

Benesch Friedlander Adds 2 Finance Partners In Columbus

By **Emma Cueto**

Law360 (March 2, 2021, 4:37 PM EST) -- Benesch Friedlander Coplan & Aronoff has added four attorneys, including two partners, to its commercial finance and banking practice in Columbus, Ohio, office, the firm said Tuesday.

Laura L. Hult, formerly of Calfee Halter & Griswold LLP, and Andrew M. Bojko, previously of Porter Wright Morris & Arthur LLP, both joined Benesch Friedlander in February. Their practice group focuses on meeting the legal needs of financial institutions and commercial lenders.

The firm also added senior associate Michael Farrell from Calfee Halter, whom Hult described as her "go-to" associate at the firm, and mid-level associate Amy Oveckea from Ice Miller LLP to the group.

"We're excited about adding these corporate and commercial finance professionals to the firm," Gregg Eisenberg, managing partner and executive committee member, said in a statement. "They are outstanding resources to help guide our middle-market and growing clients through the key transactions that will position them for success in this still-uncertain economy."

Hult and Bojko told Law360 Pulse that the two had been friendly competitors for a long time and had always respected one another's skills.

"We have always spoken highly of each other," Hult said. "If I ever had conflicts, I knew that Andy would take great care of clients. ... And we would wonder what it would be like to work together and train associates together."

About six months ago, the two began to seriously discuss finding a "forever home" where they could practice together, Hult said. Both attorneys said Benesch Friedlander was a natural fit.

"They're very entrepreneurial," Bojko said. "They aren't a 100-year-old law firm that has institutional clients, so they have had to be more entrepreneurial and aggressive on the marketing front, and that is part of the ethos of the firm. And that's very consistent with the way Laura and I are wired as individuals."

The pair praised the firm's leadership, collaborative partners and its commitment to fostering the next generation of attorneys.

"Gregg Eisenberg, the way he takes care of people filters down," Hult said. "I think a lot of firms can be shortsighted about investing in associates and their paralegals and their junior partners. Benesch is absolutely committed to keeping their people."

Hult also praised the corporate and securities practice group, which she will also be joining, saying



Andy Bojko



Laura Hult

that it is an "outstanding team" and she looks forward to working with its members.

Hult is a graduate of the Ohio State University's Moritz College of Law. Bojko is a graduate of the University of Notre Dame School of Law.

In addition to the four new attorneys in Columbus, Benesch Friedlander also said Tuesday that it has added eight associates across its Cleveland, Chicago and Columbus offices. The associates include three additions to its litigation practice group, three general practice associates, and one each in its tax and corporate and securities practice groups.

In recent months, the firm has recruited several new attorneys, including four other attorneys from Calfee Halter, two of them partners, who joined the Columbus office in December as part of its energy practice group.

--Editing by Jill Coffey.