

Government Relations Practice Group Year in Review

As in 2021, in 2022 we will continue to advocate for our clients on legislative and policy issues of public concern. We will proactively bring to our clients' attention political and policy developments of importance, build their relationships with the key players, and otherwise serve as their advocate and resource on all matters of government.

Benesch Partners with the Ohio Women's Coalition

In 2021, Benesch partnered with the newly formed Ohio Women's Coalition. The OWC is a diverse, non-partisan alliance of women in business, women leaders, women business owners, and men that support the mission across Ohio who are coming together to improve the economic position for all women in our state. In addition, Benesch's Government Relations Manager Rachel Winder is serving as the OWC's Founding Executive Director, and Benesch's Government Relations Assistant Cheryl Burchard is serving as the OWC's Associate Director.

Winder said, "Our goal is to support all women throughout Ohio to achieve financial security. Building wealth is integral to women's economic security, good health, and overall well-being. We want women to weather unexpected economic hardships and be provided with resources that allow them to have proactive control over their lives."

Rob Zimmerman Honored for Service as City Councilman



Rob Zimmerman ended his fourth consecutive and final term as Shaker Heights City Councilman in 2021. Rob served for a total of 16 years, chaired multiple committees, and served two years as vice mayor. Mayor David Weiss and all of Rob's colleagues thanked him for his service, on very personal terms.

"Rob, I always felt you had an incredible intuition on this council and a sense of the pulse of the community," Weiss said. "You care deeply about Shaker and you've always known how to balance and understand competing interests and views."

At the same time, Weiss noted that Zimmerman "never shied away from making the tough decisions—in fact, I think you enjoyed them."

"Benesch was extremely supportive of my public service, true to the firm's core value of making meaningful contributions to the communities in which we live," said Zimmerman.

Rachel Winder Joins Ohio Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors



Rachel Winder accepted an invitation to join the Ohio Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors on behalf of Benesch.

The Ohio Chamber of Commerce is part of Ohio's "Big 6" Business Associations (with Ohio Manufacturer's Association, Ohio Retail Merchants, Ohio Business Roundtable, National Federation of Independent Businesses, and the Ohio Farm Bureau) that the Governor, Speaker of the House, and President of Senate, as well as many others, regularly consult with to help guide policies for Ohio that impact all Ohioans. The Ohio Chamber of Commerce is the state's leading business advocate and resource, and aggressively champions free enterprise, economic competitiveness, and growth for the benefit of all Ohioans.

Holly F. Gross Joined Benesch's Government Relations Group



Benesch welcomed associate Holly F. Gross to the firm's Government Relations Practice Group in Columbus, where she advocates for clients before various levels of government on issues of public concern. She is also specializing in not-for-profit law.

Holly has 10 years of extensive experience lobbying on behalf of Ohio's business community. In her former role as Vice President of Government Relations for the Columbus Chamber of Commerce, she led the organization's legislative and executive branch advocacy efforts at the local, state, and federal levels of government.

In addition to local, state, and federal lobbying, she helps companies build a strong government relations infrastructure, provides analysis and insights on a national basis, and advises clients on regulatory matters, and political and lobbying activity compliance.

Benesch Expands Government Relations Presence in Illinois



Juan Morado Jr. established the firm's Government Relations Practice Group in Chicago, where he advocates for clients before various levels of government on a wide range of issues. As a member of the Benesch Healthcare+ Practice Group, Juan specializes in working with clients as they seek regulatory

approval for the establishment, discontinuation, and change of ownership of various healthcare facilities.

With over 15 years of experience in government, law, and public affairs, Juan draws upon a wide range of contacts and experiences to help clients achieve their goals. Business owners and leaders from around the country rely on his counsel to find a clear path through Illinois' complex regulatory system.

Juan has previously served as an Assistant Corporation Counsel for the City of Chicago, General Counsel for the Illinois CON Board, and Assistant General Counsel and Deputy Chief of Staff in the Illinois Governor's office.

Cheryl Burchard Appointed to PUCO Nominating Council



Cheryl Burchard was appointed to serve on the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) Nominating Council by Ohio Governor Mike DeWine. Her term began on January

25th, 2022, and she serves at the pleasure of the Governor. Cheryl is a veteran government relations

professional with 30 years of experience representing companies and trade associations in Ohio state politics.

2021 Matter Highlights

In addition to regularly advocating for our clients in Statehouses and City Councils, some of the group's 2021 matter highlights included:

- Served as national zoning counsel to a major moving and storage company, securing zoning approvals of company use in multiple cities around the country.
- Created the first statewide women's business advocacy organization, the Ohio Women's Coalition, and serve as the Founding Executive Director.
- Helped secure \$20 million in small business loans in the Ohio budget.
- Managed legislation to reform the Ohio Auctioneers Licensing Law through the Ohio House of Representatives.
- Worked on legislation to remove regulatory barriers to Ohio's business certification programs.

