PRESS RELEASES

Benesch Government Relations Partner Holly Gross Named Among 2026 Women of Influence by Columbus Business First

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Benesch is pleased to announce that Government Relations Partner Holly Gross has been named among Columbus Business First's 2026 Women of Influence in the Trailblazer category. This recognition honors women who are pioneers or firsts in their field and who have broken new ground, opened doors for others or led innovation in industries where women may be underrepresented.

"Holly is a trusted advisor who delivers meaningful results for her clients and communities across Ohio," said Benesch Government Relations Practice Group Chair Robert Zimmerman. "Her work continues to shape impactful initiatives that drive long term value and opportunity."

Holly is recognized for her ability to operate at the intersection of law, policy and strategy. She drafts and advances legislation while building coalitions that drive meaningful change. She translates complex regulatory frameworks into clear and actionable business strategies and serves as a trusted connector between the private sector and policymakers.

Her work is grounded in long term community impact, from supporting major manufacturing investments that create jobs across Ohio to securing funding for hunger relief and expanding access to healthcare. At a relatively early stage in her career, Holly has influenced policies and initiatives affecting billions of dollars in investment and thousands of Ohio residents, helping shape the state's economic and civic landscape, which reflects the impact recognized by this Trailblazer honor.

Holly advises clients on navigating local, state and federal regulations, helping them achieve strategic outcomes through effective advocacy and policy engagement. With more than a decade of government relations experience, she provides guidance on regulatory matters, public funding, procurement and compliance and has secured significant state and federal funding for clients.

Previously, Holly served as Vice President of Government Relations for the Columbus Chamber of Commerce, where she led advocacy efforts on behalf of more than 2000 businesses. She also serves as outside counsel to nonprofit organizations and is an adjunct professor at Capital University Law School, where she teaches legislation.

The Women of Influence program recognizes individuals who make significant contributions to their organizations, support their communities through philanthropy and mentor the next generation of leaders. Honorees are recognized across six categories, including Entrepreneurs, Trailblazers, Mentors, Nonprofit Leaders, Rising Stars and Community Champions.

Honorees will be recognized at a special awards celebration on July 23 at The Exchange at Bridge Park.

View the full 2026 Women of Influence list and learn more about those recognized here.