

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY:

WE CELEBRATE THE WOMEN AT BENESCH

Leadership positions held at Benesch/in the community:

I am a member of the Associate Development Committee and I am a co-chair of the of the Civic Engagement Committee within the Associate Development Committee.

How many years have you been with Benesch?:

I have been with Benesch for 1 1/2 years.

What is your practice area and why did you choose it?

I am a proud member of the Healthcare+ Practice Group. I am in the Chicago office but work with associates and partners from offices in Illinois, Ohio and New Jersey. I chose the Healthcare+ Practice Group because it is a group of growth and innovation. I began my career as a general corporate associate and was able to move into a healthcare space with the aid of esteemed colleagues. I wanted to work in a field that was consistently growing and where I can learn an expertise while continuing to hone my corporate skills. At Benesch, I have learned so much and have been given great opportunities to be client facing and to increase my legal skillset.

What are some tips for succeeding in the legal profession?

I think a commitment to client service is key to success in the legal profession. As a lawyer, we have the opportunity to represent a variety of



VANESSA RICHMOND

ASSOCIATE,
BENESCH HEALTHCARE+

clients that are large and small, representing large corporations, pro bono clients and non-for-profits. These opportunities highlight how our position as lawyers is about helping people. When you think of law as an opportunity to help, it changes the perspective of the work we do. For me, it makes it more rewarding. The client-facing part of the legal profession is my favorite part. I enjoy working with clients and helping them achieve their goals. I think it is important to have a network of peers and mentors to discuss career progression and career goals as attorneys are in this career together and there is no need to feel like an island. As a result, I enjoy giving back to law students and newer lawyers to encourage them and share what I have learned so they can excel in their careers.

Tell us about a recent win or career achievement that is meaningful to you.

Last year I was named by The National Black Lawyers as a Top 40 Under 40 Black Lawyer in Illinois. This was a meaningful achievement because this was an award I received from being nominated by my peers. I have since enjoyed connecting with other recipients. I also have appreciated the support at Benesch following my achievement.

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NICOLE GUMP

**CLIENT ACCOUNT SERVICES
MANAGER**

How many years have you been with Benesch?:

I will be with Benesch for four years this June.

How did you select your career?

In school, I was struggling with trying to decide on a major and ended up taking a position at a small subrogation firm in their collections department during that time. My role also required creating all the documents that would need to be filed in the courts from the initial complaint to filing executions to collect against assets. It was very interesting to learn how the courts worked throughout this process and I enjoyed being creative in helping people avoid such filings through payment resolutions. I took another legal collections role at a different firm where I was able to learn more about the legal process and discovered I was extremely good at recovering balances and solving the "puzzle" to each account. I was recognized for my achievements and continued to move up in the department to a management role with a team of

10 collectors. From there, I really enjoyed teaching and watching my team thrive in their roles.

What are some tips for succeeding and leading in your role?

Never stop learning, be willing to make adjustments and be open to incorporating feedback into your daily work. When it comes to managing a productive team, everyone is going to make a mistake at one time or another. When those coaching opportunities present itself, I have learned sharing a similar story that might have happened to me in the past helps the individual realize that errors are just opportunities to learn and grow.

Tell us about a career accomplishment or leadership role that is meaningful to you.

Becoming a part of the Benesch team. The role was new for the firm at the time and it was a big step forward for me and my career.