- Deployed a defensive strategy to prevent adoption of a proposed administrative rule that would have had negative business impact on a national private equity-backed high growth and market-leading Opioid Treatment Program provider. Amended a different rule for the same client to facilitate business expansion of Opioid Use Disorder treatment to underserved areas.
- Secured a pilot workforce development program with the state of Ohio for a start-up company client.
- Successfully defended a small business client against a government enforcement action to prevent license suspension or revocation.
- Drafted and introduced legislation to enact a tax credit to spur increased investment in community development.
- Secured gubernatorial veto of last-minute proposed legislative language that threatened quality standards for the childcare industry.
- Represented Insight Chicago, Inc. as healthcare regulatory counsel in obtaining approval for an Illinois Certificate of Need in its acquisition of Mercy Hospital & Medical Center from Trinity Health Corporation.
- Represented OrthoIllinois as healthcare regulatory counsel and assisted in navigating substantial opposition from elected officials and the state's largest health system to obtain approval for an Illinois Certificate of Need to construct a \$19 million Ambulatory Surgical Center and \$19 million Medical Office Building in Elgin, Illinois.
- Represented Rush University Medical Center and Select Medical Corporation as healthcare regulatory counsel in obtaining approval for an Illinois Certificate of need to construct a new \$109 million, 100-bed LTAC/Rehabilitation hospital.
- Worked on legislation to allow for the interstate transfer of psychiatric patients between Wisconsin and Illinois.
- Represented the City of Chicago Latino Caucus and its not-for-profit foundation, which raised over \$800,000 for scholarships and its leadership program.



Appointments and Civic Affiliations

In addition to their law practices, the members of the Government Relations Practice Group serve in government-appointed positions and on the boards of many civic organizations.

Cheryl Burchard

- Associate Director, Ohio Women’s Coalition
- Nominating Council Member, Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO)

N. Victor Goodman

- Member, The State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy

Holly F. Gross

- Trustee, PAST Foundation
- Adjunct Professor, Policymaking and Advocacy during COVID-19, Capital University Law School

Juan Morado Jr.

- Board Director, Metropolitan Pier and Exposition Authority
- Board of Directors and Past President, Hispanic Lawyers Association of Illinois (HLAI)
- Board Director, HLAI Charities
- Board Director, La Casa Norte
- Board Director, National Kidney Foundation of Illinois

- Chair, Latino Leadership Council
- Board Director, Public Interest Law Initiative
- Advisory Board Member, Teatro Vista
- Board Member, We CAN Achieve Foundation
- Board of Managers, Chicago Bar Association

Martha J. Sweterlitsch

- Member, Central Branch Consulting Board, Central Ohio YMCA
- Member, Westerville Income Tax Review Board
- Board Member, Westerville Education Foundation
- Member, Hoover Sailing Foundation

Rachel Winder

- Founding Executive Director, Ohio Women’s Coalition
- Governor’s Appointment to the Select Committee on Telecom
- Public Policy Advisor, National Association of Women Business Owners, Columbus Chapter

- Member, Ohio Chamber of Commerce—Tax and Public Policy Committees
- Member, Columbus Chamber of Commerce—Government Affairs Steering Committee
- Member, Ohio Lobbying Association—Nominating and Membership Committees
- Member, Women for Economic and Leadership Development, Columbus Chapter

Robert A. Zimmerman

- Shaker Heights City Councilman (served four consecutive terms from 2006-2021)
- Member of National Council, The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law
- Board Member, Friendship Circle (special-needs children service organization)
- Past Board Member of Jewish Federation of Cleveland, Anti-Defamation League, American Jewish Committee, and Cleveland Jewish News
- Founding Member, Jewish Elected Officials of Northeast Ohio



2021 Publications

The members of Benesch’s Government Relations Practice Group study and evaluate proposed or existing legislation to determine possible effects upon our clients and regularly publish client bulletins on the most pressing issues.

Client Bulletins | December 21, 2021

[Sports Betting Legalized in Ohio](#)

Client Bulletins | December 06, 2021

[Ohio to Consider Capital Budget in 2022](#)

Client Bulletins | August 26, 2021

[Key Motor Carrier Provisions in the Bi-Partisan Infrastructure Bill](#)

Client Bulletins | July 14, 2021

[Ohio Introduces the Ohio Personal Privacy Act](#)

Client Bulletins | July 08, 2021

[Governor DeWine Signs Two-Year State Budget](#)

Client Bulletins | May 06, 2021

[Are you Feeling Lucky? Legalized Sports Betting Bill Introduced in Ohio Senate](#)

Benesch's Government Relations Practice Group

We navigate state and local government to get results for our clients. With over 100 years of experience among our attorneys and lobbyists, we have the knowledge, insight, and relationships to get the job done.

- We advocate for you before the Ohio General Assembly, Governor, executive branch departments, and other state officials to initiate and pass laws important to your business or organization.
- We monitor and analyze proposed bills and amendments and assess how the potential law could impact you. We then work to help support, oppose, or make the changes that matter to you.
- We work closely with state agencies as they develop rules and regulations that could impact your business or organization. We examine proposed changes so you know about and can influence those regulations before any potential negative impact to your operations.
- Our clients have won multimillion-dollar government contracts with our help.
- We have negotiated and secured funding and incentives for client priorities through state grants and through operating and capital budget bills.
- We help our clients develop grassroots and grasstops campaigns to institute change on the state and local level.
- We regularly appear before local city councils and other bodies on land use and zoning issues and other matters of local concern.



Robert A. Zimmerman
Chair, Government Relations
rzimmerman@beneschlaw.com
216.363.4437



Cheryl Burchard
Government Relations Assistant
cburchard@beneschlaw.com
614.223.9315



N. Victor Goodman
Partner
nvgoodman@beneschlaw.com
614.223.9343



Holly F. Gross
Associate
hgross@beneschlaw.com
614.223.9392



Juan Morado Jr.
Partner
jmorado@beneschlaw.com
312.212.4967



Martha J. Sweterlitsch
Partner
msweterlitsch@beneschlaw.com
614.223.9367



Mark D. Tucker
Partner
mtucker@beneschlaw.com
614.223.9358



Rachel Winder
Government Relations Manager
rwinder@beneschlaw.com
614.223.9316