

Benesch Announces New Executive Committee Members

By **Rose Krebs**

Law360 (February 24, 2023, 4:37 PM EST) -- Benesch Friedlander Coplan & Aronoff has announced three partners from offices in Delaware, California and Illinois were newly elected to the firm's executive committee to help guide the law firm's strategic direction.

Michael J. Barrie, Manish K. Mehta and Stephanie A. Sheridan are the newest members of the 10-person executive committee and will each serve a three-year term, Benesch said Wednesday.

They join four returning members and the firm's managing partner Gregg A. Eisenberg, administrative partner Jeffrey J. Wild and Executive Chairman Ira C. Kaplan on the committee, which is "charged with stewarding the firm and guiding its overall strategic direction," the announcement said.

"Mike, Manish and Stephanie bring new perspectives and an additional depth of talent to the executive committee," Eisenberg said in the announcement. "I look forward to their assistance in propelling our growth and bolstering our success in this fast-moving and competitive market."

Barrie, a partner based in Benesch's Delaware office, chairs the firm's insolvency and creditors' rights practice group and is vice chair of the litigation practice group. His practice is focused "on complex commercial, real estate, and insolvency and bankruptcy dispute resolution, litigating in federal and state courts nationwide, including bankruptcy courts and Delaware's Chancery Court," according to the firm.

"Since joining Benesch in 2009, I've been privileged to be part of the firm's dynamic growth and forward-looking culture," Barrie told Law360 Pulse in an email Friday. "As an executive committee member, I'm proud to have the opportunity to help drive that growth and shape that culture. This role allows me the chance to continue to serve my clients and develop my practice at the highest level while also empowering the next generation of Benesch lawyers to do the same."

Mehta, a partner in the firm's intellectual property litigation practice group, **was named** partner in charge of Benesch's Chicago office last year. In addition to that leadership role, he "maintains a practice focused on intellectual property litigation, post-grant reviews, patent prosecution and counseling," the announcement said.

"Benesch's entrepreneurial spirit is a large part of what drew me to the firm as a lateral recruit and what has enabled me to successfully build my practice while here," Mehta told Law360 Pulse on Friday. "Having the advice and support of senior leadership means I can innovate and take risks with confidence. I'm excited now to be part of the leadership team and helping steer the course for the firm at a national level."



Michael Barrie



Manish Mehta



Stephanie Sheridan

Benesch **recently hired** Sheridan, an attorney with more than 30 years of experience working with a wide range of retail clients, to be the partner-in-charge of its growing San Francisco office. She also is the vice chair of the firm's litigation practice group.

Sheridan has extensive retail and e-commerce practice experience. She advises clients that include iconic retail brands, stores, hotels and restaurants, and helps "them build and maintain marketplace dominance while proactively addressing the multitude of federal, state and local consumer protection laws," the firm's announcement said.

"Benesch's strategic growth over the last 10 years is a model of outstanding business execution for the legal industry," Sheridan told Law360 Pulse on Friday. "I'm excited to help guide the next phase of the firm's expansion, focusing on the West Coast from my post in San Francisco, but also stewarding the practice-driven national development of the firm as a whole."

Other members of Benesch's executive committee are: Joseph A. Castrodale, a Cleveland-based partner, firm vice chair and executive chair of the firm's litigation group; J. Erik Connolly, a Chicago-based partner, managing chair of Benesch's litigation group and co-chair of the securities litigation practice group; Cleveland-based partner Michael F. Marhofer, who is co-chair of the firm's corporate and securities group; and Megan L. Mehalko, a Cleveland-based partner who co-chairs the corporate and securities group.

The roughly 345-attorney firm, which has offices in California, Delaware, Illinois, Ohio, New Jersey and Shanghai, announced last month its **largest partner class** in the firm's 85-year history.

--Additional reporting by Adrian Cruz. Editing by Lakshna Mehta.