

Benesch Recruits Seyfarth Atty As New Trade Secrets Head

By **Emma Cueto**

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Benesch Friedlander Coplan & Aronoff LLP announced on Thursday that it has named a former Seyfarth Shaw LLP partner as the new head of its trade secrets, restrictive covenants and unfair competition practice group.

The firm said that J. Scott Humphrey will join the growing Chicago office, and touted Humphrey's expertise with matters involving trade secrets and restrictive covenants and his experience serving clients in a wide range of industries.

Humphrey told Law360 Pulse that he was excited for the opportunity to lead the practice group and eager to help the firm achieve its vision of expanding its capabilities in this practice area.



J. Scott Humphrey

"It was a tremendous opportunity for me to work with a lot of really great lawyers and a really great culture at a firm that's in growth mode," he said.

Humphrey, who spent 16 years at Seyfarth before moving to Benesch, has experience handling matters involving trade secret appropriation, breach of restrictive covenants, and more general matters such as fraud and insurance disputes, according to the firm. He counsels clients on best practices concerning trade secrets and restrictive covenants, handles court proceedings related to preliminary or temporary injunctions and similar measures, and has successfully taken trade secret cases to verdict, according to the firm.

He told Law360 Pulse that he has seen a rise in trade secrets litigation since the passage of the Defend Trade Secrets Act in 2016, and that there has also been additional attention from the federal government in the space. Many states are also making changes to their laws related to things like noncompete and nonsolicitation agreements, making this overall an active legal area, Humphrey added.

He said he is eager to work with the Benesch attorneys already in this arena and to help the firm expand its capabilities nationwide.

"Clients are going to need attorneys who are competent in this area to advise them on

restructuring their agreements [and] prosecuting trade secret violations," Humphrey said. "This is an exciting area of law right now, and Benesch is an exciting firm right now ... and I'm just excited to be a part of it."

Benesch, which has around 275 attorneys, has been growing for the past few years through a **strategy of aggressive lateral recruitment**. The Chicago office, which opened in 2015, has seen particularly striking growth, and is currently home to 40 partners, including Humphrey.

--Editing by Nicole Bleier.