

## Benesch Taps Ex-Steptoe & Johnson Atty To Lead SF Office

By **Adrian Cruz**

Law360 (February 21, 2023, 4:46 PM EST) -- Benesch Friedlander Coplan & Aronoff LLP announced Tuesday that it hired a veteran attorney with over 30 years spent working with a wide range of retail clients to be the partner-in-charge of its growing San Francisco office.

Stephanie Sheridan joined Benesch on Tuesday after spending the last five years with Steptoe & Johnson LLP. Along with her role as partner-in-charge, she'll be serving as vice-chair of the firm's litigation committee and as a member of the executive committee.

During her time at her former firm, Sheridan led the San Francisco office and chaired its retail and e-commerce practice. She previously served in nearly identical roles at the now-defunct Sedgwick LLP, where she spent the first 29 years of her career.



Stephanie Sheridan

Sheridan told Law360 Pulse that the two main reasons for making the move was the ability to join a more full-service firm along with a desire to be at a firm that's more similar from a social and cultural perspective to Sedgwick, citing Benesch's higher focus on the client side compared to other firms.

"I needed a platform that was more full-service for my retail clients and I was increasingly having to use other firms for things they needed like real estate and labor that Steptoe doesn't offer," she said. "Socially, I wanted a place that was more similar to Sedgwick and those two things, in combination with getting to know the people here, really impressed me. Benesch is doing something different and to me, it's about time that a firm starts doing things in a bit more of a cutting-edge way."

Sheridan said that a number of new hires will be joining the San Francisco office in the upcoming weeks and months, declining to disclose the exact number or names of the attorneys joining.

"I'm thrilled to be partner-in-charge of this office," she said. "They started with only two people right before the COVID pandemic and they've already grown to 13 people. We know other people are joining us and because of how exciting the mix of people is, it's also incredibly diverse, which is also unique and something I'm proud of."

A graduate of University of San Francisco School of Law, Sheridan defends retailers in matters such as deceptive pricing cases; wiretapping litigation; false advertising cases; violations of federal and state privacy matters; automatic renewal claims; call recording suits; "Made in the USA" and other 'country of origin' claims; and environmental issues.

During her career, Sheridan has worked on a variety of cases including deceptive pricing class actions against companies like Kohls, Macy's and **Aeropostale**; a 2019 proposed class action against PetSmart alleging **ineffective rodent cages**; and a 2018 proposed class action **accusing L.L. Bean** of failing to honor its satisfaction guarantee when trying to replace worn out slippers.

"We are bullish on the California market, and Stephanie's addition in San Francisco is just one of the reasons," Benesch managing partner Gregg A. Eisenberg said in a statement. "Culturally, Stephanie is a shoo-in. She's a unique lawyer who understands that business is about people and relationships at its core, and she has proven her abilities in successfully partnering with clients to navigate the

rapidly evolving competitive and regulatory landscape. We know she will bring that same passion to our San Francisco office, our entire team, and our services nationally."

--Additional reporting by Ryan Boysen, Hailey Konnath and Ryan Harroff. Editing by Emily Kokoll.