



Promotion
South Carolina
Legal Profiles

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Pratt-Thomas Walker, P.A. **Charleston Litigation Firm Tackles Tough Business Cases**

When Charleston County imposed a property tax increase on non-owner-occupied residences, business owners felt it was discriminatory. In an ensuing legal battle that went through the trial court to the state supreme court two times, the ordinance was found unconstitutional, and property owners who had paid the excessive tax increase received refunds totaling about \$10 million.

“The case had statewide repercussions,” says Trenholm Walker, managing shareholder of the law firm Pratt-Thomas Walker (PTW), which represented the property owners. “The case was closely watched. If the court ruling had been different, other counties likely would have adopted similar discriminatory tax ordinances.”



Handling demanding cases on behalf of clients is all in a day’s work at Pratt-Thomas Walker, one of South Carolina’s most versatile and accomplished law firms. With 13 lawyers and other professionals on staff from varying backgrounds—such as nursing, law enforcement and insurance—PTW is uniquely qualified to handle a wide range of legal challenges, often more cost effectively than larger firms.

“Every client is entitled to the best representation. We like it when the odds are against us. That’s when we do our best work.”

— G. Trenholm Walker
Managing Shareholder

Practice areas include commercial litigation, personal injury, medical malpractice defense, land use and insurance. Neither a plaintiffs’ nor a defense law firm exclusively, Pratt-Thomas Walker defies category. It represents clients in both conventional and unconventional cases, even if it means taking an unpopular position.

In one such case, PTW successfully defended the owner of a drainage canal where two children had drowned, proving the firm’s client was not responsible for the tragic accident. In a more recent case, the firm is representing New York City in a lawsuit filed by a South Carolina gun dealer in retaliation for being sued in New York by the city for allegedly violating federal firearms laws in its sale of handguns that turned up in New York City.

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PTW is often brought into cases by other law firms in complex matters, or to serve as mediator or arbitrator in alternative dispute resolution (ADR) cases. The firm’s lawyers are highly regarded within the legal, business and political communities. Shareholders Walker, E. Douglas Pratt-Thomas and Jon L. Austen are members of the prestigious American Board of Trial Advocates. Walker was peer-voted as one of the top 25 Super Lawyers® in South Carolina in 2009, and is recognized for his litigation abilities by *Chambers USA*. He was recently inducted into the American College of Trial Lawyers, which recognizes lawyers for their proven trial abilities and high ethical standards.

PTW proudly supports many worthwhile causes, including Lowcountry Local First, which benefits local farmers and businesses, and Crisis Ministries, which helps the homeless. The firm also makes space available for nonprofit organizations to meet or conduct fundraisers in its offices in a historic antebellum mansion. Walker is especially proud of the building, which, he says, represents PTW’s longevity, strength and tenacity.

“We are just like this old house,” he says. “It has withstood earthquakes and hurricanes. You can throw anything at us and we will keep pushing ahead.”

PRATT-THOMAS | WALKER

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