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Benesch Growth Continues With Addition Of 6 New Attorneys

By **Joyce Hanson**

Law360, New York (June 14, 2016, 1:56 PM ET) -- Cleveland-based Benesch Friedlander Coplan & Aronoff LLP has announced the addition of six attorneys, four of them partners and two of them coming to the firm from Hahn Loeser & Parks LLP, in its corporate and security, international mergers and acquisitions, labor and employment, executive compensation and benefits and litigation practices.

Robert Ross, formerly of Hahn Loeser, has joined as a partner in Benesch's corporate and security practice group and as chairman of the firm's international mergers and acquisitions group. W. Eric Baisden, also formerly of Hahn Loeser, is co-chair of and a partner in Benesch's labor and employment practice group, Benesch announced on June 7.



H. Alan Rothenbuecher, W. Eric Baisden, Joseph P. Yonadi, Jr., and Robert Ross (left to right)

In addition, H. Alan Rothenbuecher, formerly of Ice Miller LLP, has become a partner in Benesch's litigation practice group. Joe Yonadi, formerly senior employment counsel at The Sherwin-Williams Co., is now a partner in the executive compensation and benefits practice group, Benesch said.

Associates Jennifer L. Katzakis and Kelly C. Morgan have joined the firm, respectively,

from Thompson Hine LLC and Eaton Corp., according to Benesch. Katzakis joins the real estate practice and Morgan joins the corporate and securities practice.

"Three of the six — Rob Ross, Eric Baisden and Alan Rothenbuecher — came together. We had been after them for a while," said Benesch Managing Partner Gregg Eisenberg in a phone interview on Tuesday. "We valued their pre-eminent national practices, and the three of them fit our core practice areas, which is where we're really focused on growing."

Benesch's five core practice areas are corporate and securities; litigation; health care; innovations, information technology and intellectual property; and real estate, according to the firm.

As an example of deals guided in Benesch's core practices, the firm cited its representation as health care regulatory counsel for real estate investment trust HCP Inc., in connection with its planned spinoff of certain assets into a separate and independent REIT. Following the spinoff, HCP expects its portfolio to have more than 860 properties and generate \$1.4 billion in annual income.

Eisenberg said that Benesch's strategic plan is to continue improving bench strength in its core practice areas. The additions of the six new hires in June complement the 48 other attorneys who have joined the firm in the last 18 months and represent a continuing influx of talent, he said.

"Our clientele are coming to us with significant and more sophisticated matters. When you have a larger bench, you have more lawyers to address those matters," Eisenberg said.

For example, **in September 2015**, Benesch launched a new Chicago outpost with a pair of litigation pros from Ulmer & Berne LLP, soon after bolstering its Ohio offices with a 12-attorney litigation powerhouse team experienced in mergers and acquisitions, private equity, intellectual property and real estate.

The firm opened its new Chicago office space last month with about eight lawyers on the ground, and Benesch plans to make additional hires there, Eisenberg said.

In joining Benesch, Ross will provide counsel to public and private companies involved in complex acquisitions, mergers and divestitures throughout the United States and worldwide. He has led multiple complex domestic and international acquisitions for high-profile manufacturing clients and has served as outside counsel for a series of complex refinancings of a privately held manufacturer based in Ohio, according to Benesch.

Baisden brings his national labor and employment practice, which includes representing employers in employment and labor relations as well as related employment litigation, before federal and state administrative agencies and in trial and appellate courts in 45 states. He also has significant first-chair experience in trade secret and noncompete litigation, Benesch said.

Rothenbuecher's specialty is building assets and business, and then protecting them from capture by others, the firm said. He has developed expertise in the plastics industry, particularly additive manufacturing, enabling him to assess business trends and needs and provide services via alternative fee arrangements, according to Benesch.

Yonadi's primary focus is on matters involving defined benefit and defined contribution retirement plans, health and welfare plans, and nonqualified retirement plans, Benesch said.

--Editing by Stephen Berg.

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