

Benesch Boosts Its Energy Practice With Ex-Calfee Attys

By **Nick Muscavage**

Law360 (December 14, 2020, 7:56 PM EST) -- Ohio law firm Benesch Friedlander Coplan & Aronoff LLP is strengthening its energy law practice with the addition of four attorneys specializing in state regulation picked up from another Ohio firm.

Partners Trevor Alexander and Mark Keaney, along with of counsel Steven Lesser and associate Kari Hehmeyer, are joining Benesch Friedlander's Columbus office from Cleveland-based firm Calfee Halter & Griswold LLP, Benesch Friedlander announced Monday.

All four decided to make the switch to Benesch Friedlander because it has a "deeper bench" and "more diversified client base," according to Keaney.

They believe their skills will complement Benesch Friedlander's "already-growing successful energy practice," Keaney told Law360 during a phone interview Monday.

"The energy practice they have here is significant," Keaney said. "I think it was sort of a match made in heaven, so to speak, in terms of us having the state regulatory side but wanting to join the much larger, more successful group that doesn't necessarily do the same type of things we're doing."

Keaney, who focuses his practice on regulation and energy industry transactions, said his own specialty is in renewable power purchase agreements.

Benesch Friedlander's energy practice has represented multinational companies, both publicly held and private, as well as for-profit and nonprofit boards. It has also served municipalities and other government entities, lenders, insurers and individuals in dispute resolutions, according to the firm.

"We are thrilled to add this team to our deep bench of industry-focused litigation and business transaction talent," managing partner Gregg Eisenberg, who also serves on Benesch Friedlander's executive committee, said in a statement. "Our clients in the constantly evolving energy sector can rely on the experience and perspective that these four attorneys can bring to an array of complex business problems, from managing risk on a daily basis to handling bet-the-company litigation."

Alexander, also joining as a partner, has 15 years of energy law experience under his belt. He will use his experience dealing with state and federal regulators to advise clients ranging from infrastructure investors and independent power and pipeline companies to electric and



Trevor Alexander



Mark Keaney



gas utilities, according to Benesch Friedlander.

Steven Lesser

In his role as of counsel, Lesser will tap in to his experience gleaned while at the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, where he previously served as chief of staff, according to Benesch Friedlander. His practice has spanned the energy industry and has addressed legislative and regulatory issues such as renewable energy and grid modernization.

Hehmeyer's practice revolves around deregulated energy markets. She advises clients on regulatory compliance and licensing.

"We are developing niche areas in our own individual practices," Keaney said, noting that he is looking forward to taking those areas of expertise and applying them at Benesch Friedlander. "We're really excited and really motivated by the opportunity."

The four lawyers are the latest additions to Benesch Friedlander's team of 260 attorneys. The firm has offices in Chicago, Cleveland, Columbus, Dubai, Hackensack, New York, Philadelphia, San Francisco, Shanghai and Wilmington.

--Editing by Stephen Berg.



Kari Hehmeyer