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Benesch, 'Bullish' On Growth, Names Its Largest Partner Class

By **Rose Krebs**

Law360 (January 5, 2023, 3:11 PM EST) -- Benesch Friedlander Coplan & Aronoff has announced the largest partner class in its 85-year history, its managing partner told Law360 Pulse on Thursday, with 20 new partners named across core practice areas and in offices in Ohio, Illinois and Delaware.

Benesch's managing partner, Gregg Eisenberg, said the firm was "bullish" on continued growth in 2023 despite economic conditions. Of Benesch's new partner class, 15 are lateral hires and five are "homegrown" talent, Eisenberg said.

The firm's new partners are LeAnn Davis, Alison Evans, Julie Fenstermaker, Gregory Frohman, Mitchell Gecht, Yelena Katz, Laura Kogan, Johanes Maliza, Christopher Matgouranis, Kelly Noll, Reed Sirak, Corey Sparks, Deana Stein and Michael Ward in Cleveland; Zachary Jacob in Columbus, Ohio; Matthew Langley, Jacob Marshall, Lee Muench and Simeon Papacostas in Chicago; and Kate Harmon in Wilmington, Delaware.

"These attorneys have demonstrated outstanding leadership and commitment to our clients during their tenure with the firm," Eisenberg said in the announcement. "They have made remarkable contributions to our growth and remain committed to our long-standing culture of client service. We are excited to welcome them to the partnership and look forward to their continuing contributions to Benesch's success."

Eisenberg told Law360 Pulse that the new partners made up a "special and talented class" that was the largest in the firm's history. Benesch is celebrating its 85th anniversary this year.

"Nine of the 20 are diverse, which I also think is special," Eisenberg said. The new partner class is diverse not only in its racial and gender makeup, but also in its "skill set," he said.

Eisenberg told Law360 Pulse that Benesch continued to grow, having nearly doubled in size over the last six years or so. The firm, which was founded in Cleveland in 1938, now has eight offices, according to its website. In addition to its Cleveland, Chicago, Columbus and Wilmington offices, Benesch has offices in Hackensack, New Jersey; New York City; San Francisco; and Shanghai.

Benesch 2023 Partners

Attorney	Role	Office	Practice Group
LeAnn Davis	Partner	Cleveland	Real Estate & Environmental
Alison Evans	Partner	Cleveland	Intellectual Property
Julie Fenstermaker	Partner	Cleveland	Intellectual Property
Gregory Frohman	Partner	Cleveland	Litigation
Mitchell Gecht	Partner	Cleveland	Corporate & Securities
Kate Harmon	Partner	Wilmington, Del.	Litigation
Zachary Jacob	Partner	Columbus, Ohio	Health care
Yelena Katz	Partner	Cleveland	Labor & Employment

Laura Kogan	Partner Cleveland	Litigation
Matthew Langley	Partner Chicago	Litigation
Johanes Maliza	Partner Cleveland	Litigation
Jacob Marshall	Partner Chicago	Litigation
Christopher Matgouranis	Partner Cleveland	Real Estate & Environmental Litigation
Lee Muench	Partner Chicago	Real Estate & Environmental Litigation
Kelly Noll	Partner Cleveland	Real Estate & Environmental Intellectual Property
Simeon Papacostas	Partner Chicago	Real Estate & Environmental Intellectual Property
Reed Sirak	Partner Cleveland	Real Estate & Environmental Corporate & Securities
Corey Sparks	Partner Cleveland	Real Estate & Environmental Corporate & Securities
Deana Stein	Partner Cleveland	Litigation
Michael Ward	Partner Cleveland	Real Estate & Environmental

The roughly 345-attorney firm hired 54 attorneys in 2022, with all of those hires retained headed into 2023, a firm representative told Law360 Pulse.

"While we've grown, we think we have some of the highest retention rates as well," Eisenberg told Law360 Pulse.

Eisenberg said the firm was "very bullish" on its future, and in "a comfortable place" to be able to weather economic times and continue to grow in 2023.

Benesch **kicked off 2022** with 13 new partners.

--Editing by Karin Roberts.