



**Thomas Willett Donovan**  
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**Experience**

- *International law*
- *Structured & project finance in the Middle East*
- *Islamic Finance*
- *Procurement and enforcement of international arbitration awards*

**Industries**

- *Aerospace*
- *Banking and Finance*
- *Energy and Utilities*
- *Defense Procurement*

**Thomas Willett Donovan****AREAS OF CONCENTRATION**

- Corporate
- Structured and Project Finance
- International
- Middle East/Investment in Iraq
- Islamic Finance

**EXPERIENCE**

Thomas W. Donovan works in the Baghdad and Erbil, Kurdistan offices of the Iraq Law Alliance. His experience centers around structured & project finance and international investment in Iraq. He has a broad range of expertise including corporate governance in various Middle East jurisdictions including counseling corporations and specifically international oil companies in the establishment and their on-going foreign operations. Tom has also been involved in international dispute resolution proceedings in Iraq, Kurdistan, and other jurisdictions in the Arab Middle East, working in the procurement and enforcement of international arbitration awards.

**REPRESENTATIVE EXPERIENCE**

- Participated in the legal representation of international land and maritime boundary conflicts on behalf of two sovereign Governments.
- Conducting the due diligence on two cement plants in Northern Iraq and advising on the Iraqi portion of the acquisition, and advising on the ongoing operations of the plants.
- Advising a large international finance institution and two Egyptian commercial banks on the \$260M financing of a cement plant in Kurdistan, Northern Iraq.
- Advising on the structuring and establishment of a \$100M Private Equity Fund for investment in Iraq's agri-business sector, and advising the Fund post establishment on its investments.
- On behalf of a major international oil company, advised on legal and contractual issues in the negotiation of a technical services contract with a Ministry of Oil and a Government owned oil corporation.
- Advising on issues concerning the Iraqi Stock Exchange and the Iraqi Securities Commission on the draft Securities Law and policies and procedures to encourage and protect foreign investment on the ISX.

**PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES AND MEMBERSHIPS**

- Washington State Bar Association

- Western District of Washington Bar Association
- Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals Bar Association
- American Bar Association

**PROFESSIONAL HONORS**

- Member, American Institute for Petroleum Negotiators

**PUBLICATIONS**

- "Few Know About "the Murph," The Tug Boat Sunken off Vashon's Shore" *Maury Island Beachcomber*, March 10, 2009.
- "State's Landlord Tenant Code Unfair to Property Owners" *The Tacoma News Tribune*, March 4, 2009.
- "A Long Way From Tacoma, Practicing Law in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia." *Washington State Trial Lawyers Trial News*, March 11, 2009.
- *Intervention Border and Maritime Issues in CARICOM*, Chapter 5, "Suriname - Guyana Boundary Conflict," ed. Kenneth Hall and Myrtle Chuck-a-Sang, Ian Randle Publishers, 2007
- "Immigration Policy Changes After 9/11: Some Intended and Unintended Consequences," *Social Policy Journal*, vol. 4, no. 1, 2005
- "The American Immigration System: A Structural Change with a Different Emphasis," *International Journal of Refugee Law*, Oxford University Press, vol. 17, no. 3, 2005.
- "Challenges to the Territorial Integrity of Guyana," *Georgia Journal of International and Comparative Law*, with foreword by Jimmy Carter. vol. 32. no. 3, 2004
- "From INS to USCIS: The Impact of Homeland Security on U.S. Immigrants," *Tolley's Journal of Immigration Asylum and Nationality Law*, vol. 18, no. 2, 2004
- Co-authored with David R. Minikel, "Debunking False Impressions About Detention Center," *The Tacoma News Tribune*, June 17, 2004
- "Tribal Courts' 'Victory' Might be an Illusion," *The Tacoma News Tribune*, April 25, 2004
- "Guyana Invokes Annex VII of United Nations Convention on Law of the Sea Against Suriname for Disputed Maritime Boundary," *American Society of International Law Insights*, April 2004
- "The French Guiana - Suriname Boundary Dispute at the Italy - Marouni Triangle," *The Journal of Caribbean History*, vol. 38:2, 2004
- "The Marouni River Tract and its Colonial Legacy in South America," *Chicago-Kent Journal of International Law*, vol. 4, Spring 2004

## **BIOGRAPHY: Thomas Willett Donovan**

- "Suriname - Guyana Maritime and Territorial Disputes: A Legal and Historical Analysis," *Journal of Transnational Law and Policy*, Florida State University College of Law, vol. 13, Fall 2003
- "Jurisdictional Relationships Between Nations and their Former Colonies," *Across Borders International Law Journal*, 2003

### **EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND**

2003 - Juris Doctorate, New York Law School

2002 - Tulane University Institute of European Law at the Universiteit van Amsterdam, Amsterdam, the Netherlands

1998 - Masters of Arts (MA), American University, School of International Service, Washington D.C.

1997 - Bachelor of Arts (BA), American University, School of International Service, Washington, D.C.

1996 - Arabic Language Institute, American University in Cairo, Cairo Egypt

1994 - Arabic Language Institute, Georgetown University, Washington, D.C.

1993 - Bellarmine Preparatory School, Tacoma, WA

1991 - Semiha Sakir Ozel Deneme Lycee, exchange Student, Istanbul, Turkey

### **INTERESTS**

Tom is most proud of completing two solo trans-continental bicycle rides. One from Tacoma, WA to New York City (29 days in 2002) and one from Perth to Sydney (30 days in 2007). While in college, Tom was a member of the American University, Division I swim team. Tom is also a PADI Certified Divemaster.

### **LANGUAGE CAPABILITIES**

- Dutch - Fluent
- Arabic - Fluent
- Turkish - proficient