



NOT FOR REPRINT

[NEWS](#)



Benesch Taps Steptoe's Retail Leader to Guide West Coast Growth



Stephanie Sheridan joined Benesch with more than 200 retail clients. She will serve as San Francisco office leader, vice chair of the firmwide litigation group and a member of the firm's executive committee.



February 21, 2023 at 09:00 AM



Law Firm Hiring



Jessie Yount



What You Need to Know

- Stephanie Sheridan, the leader of Steptoe's retail and e-commerce practice, joined Benesch on Tuesday.
- Sheridan will lead Benesch's 13-attorney office in San Francisco, which opened in 2019 with three lawyers.
- Benesch has 'significant plans' for growth on the West Coast and is eyeing expansion into Los Angeles.

Benesch has hired Steptoe & Johnson's retail and e-commerce practice group chair Stephanie Sheridan to lead the firm's four-year-old San Francisco office.

Sheridan joined the firm on Tuesday as the partner-in-charge of the San Francisco office, as well as vice chair of the firmwide litigation group and a member of the firm's executive committee.

"Stephanie is a smash hit for us," said Benesch managing partner Gregg Eisenberg. "She'll be an inspiration to our lawyers. She knows how to build a nationally recognized practice—look at the work she and her team is doing for brands in retail."

Sheridan has more than 200 retail clients and has represented DSW, J. Crew Group, Macy's, Kohl's, Stein Mart and others in trials. She advises on a range of matters such as claims of alleged deceptive pricing, false advertising cases, violations of federal and state privacy matters, and environmental issues impacting the industry.

Sheridan said all of her clients are joining her at Benesch.

“I needed to find a home for my practice group and all the people on my team,” Sheridan said, though she declined to comment on whether other Steptoe lawyers will follow her to Benesch. “What I can say is people from other firms who I’ve worked with in the past are also excited to join the firm.”

Sheridan joined Steptoe as part of a seven-lawyer team about five years ago after San Francisco-based Sedgwick dissolved. Sheridan spent her entire career at Sedgwick until then.

“With a large stable of retail clients, it’s important to be as much of a one-stop shop as possible,” Sheridan added. “Benesch is a dream for that.”

Ahead of her departure from Steptoe, Sheridan said she teamed up with wage-and-hour class action lawyers at Benesch to represent some of her retail clients in California because Steptoe doesn’t have a labor and employment practice. In a similar vein, Benesch offers excellent real estate, privacy and corporate lawyers, she said.

Eisenberg said Sheridan’s arrival will allow the firm to do more work for existing clients and bring “a greater level of strategic counseling in other practice areas.”

Benesch, a Cleveland-based Am Law 200 firm, has grown from about 200 attorneys in 2018 to 337. The firm’s San Francisco office, which [opened](#) with Winston & Strawn litigation partner Krista Enns and two associates in 2019, has grown to about 13 lawyers including six partners.

“We have significant plans for growth in San Francisco and the West Coast,” Eisenberg said, noting the firm is eyeing the Los Angeles market. “Part of the reason we’ve been successful is because we’ve focused on finding lawyers who are like us.”

“We have a ton of momentum in San Francisco and we’re excited to expand into Los Angeles,” Sheridan said. “We plan to build on core practice groups that the firm is known for and mushroom out. The opportunities are limitless.”

Benesch is “actively scouting” for additional private equity, real estate and litigation talent in California, according to litigation chair J. Erik Connolly.

Sheridan added that she was impressed by the firm’s high retention rates. “When people come here, they don’t want to leave,” she said. “That is an incredible selling point.”

Steptoe did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the departure.

RELATED STORIES

'Off the Charts' Demand Led Benesch to Double-Digit Growth

Benesch Opens First West Coast Office in San Francisco

NOT FOR REPRINT
