

inside Benesch

MY BENESCH
MY TEAM

E-NEWS AND EVENTS FROM BENESCH FRIEDLANDER COPLAN & ARONOFF LLP

July 2011

14 Attorneys Named Leading Individuals in Chambers USA 2011

Benesch is pleased to announce that 14 of its attorneys are named as "Leading Individuals" in Chambers USA 2011, a premier guide to the legal profession. The following Benesch attorneys are listed in their respective practice areas:

Jeffrey A. Abrams – [Real Estate](#)

Steven M. Auvil – [Intellectual Property](#)

Maynard (Mike) Buck – [Labor & Employment](#)

Thomas O. Crist – [Construction](#)

Norman W. Gutmacher – [Real Estate](#)

James M. Hill – [Corporate/M&A](#)

Ira C. Kaplan – [Corporate/M&A](#)

Ross J. Kirchick – [Banking & Finance](#)

Megan L. Mehalko – [Corporate/M&A](#)

Barry J. Miller – [Construction](#)

James H. Schwarz – [Real Estate](#)

Howard A. Steindler – [Real Estate](#)

Jeffrey J. Wild – [Real Estate](#)

Jeffrey D. Zimon – [Employee Benefits & Executive Compensation](#)

Since 1990, Chambers has published the world's leading guides to the legal profession and has built a reputation for in-depth, objective research. Chambers has a team of 100 highly qualified full-time researchers who conduct thousands of interviews with lawyers and their clients worldwide. Working with their editors, they identify and rank the world's best lawyers (i.e., those who perform best according to the criteria most valued by clients – such as technical expertise, business acumen, prompt delivery, and value for money).

Washbush Named Association for Corporate Growth's 2011 Service Partner Award Winner



Thomas C. Washbush

Thomas C. Washbush has been awarded the 2011 Service Partner Award by the Columbus Chapter of the Association for Corporate Growth (ACG).

ACG's Service Partner Award recognizes a group or individual who has had a substantial impact on the organic or acquisition growth of central Ohio companies, the state of Ohio and industry in general. As Partner-in-Charge of Benesch's Columbus office and a former Chief of Staff and General Counsel of the Ohio Department of Development, Tom has spent over 20 years focusing on increasing corporate growth among businesses in the Columbus area. He has represented clients in capital market financing, lender representation and public financing including bond transactions, venture capital and economic development financing totaling over \$31 billion. Additionally, he has represented acquirers and sellers of privately held and publicly held companies in mergers, acquisitions and recapitalizations totaling over \$1 billion.

"I am very honored to have received ACG Columbus' Service Partner Award," Tom said. "The award reflects the importance of encouraging the development of entrepreneurial businesses in Central Ohio. This recognition from ACG Columbus is due, in large part, to the success of our clients' growth efforts and the cooperation and assistance of many others."

ACG Columbus is one of 56 chapters of the Association for Corporate Growth, Inc. (www.acg.org). Founded in 1954, ACG is the premier global association for professionals involved in corporate growth, corporate development, and mergers and acquisitions and other capital transactions. Today ACG stands at over 14,000 members from corporations, private equity investors, financial institutions and professional service firms representing middle market to Fortune 1000 companies in North America, Europe and Asia, as well as members representing private and governmental economic development agencies and business school leaders. ACG Columbus was formed five years ago and now has over 150 members.

Gross Nominated to Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association Board of Trustees



Joseph N. Gross

Joseph N. Gross has been nominated to the Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association (CMBA) Board of Trustees for a three-year term, which began June 14, 2011.

The CMBA is a nonprofit organization that operates as a center for legal professionalism in the region, promoting the highest ethical and professional standards. The Board of Trustees has general supervision of the operation, property, affairs and finances of the corporation. Additionally, the trustees are responsible for appointing, at the time requested by the American Bar Association, a member of the corporation to act as its representative in the House of Delegates of that association.

Joe is a partner with the firm's [Labor & Employment](#) Practice Group. He focuses his practice on a variety of labor and employment matters, including workers' compensation defense. Additionally, he is certified by the Ohio State Bar Association as a Specialist in Labor and Employment Law.

Waterfill Named to Board of United Cerebral Palsy Association of Greater Indiana

Mark R. Waterfill has been named to the Board of Directors of the United Cerebral Palsy Association of Greater Indiana (UCPAGI).

