacy & Lobbying | Federal Court Practice | UCMJ Prosecution & Defense | Veterans Affairs Claims
Corporate Counsel | Conflict Resolution | Client Counseling

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Managing Attorney

March 2012 - Present

Law Offices of Christopher Thomas, LLC - Honolulu, HI

- Founded and built a boutique legal practice representing clients across all of Hawaii as well as select U.S. mainland and international matters, encompassing family law, criminal defense, and military law.
- Supervise and mentor associate counsel, setting performance standards, managing caseloads, and maintaining practice-wide quality across a multi-attorney office.
- Deliver formal mediation services that resolved 80%+ of qualifying civil and family law disputes, cutting litigation costs and shortening court timelines by providing clients with efficient, alternative paths to settlement.
- Serve as legislative advocate and lobbyist on key legal and policy issues before the Hawaii State Legislature, advancing client and community interests through direct engagement with elected officials.
- Maintain active standing as a Hawaii Court Appointed Arbitration Program arbitrator, contributing to the resolution of civil disputes outside the traditional trial process.

Corporate Counsel

August 2019 - Present

The Institute for Human Services - Honolulu, HI

- Co-architected the Outreach Navigation Program, a first-of-its-kind interdisciplinary initiative integrating medical professionals, licensed social workers, and legal counsel to pursue court-ordered mental health treatment for at-risk individuals.
- Leveraged Hawaii's novel Assisted Community Treatment (ACT) statutes to secure binding court orders through the State Circuit Court docket, expanding access to treatment for underserved populations.

- Provided ongoing corporate legal guidance to a nonprofit human services organization, advising on compliance, program development, and advocacy strategy at the intersection of law and public health.

Litigation Associate Attorney

May 2006 – February 2011

Coates and Frey, AAL, LLC - Honolulu, HI

- Litigated civil and criminal matters in both Hawaii State and U.S. Federal District Courts, managing a high-volume caseload in a fast-paced, competitive litigation environment.
- Applied formal mediation training to facilitate pre-trial settlements and dispute resolution, steering cases toward efficient outcomes and reducing burden on court dockets.
- Built trial advocacy skills across diverse practice areas, establishing a litigation foundation that supported transition to independent practice.

Special Assistant United States Attorney

January 2001 – January 2003

United States Attorney's Office, District of Hawaii - Honolulu, HI

- Designated as a U.S. Air Force prosecutor embedded within the U.S. Attorney's Office, handling felony-level criminal prosecutions in Hawaii Federal Magistrate and District Courts.
- Collaborated with federal law enforcement agencies and DOJ personnel to build and present complex criminal cases, achieving trial-ready preparation on all assigned matters.

Judicial Clerk

August 1998 – May 1999

United States District Court, District of Nebraska - Hon. Joseph F. Bataillon - Omaha, NE

- Supported a federal district court judge with legal research, opinion drafting, and case analysis across a broad civil and criminal federal docket.

MILITARY EXPERIENCE

Military Prosecutor and Military Criminal Defense Attorney

March 2000 – March 2012

U.S. Air Force, Judge Advocate General's Department - JB Pearl Harbor-Hickam, HI

- Prosecuted and defended military personnel in criminal judicial proceedings under the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ), managing cases across a broad range of felony and misdemeanor offenses.
- Served as Deputy Chief of Military Justice Actions for the 15th Airlift Wing at Hickam AFB, overseeing prosecutorial strategy and ensuring command compliance with federal military law.
- Conducted federal litigation across diverse subject-matter jurisdictions at multiple installations throughout the Pacific theater, gaining broad experience in complex evidentiary and procedural matters.

EDUCATION

Graduate Study, Alternative Dispute Resolution , Pepperdine University - Malibu, CA	2007
Staff Judge Advocate Course , U.S. Air Force JAG School / Air University - Maxwell AFB, AL	2000
Juris Doctor (JD) , Creighton University School of Law - Omaha, NE	1999
Bachelor of Arts (BA), Political Science; Minor: History , Nebraska Wesleyan University - Lincoln, NE	1995

LICENSES & CERTIFICATIONS

Licensed Attorney - State of Hawaii; U.S. District Court, District of Hawaii, Hawaii State Bar Association	2004
Accredited Claims Attorney, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs	2018
Court Appointed Arbitrator, Hawaii Court Appointed Arbitration Program	2012
Attorney - U.S. Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces	2000
Licensed Attorney - State of Colorado; U.S. District Court, District of Colorado, Colorado Bar Association	1999

HONORS & AWARDS

Hawaii Ambassador and Advocate, Giffords Gun Owners for Safety (2019-Present)

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Legal Research & Writing | Case Management Software | Document Management Systems | Court Filing Platforms (State & Federal)