



A Letter from Our Managing Partner

2008 has proven to be a very exciting year for Benesch as we continue to grow both geographically and organically. In addition to operating out of five offices in Cleveland, Columbus, Wilmington, Philadelphia and Shanghai, we are always investigating other new and innovative ways to serve our clients.

We take pride in who we are as a firm and what the name Benesch has come to represent over the last 70 years. While servicing a national and international client base, we maintain the solid, long-standing reputation the firm has earned in our own communities. We continue to make meaningful contributions to not only the ongoing success of the firm, but also the ongoing success of the cities we call home.

Our attorneys and staff are part of a diverse group that recognizes the positive impact teamwork can have on our legal work and the world around us. Whether it is through our Green Initiative, pro bono work or volunteer opportunities, Benesch is a firm where everyone makes the extra effort to ensure success.

We are looking forward to the opportunities ahead of us for both our firm and communities. We are pleased to share with you a few stories that showcase the many ways in which we give back.



Sincerely,

Ira Kaplan
Managing Partner

Cleveland | Columbus | Philadelphia | Shanghai | Wilmington | www.bfca.com

Benesch's Commitment to Diversity

Benesch recognizes that superior quality and diversity are intrinsic to the firm's success. Our Diversity Initiative Committee, formed in 2003, continues to focus on creating a diverse environment for the firm, one in which differences are respected and individual skills and talents are valued. The firm is committed to realizing and maintaining an environment that welcomes and embraces diversity, including race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, age, physical ability and religious beliefs.

Recently, Benesch formalized its efforts to retain valued female attorneys through the creation of a Women's Initiative and a Women's Steering Committee together with a focused series of events designed to build deeper networks and provide additional mentoring among women attorneys at the firm.

Howard A. Levy Memorial Fund of the Anti-Defamation League



HOWARD LEVY
(1944–2007)

With a generous and long-term contribution, Benesch has established the Howard A. Levy Memorial Fund of the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) to support our region's Summer Associate Research Program. The fund will enable the ADL to hire a summer intern to help coordinate the Summer Associate Research Program, which engages law students to research current human and civil rights issues related to the ADL's mission. The fund was established in memory of Benesch partner, Howard A. Levy (1944–2007), who had led the ADL's Summer Associate Research Program in years past.

On May 30th, Benesch hosted a gathering to celebrate and honor the establishment of the Howard A. Levy Memorial Fund of the ADL.

Core Values

As part of Benesch's ongoing strategic plan, the firm has established a set of core values. The following principles consistently guide the firm's attorneys and staff in the successful pursuit of clients' interests and the advancement of the firm:

1. Honesty, trust, integrity and ethical behavior in all our actions.
2. Excellence, competence and responsiveness in serving our clients.
3. Innovative and collaborative solutions for our clients.
4. Mutual respect, candor, teamwork and civility in our interactions.
5. Accountability and meaningful contributions to the ongoing success of the firm.
6. Meaningful contributions to the communities in which we live and work.

Benesch's Green Initiative

Benesch recognizes the importance of environmental responsibility and preservation of the world in which we live. As the earth is increasingly threatened by immense population growth and over-usage of depleting resources, it is important that law firms, businesses and corporations take part in preserving resources to ensure that future generations will enjoy the same standard of living we enjoy today. We at Benesch are "Going Green," demonstrating our commitment to living sustainable lifestyles and doing our part to protect the earth.

Benesch's Green Initiative was developed by the firm's IT Support Services Manager, David Colombo, who became interested in a growing movement of businesses cutting energy costs, finding environmentally friendly disposal methods for outdated IT equipment and making workplaces healthier in which to function. The firm's leadership strongly supports the notion of becoming more environmentally friendly and a "Green Initiative Committee" has been formed.

The Committee, consisting of attorneys and staff, set goals this year to spread the "Go Green" message throughout the firm, as well as to other tenants in our office buildings and to the communities where we live and work. Immediate plans have already been put into action, including implementing energy- and money-saving strategies such as powering down monitors and lights every night, recycling plastics and only printing the most necessary documents. The firm has discontinued disposable cup usage, and has handed out coffee mugs to all employees. Additionally, plastic recycling containers have been provided on all floors of the firm, and we have donated old electrical equipment to a local recycling company. Recently, we have joined the EPA's national green initiative. Benesch anticipates partnering with clients and friends who are also sensitive and supportive of energy-efficient programs.

Pro Bono Spotlight

Ryan Hooper, a senior associate in Benesch's Health Care Practice Group, took on a pro bono representation of Waiting Child Fund (WCF), a Cleveland charity that coordinates funding for adoptions of children with special needs. Ryan assisted WCF by reviewing a county request for proposals and advising on a major funding agreement for the organization. The request for assistance was made via Business Volunteers Unlimited (BVU), a local organization dedicated to strengthening nonprofits through general assistance and board placement. Ryan previously participated in the nonprofit board training and placement program conducted by BVU, which resulted in Ryan's election to the board of trustees of Neighborhood Family Practice, a Federally Qualified Health Center on the Near West Side. Ryan also serves on the board of trustees of Welcome House, Inc., a local provider of housing and services to the developmentally disabled. Benesch plans to sponsor seven more attorneys desiring to participate in the BVU board training and placement program later this year.