Incorporated in 1953, UCPAGI exists to advance the quality of life of people with cerebral palsy throughout all of Indiana's 92 counties. Among its services, UCPAGI offers clients information about prevention, causes and treatment of cerebral palsy; financial programs to help with cerebral palsy costs and treatments; and coordinated, multi-disciplinary diagnostic and treatment services through its partnerships with health care professionals familiar with the unique health care needs of individuals with cerebral palsy.

As a Board member, Mark will be part of UCPAGI's Development Committee, which is responsible for fund-raising event sponsorship, volunteer development and marketing.

Mark's involvement with UCPAGI has been inspired by his 20 year-old son and Indiana University—Purdue University at Indianapolis student, Lucas, who has cerebral palsy. "While raising my son, I have witnessed first-hand the incredible challenges faced by individuals with cerebral palsy," Mark said. "UCPAGI does remarkable work to assist those individuals in Indiana. I am honored to have the opportunity to be a part of its Board and help to bring its services to other individuals with cerebral palsy and their families."

Mark is a partner with the firm's [Labor & Employment](#) and [Litigation](#) Practice Groups. He is widely recognized in the fields of employment law and commercial litigation. Mark litigates complex matters ranging from class-action overtime and age discrimination cases to securities fraud, breach of contract and federal racketeering matters.

Sullivan-Summers Elected Vice President of the Mooresville Chapter of Tri Kappa

Beth Sullivan-Summers was elected Vice President of the Mooresville Chapter of Kappa Kappa Kappa, Inc. (Tri Kappa). Effective May 1, 2011, she will serve as Vice President for two years, after which time she will serve as President for two years.

Tri Kappa is a philanthropic organization that exists within the boundaries of the State of Indiana. The purpose of Tri Kappa is to bring women into close, unselfish relationships for the promotion of charity, culture and education.

Beth is a partner with the firm's [Estate Planning & Probate](#) Practice Group. She counsels individuals and business owners on ways to maximize the transfer of assets while minimizing the impact of estate, gift and income taxes in an uncertain and complex tax environment. Beth also represents personal representatives and trustees in estate and trust administration.

Benesch Receives *Cleveland Plain Dealer's* 2011 Top Workplaces Award

For the second year in a row, Benesch has received the *Cleveland Plain Dealer's* Top Workplaces award.

Selection for this award was based entirely on the results of a survey distributed to Benesch's employees. Employees were sent an email and asked to answer questions about topics relevant to their experience working at Benesch. All participating organizations were ranked based on the results of the employees who completed the survey for that particular organization. Of the 235 Northeast Ohio companies participating in the program, 132 were selected to receive the Top Workplaces award.

Benesch Receives *Smart Business News* World Class Customer Service Award

Benesch was named as part of *Smart Business News* World Class Customer Service Class of 2011.

The World Class Customer Service awards honor companies for their superior customer service. The program serves to raise awareness of the importance of customer service in the business world, recognize organizations that demonstrate exceptional customer service and share best practices in customer service from those that do it best.

Count on
Benesch from the
meeting room to the boardroom
to the courtroom.



Our Indianapolis team is expanding to better meet your needs.

With five new attorneys in 2011 and plans to build our bench strength throughout the year, Benesch is Still Growing For It.

We are pleased to welcome (from left to right) Litigation Associate **STEPHANIE PENNINGER**; Intellectual Property Associate **BRANDT VOIGHT**; Business Reorganization Associate **CAROLINE RICHARDSON**; and Litigation Partners **PETER FRENCH** and **JUDY WOODS**.

BENESCH
Attorneys at Law

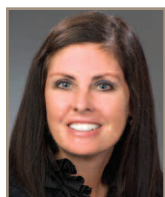
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www.beneschlaw.com

New Attorneys

Columbus



Lisa M. Burleson

Senior Counsel, Public Finance and School Law Practice Groups

(614) 223-9390

lburleson@beneschlaw.com

B.A. *Ohio Wesleyan University*

J.D. *Capital University Law School*

Lisa M. Burleson

Lisa's practice areas within the firm's Public Finance and School Law Practice Groups will include labor and employment, special education, litigation, school construction, administrative law, arbitration and mediation, through her continued representation of public school district boards of education.

Indianapolis



Robert W. Markette, Jr.

Of Counsel, Health Care Practice Group

(317) 685-6128

rmarkette@beneschlaw.com

B.A. *Hanover College*

J.D. *Indiana University School of Law – Bloomington*

Robert W. Markette, Jr.

Bob's primary areas of practice are health law and litigation. He represents a wide range of health care clients, with a special focus on home health, hospice and private duty clients.



