

Thomas S. Wyatt

PARTNER

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LOCATED IN
Philadelphia, PA

MEET TOM

> *"Knowing the law is table stakes. I can achieve my client's objective no matter how challenging the non-legal issues might seem because I effectively collaborate with other team members to ensure the client's success.*
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> *"*
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> **— Tom Wyatt**

Tom chairs the municipal infrastructure and services practice area. He represents local governments and municipal authorities with infrastructure-related matters, such as regulatory compliance, bulk sale and services contract negotiations, establishing public-private partnerships, and water and wastewater system purchases and sales. His prior experience with North America's largest water and wastewater company, as well as his involvement in the sales of the water and sewer systems in numerous Pennsylvania counties, gives him an industry-leading familiarity with Act 12, the PA PUC fair market value statute, and the implementation orders that govern its use. Tom's close collaboration with municipal solicitors and significant practical experience as counsel to municipalities relating to a PUC application under Act 12 and relating to the PA DEP make him a trusted advisor in preparing witness testimonies and drafting water and wastewater planning documents. Beyond his municipal infrastructure and services practice, Tom represents individuals and corporations in contract negotiations (in the testing, food and environmental sector) business and finance, and corporate governance matters.

Growing up in a single-parent household, Tom became his deaf mother's voice from the moment he could speak. By the time Tom was 12, he had really honed his skills as his Mom's ears and consigliere. He brings these unique communication skills to his practice. He actively listens to all the issues that his clients are facing without interruption or pre-conceived "solutions." In Tom's view, solving complicated

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legal issues never just involves the law, but also a team of skilled people. Because of this, Tom enjoys a number of deep relationships with financial advisors, engineers, and other professionals who can be deployed as resources for his clients.

In his free time, Tom enjoys spending time with his wife and two young children— at the pool, the park, or Friday night movies. He loves watching and talking about Philadelphia sports, particularly the Phillies and Eagles.

EXPERIENCE

In his municipal infrastructure and services practice, Tom has been engaged by multiple municipalities to provide legal services across a wide spectrum, including in connection with the sale or lease of their sewer and/or water systems. He advises several municipalities in Allegheny, Butler, Bucks, Dauphin, Monroe, Luzerne, Montgomery, Washington, Lancaster, Blair and Chester Counties, including the sales and purchases of assets to regulated utilities and municipal authorities. Tom has decades of experience advising corporate and municipal boards/councils regarding changes in law, contract negotiations, governance, and litigation avoidance strategies.

He regularly represents municipalities as intervenors before the PUC in connection with obtaining PUC approval for system sales and assists municipalities in navigating the sale-related requirements of the PA DEP. He has also negotiated many municipal services agreements and operations and management agreements. He regularly advises elected and appointed boards and councils regarding emerging regulatory and legislative issues.

Some of Tom's notable transactions include:

- Handling the sale of sewer/water systems in Springfield Township, PA, to a municipal authority (approx. $16 million).
- Handling the sale of sewer/water systems in West Vincent Township, PA, to a municipal authority (approx. $5 million).
- Handling the sale of Butler Area Sewer Authority. This $231.5M deal will be the second largest in the Commonwealth, once approved by the PUC. This Authority, and its two creating municipalities, had already been approached by a buyer but knew they needed help from experienced counsel in order to maximize all the potential benefits of a transaction. With our team's guidance on how to achieve the best deal, we collaborated with the client and laid out plans to sell the wastewater collection and treatment assets so that the proceeds could be reinvested back into the region for economic redevelopment projects, social services, and other goals of the community.
- City of York. Represented the surrounding municipalities that send their wastewater to be treated by the City of York when the City was trying to sell its treatment plant to PA American for $235 million. Our clients collectively represent 54% of the flow treated by the City's plant and wanted to make sure they were treated fairly in the sale process. Initially, we protested PA American's application at the PUC and brought an arbitration proceeding against the City for breach of contract. Through united and strategic negotiations, however, our clients eventually settled with the City and entered into a fair 40-year treatment agreement with AW. The PUC ultimately approved the treatment agreements. Our clients now have a good treatment provider and long-term budgetary certainty regarding the cost of service. What pleased the clients the most was how Obermayer kept such a large group of clients informed and aligned through a pretty

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- complicated negotiation process. If each municipality had gone alone, it would not have been able to get the deal it got collectively. We structured the deal in order to anticipate certain issues that might arise at the PUC and at DEP in order to ensure success long-term.
- Handling the sale of the sewer systems in the City of McKeesport, PA, to a regulated utility (approx. $158 million).
- Handling the sale of the sewer systems in Limerick Township, PA, to a regulated utility (approx. $75 million).
- Handling the sale of a sewer trunk line in Tredyffrin Township, PA, to an unregulated company (approx. $29 million).

NEWS & INSIGHTS

Thomas Wyatt Examines How Local Governments Can Make Smarter Financing Decisions by Prioritizing Portfolio Management

October 22, 2026 by Thomas S. Wyatt

Thomas Wyatt Examines the Real Math Behind Municipal Utility Sales

August 14, 2026 by Thomas S. Wyatt

Tom Wyatt Discusses Clinton Township Decision on Incomplete Data Center Application

June 05, 2026 by Thomas S. Wyatt

Tom Wyatt Quoted in MLex on Pennsylvania's Push to Lower Utility Bills

June 03, 2026 by Thomas S. Wyatt

Designing Municipal Charges for Appellate Survival: What West Chester v. PASSHE Actually Teaches

May 15, 2026 by Melissa M. Blanco-Sandman, Thomas S. Wyatt, Mathieu J. Shapiro, David A. Nasatir

Tom Wyatt Discusses Rahway Water Sale Reversal and Public Input

April 23, 2026 by Thomas S. Wyatt

ACTIVITIES & HONORS

In 2014, NJBIZ recognized Tom as General Counsel of the Year, Corporate Compliance Professional. The same year, the South Philly Review named him the "Difference Maker."

EDUCATION

University of California at Berkeley School of Law (Boalt Hall), JD
Colorado State University, BA

ADMISSIONS

Pennsylvania

CAPABILITIES

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