

August 26, 2021 4:19 PM EDT Last Updated 19 hours ago



Legal Industry

Data Privacy



Benesch joins growing list of firms with data-focused practice group

By Sara Merken

3 minute read



- Practice addresses privacy, tech, data and cybersecurity
- 25-lawyer group looking to grow

The company and law firm names shown above are generated automatically based on the text of the article. We are improving this feature as we continue to test and develop in beta. We welcome feedback, which you can provide using the feedback tab on the right of the page.

(Reuters) - Benesch, Friedlander, Coplan & Aronoff is bringing together lawyers from several practice areas to launch a data protection practice group, a move that comes as law firms of all sizes think about how to best advise clients on their increasingly complex data, privacy and technology issues.

The effort is meant to "break down some of the traditional law firm silos" and offer clients multi-disciplinary advice, said Chicago-based partner Ryan Sulkin, who heads up the new data protection group unveiled this week.

Cleveland-founded Benesch, a 290-lawyer firm, has grown through lateral hires over the past few years, and has added more than 50 attorneys this year. The firm has seven offices, including relatively new outposts launched in Chicago in 2015 and San Francisco in 2019.

Sulkin joined Benesch's innovations, information and intellectual property (3iP) practice group in February from Michael Best & Friedrich. He said his move was in part to spearhead Benesch's new group, which focuses on privacy, technology, data and cybersecurity.

The team comprises about 25 lawyers from the firm's existing 3iP, healthcare, labor and employment and litigation practices. Pulling those lawyers together allows them to share knowledge and come up with "consistent strategies," Sulkin said, adding that collaboration is something the firm is "really looking to grow and improve on" with the new group.

"This approach simply brings together the experience and insights of attorneys across different areas of practice and organizes them into a team that reflects the way our forward-thinking, entrepreneurial clients think about data and technology – as a central pillar of their enterprise," Gregg Eisenberg, managing partner of the firm, said in a statement on Wednesday.

Benesch's move comes as law firms look to boost their privacy and data security offerings, particularly through increased lateral hiring to expand existing groups - some of which have been around for decades - and revamp practices to signal a commitment to the practice area.

Last year, for example, Baker & Hostetler united several teams, including cybersecurity, privacy litigation and advertising, to create what is now a more than 80-lawyer practice group. The restructuring has paid off in the form of increased revenue and demand, and has helped recruitment efforts.

BakerHostetler isn't the only firm whose data-related practice group involves lawyers with varied backgrounds, from healthcare to litigation to regulatory compliance.

On bringing together lawyers in data practices with these different backgrounds, Sulkin said he thinks the legal industry "has to head in this direction."

"I think the traditional law firm silos don't work because of their inefficiency, and because of their inability to weave together the advice that's needed and issue spot in an efficient way," he said.

Read More:

[Consolidation pays off for BakerHostetler with merged data group](#)

[Privacy and data security lawyers bask in high demand as firms play tug of war](#)



Sara Merken

Sara Merken reports on privacy and data security, as well as the business of law, including legal innovation and key players in the legal services industry. Reach her at sara.merken@thomsonreuters.com



More from Reuters



Sign up for The Daily Docket

Subscribe for our daily curated newsletter to receive the latest Reuters legal news and headlines delivered to your inbox.

[Sign up](#)

Sponsored Content

dianomi



Spend \$500 And Pocket \$200 With This Card
 Sponsored by
 Chase Credit



Explore the Roth 401(k)
 Sponsored by Charles Schwab



7 Mistakes You'll Make When Hiring a Financial Advisor
 Sponsored by



2021 Mid-Year Investment Outlook: Investing within the business cycle
 Sponsored by

Industry Insight

Industry Insight

How D&I leaders can drive change in law firms now

August 26, 2021



Industry Insight

ILTACON 2021: Hot takes on asking your CFO for a legal tech budget and cybersecurity's worst practices

August 26, 2021



Industry Insight

What will it take to grow people and profits in a more agile legal environment?

August 26, 2021



Industry Insight

A new paradigm for on-boarding in a return-to-office phase

August 24, 2021



Sponsored Content

Dianomi



Excellent picks for robo-advisors in 2021

Sponsored by NerdWallet



Refi rates at 1.89% APR.

Do you qualify?

Sponsored by LendingTree



Compare, contrast, and find which checking account works for you.

Sponsored by



What Would You Do With More Cash Back? See 2021's Best Credit Cards

Sponsored by NerdWallet

Sponsored Content

Dianomi



2021 Mid-Year Investment Outlook: Market base case, and tail risks

Sponsored by
Investment



Act now to earn up to a \$1,500 cash bonus with required activities.

Sponsored by
Chime



Spend \$500 And Pocket \$200 With This Card

Sponsored by
Chase



7 Mistakes You'll Make When Hiring a Financial Advisor

Sponsored by
Investment

Sponsored Content

Dianomi



Save or Pay off Loans?

Sponsored by Charles Schwab



Earn more cash back on your top eligible spend category

Sponsored by
New Citi



Motley Fool Issues Rare "All In" Buy Alert

Sponsored by
The Fool



Do You Have Enough To Retire? Use Our Free Retirement Calculator.

Sponsored by
Fidelity

Latest

Home

Media

Videos

Pictures

Graphics

Browse

World

Business

Legal

Markets

Breakingviews

Technology

Investigations

Lifestyle

[About Reuters](#)

[About Reuters](#)

[Careers](#)

[Reuters News Agency](#)

[Brand Attribution Guidelines](#)

[Reuters Leadership](#)

[Reuters Fact Check](#)

[Reuters Diversity Report](#)

[Stay Informed](#)

[Download the App](#)

[Newsletters](#)

Information you can trust

Reuters, the news and media division of Thomson Reuters, is the world's largest multimedia news provider, reaching billions of people worldwide every day. Reuters provides business, financial, national and international news to professionals via desktop terminals, the world's media organizations, industry events and directly to consumers.

Follow Us



Thomson Reuters Products

Westlaw

Build the strongest argument relying on authoritative content, attorney-editor expertise, and industry defining technology.

Onesource

The most comprehensive solution to manage all your complex and ever-expanding tax and compliance needs.

Checkpoint

The industry leader for online information for tax, accounting and finance professionals.

Refinitiv Products

Eikon

Information, analytics and exclusive news on financial markets - delivered in an intuitive desktop and mobile interface.

Refinitiv Data Platform

Access to real-time, reference, and non-real time data in the cloud to power your enterprise.

World-Check

Screen for heightened risk individual and entities globally to help uncover hidden risks in business relationships and human networks.

[Advertise With Us](#) [Advertising Guidelines](#)

All quotes delayed a minimum of 15 minutes. See [here](#) for a complete list of exchanges and delays.

[Cookies](#) [Terms of Use](#) [Privacy](#) [Corrections](#) [Site Feedback](#)

© 2021 Reuters. All rights reserved