Stephanie S. Penninger

Associate, Litigation Practice Group

(317) 685-6188

spenninger@beneschlaw.com

B.A. *University of Michigan*

J.D. *Michigan State University College of Law*

Stephanie S. Penninger

Stephanie focuses her practice on representing national and regional clients in a wide variety of complex commercial litigation matters. She has experience representing employers and employees in labor and employment matters, litigating disputes arising out of the employment relationship.

Events

Manufacturing Versus Business Services: The Dichotomy of Financial Buyers Today and Who Wins?

James M. Hill

AM&AA Summer Conference

July 20, 2011 | Chicago, IL

Freight Broker Liability

Marc S. Blubaugh

International Warehousing Logistics Association Insurance Company's Captive Insurance Board Meeting

July 28, 2011 | Lake Tahoe, CA

Financial Advisor Issues

Stuart A. Laven

ABI Mid-Atlantic Bankruptcy Workshop

August 4–6, 2011 | Hershey, PA

Advocacy in the Workplace

Marty J. Sweterlitsch

Corporation for Appalachian Development Annual Conference

August 18, 2011 | Marietta, OH

Marketer Training: Earn Referrals the Legal Way

Robert W. Markette, Jr.

Home Health and DecisionHealth: Complete Compliance Webinar Training Series for Home Health Staff

September 6, 2011 | Webinar

Life After Reimbursement Cuts: Dealing With Your Banker, Vendors and Constituents

Harry M. Brown

AOPHA – LeadingAge Ohio Annual Conference

September 8, 2011 | Columbus, OH

Women in the Law – Food Fight Event

Several Benesch attorneys attended and participated in a food preparation competition, or "Food Fight," sponsored by The Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association Women in Law. The event was held at the Cuyahoga Community College Hospitality Management Center in downtown Cleveland on May 26, 2011.

Twenty-four teams from many law firms competed. Benesch entered two teams, each consisting of three attorneys. Team Pop, Crack and Sizzle included Anna Raske, Allison Taller and David Mayo and Team Sugar and Spice, pictured below, included Theo Verginis, Deviani Kuhar and John Gambaccini.



United Way Young Leaders Networking Event

Associates Kristen Cady, Allison Taller, James Weikamp and summer associate Priscila Rocha (pictured below) attended the United Way Young Leaders Networking Event at Edgewater Yacht Club in Cleveland on June 9, 2011. Young Leaders is a group of young professionals in their twenties and thirties who are interested in working for the common good by supporting the community through United Way.



Not-for-Profit Spotlight



Art with a Heart

Indianapolis-based Art with a Heart (AWAH) is a community benefit organization that provides hands-on visual arts experiences that educate and inspire at-risk children in Indianapolis.

AWAH was born out of a woman's compassion and desire to serve those less fortunate. Founded by art teacher Carol Conrad in 2002, the program has touched the hearts and lives of thousands of children. In its initial year, 114 at-risk children were led through one week of summer art camp. Nine years later, AWAH serves 1,000 youth each year through Honors art classes, after-school programs, Kindergarten classes and week-long summer camps.

AWAH supports the notion that all children have the potential for remarkable creativity and believes that providing an environment to nurture and grow that creativity can improve their chances for success. Andrew Lee, Executive Director of AWAH, elaborates, "It's not only about improving art skills. There is skill transfer to other parts of the school curriculum and to social behaviors, too. We've seen many instances of positive change in students as a result of participation in our program."

While AWAH is proud to give children the joy-filled experience that comes from creative expression, the mission goes much deeper. AWAH programs uniquely integrate and reinforce academics within the artistic experience. Lesson plans are designed to encourage critical thinking and build problem-solving skills. Curriculums include state-mandated educational standards. High teacher-student ratios (1:12) combined with numerous volunteers help AWAH provide the attention students need.

Benesch is a proud supporter of AWAH. Business Reorganization Practice Group associate Krista S. Taggart served a two-year term as a member of AWAH's Board of Directors as Secretary from 2008–2010. Currently, Taggart and Business Reorganization Partner Sam D. Hodson

serve as pro bono counsel for AWAH. The firm is also title sponsor of AWAH's 3rd Annual Golfing for Kids Event and would like to invite clients and friends of the firm to join us in supporting AWAH through your participation or sponsorship. Proceeds from the 3rd Annual Golfing for Kids Event, which will be held Monday August 22, 2011, at Eagle Creek Golf Course, will directly benefit the children who participate in AWAH's programming. To participate in the 3rd Annual Golfing for Kids Event as a golfer or sponsor, please click [here](http://www.artwithaheart.us).

For more information about AWAH, visit its website at www.artwithaheart.us.



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