

“No such thing as a typical day.”

—Megan L. Mehalko, Partner





Favorite Lawyer Movie *Twelve Angry Men*

It's a study in leadership. It's just so interesting—the different personalities and how they interact. And that's a big part of our job, right? Working with different personalities and trying to bring people together is so important.

Favorite Athlete *LeBron James*

An incredible athlete, but he's also contributing so much to our community—without a lot of fanfare.

Favorite Activity *Reading*

I don't get a lot of quiet time, but I'll read any book I can get my hands on.

Favorite Carbohydrate *French Fries*

I've never met a French fry I didn't like!

Favorite Place in the World *Undecided*

Besides home with my family, I love to travel. But there are so many great places I've been—and want to go to—I couldn't possibly pick just one.



"I've always enjoyed the challenge of not knowing what's going to happen on any given day—that's what keeps me going. I can't imagine ever being bored in my job."

Megan Mehalko never intended to be a lawyer. She went to law school seeking an "analytical education," figuring she'd practice law for a few years and then go into business. Instead, she found that being a lawyer was like going into many businesses at once. She loved dealing with the sheer variety of issues that came up from client to client—and that no day was typical. She had become a lawyer.

Coming to Benesch as a lateral in 2000, Megan was already a seasoned corporate attorney. She was attracted to Benesch's open, collaborative environment—"it's not a stuffy, closed-office-door kind of culture." The firm's specialty practice areas, as well as its greater resources, were also powerful draws.

Megan frequently draws on those resources, taking advantage of the many business development tools offered by the firm's marketing department. She regularly receives competitive intelligence reports and RFP assistance as well as opportunities to be interviewed and profiled in various legal and business publications. These are instrumental in helping her maintain both a thriving practice and a high level of thought leadership.

"If you want a leadership role in this firm, it's available. We will embrace that and give you the opportunity. And that's not just from a management standpoint—we do that with practice areas too."

The firm openly encourages and supports new practices. Her role in the development and marketing of the successful polymer industry practice is a source of satisfaction for her, but she is equally proud of other Benesch lawyers who have created the thriving transportation, healthcare, and 3D printing practice areas.

Most appealing is that Benesch has offered Megan the opportunity to get as involved as she wants in the firm's direction. She has served on every committee in the firm, and has taken leadership positions in recruiting, associate training, partner naming, and compensation. As chair of the Corporate & Securities Practice Group and a member of the firm's Executive Committee, she has become one of Benesch's key movers and shakers.

"One of the best compliments I can ever receive is when a client calls me to ask me for advice and it's not a legal question."

It is, however, Megan's role as outside general counsel to a number of her clients that most resonates with her business instincts. She relishes attending her clients' board meetings, working with the management teams, and bridging the gap between those two vital groups. Most satisfying is when they seek her advice on strategic business issues that have nothing to do with the law.

"I'm a sports mom in a sports family. If my daughter's game is at 5 p.m., I try to be there, even if I have to call in to a board meeting from the car."

Even with a son in college and a daughter in high school, Megan keeps her professional and personal lives balanced—not unusual at Benesch. If she sometimes multitasks at a soccer game, so be it. If client development means her attendance is required at a Cavs' or a Browns' game, she's okay with that. She still has time for the important things—especially long walks with Cooper, her yellow Lab, and curling up on the couch with some escapist fiction.

Megan's Worthy Causes

College Now of Greater Cleveland Board Member

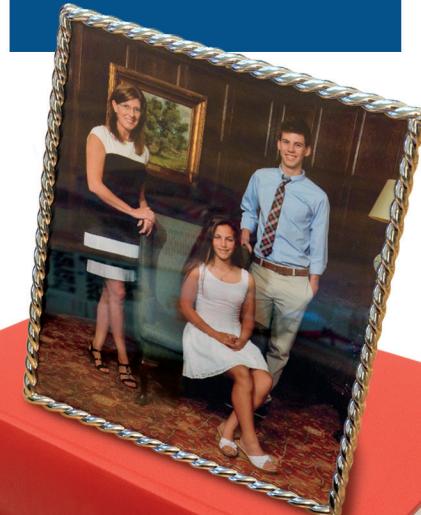
"We help students—especially underprivileged students—access college education. We help put together financing packages, help them find scholarships, and provide scholarships that fill in any gaps in the financing. We also mentor them when they're in college, since they often don't have the kind of support system that can see them through graduation."

Seeds of Literacy Board Member

"It's pretty amazing to recognize that there are certain communities where the adult illiteracy rate is in excess of 65%. It's hard to think of kids going to school and being successful if their parents can't read."

TIMELINE AT A GLANCE

2000	Joined Benesch as a non-equity partner and joined the firm's Hiring Committee
2001	Made equity partner
2001	Started the firm's Polymer Industry Group
2003	Joined the firm's Partner Making Committee (PPC)
2005	Named chair, Corporate & Securities Practice Group (largest transactional practice group at the firm) and joined the Compensation Committee (PDC)
2006	Named to the firm's Executive Committee
2010	Started and became a member of the firm's Finance Committee





Benesch is a business law firm serving national and international clients that include public and private, middle-market, and emerging companies as well as private equity funds, entrepreneurs, not-for-profit organizations, trusts, and estates. Today's fast-paced and ever-changing business climate makes it essential to not only proactively address today's needs but also to look ahead.

We practice for tomorrow so our clients are ready for what's next.

beneschlaw.com