

Gregory J. Phillips

Cleveland
T 216.363.4472

New York
T 646.593.7050
gphillips@beneschlaw.com

Overview

Greg litigates all aspects of complex business and commercial cases for public and private companies, as well as for individuals. Greg has argued successfully before the Ohio Supreme Court and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit, while litigating cases before numerous trial courts and arbitration panels around the country.

For the last six years, Greg has been named by his peers for inclusion in Best Lawyers in America® in the Commercial Litigation field. Best Lawyers in America® is based entirely on peer review and the consensus opinion of leading lawyers about the professional abilities of their colleagues. Since 2015, Greg has received accolades from Benchmark Litigation, including being named a “Litigation Star” from 2020-2027.

As one of Benesch’s lead commercial litigators, Greg has directly contributed to the upward progression of the firm’s litigation practice in recent years and to retaining and growing the firm’s litigation client base. During this time, Benesch’s Litigation Practice Group has more than tripled in size.

Since joining Benesch, Greg has served as lead counsel on a number of significant matters for Benesch’s clients, including two complex commercial arbitrations in which Greg obtained multimillion-dollar victories for his clients after trials on the merits. Greg’s clients include some of the largest companies in Northeast Ohio, as well as the largest U.S. debit and credit card processor; a global leader in sports, fashion, and media; and a leading international manufacturer with its U.S. headquarters in Silicon Valley.

Greg's high-profile cases have attracted substantial media attention. His cases have been covered by prominent national and Ohio news outlets, including *USA Today, Reuters, Sports Illustrated, ESPN, CBS Sports, Golfweek, Computerworld, Law360, Crain's Cleveland Business, The Plain Dealer and The Columbus Dispatch.*

As a member of Benesch's Risk & Ethics Committee, Greg educates and trains colleagues on risk avoidance and mitigation, and provides advice and counseling on ethics matters when needed. Greg has significant experience in professional responsibility matters and the attorney-client privilege, having actively litigated legal malpractice claims and served as his former firm's General Counsel and chair of its Ethics Committee.

Representative Matters

- Represented an ENR-ranked Midwest specialty contractor in a cross-border dispute over cost overruns and withheld payments on a steel manufacturing plant. The contractor significantly underbid the project due to misleading actions by the owner. Benesch re-baselined the schedule, developed a damage model and used an estoppel argument to secure a favorable settlement in fast-track arbitration.
- Defended FirstEnergy in a putative class action brought by Schwebel Baking Co. on behalf of itself and similarly situated, large commercial and industrial customers of FirstEnergy. The lawsuit challenged FirstEnergy's decision to pass through to these customers certain regulatory costs incurred in January 2014, when the "polar vortex" caused temperatures across the region to plummet to historic lows and demand for electricity increased correspondingly.
- Successfully defended publicly traded manufacturer that hired away a key executive-level employee from direct competitor that sued to enforce noncompete.
- Obtained $10 million settlement for Fortune 500 company from supplier of defective components that were incorporated into machines sold around the world.
- Successfully represented Eaton in breach of contract litigation against a Canadian licensee over approximately $4 million in overdue royalties. The case settled on highly favorable terms, with a $3.2 million payment to Eaton.
- Represented Cooper Lighting LLC, a subsidiary of Eaton Corporation, in an action for replevin and emergency injunctive relief after the supplier of a critical subcomponent abruptly shuttered its factory's doors, jeopardizing a suite of products produced by Cooper. After obtaining the emergency injunctive relief, the case settled on confidential terms.
- Successfully enforced three noncompetes, including one against the former head of a U.S. division, on behalf of a major sports agency.
- Successfully defended law firm from legal malpractice claim arising from complex commercial real estate transaction.

Credentials

EDUCATION

- University of Virginia School of Law, 1998, J.D.
- Princeton University, 1993, A.B., *magna cum laude*

BAR & COURT ADMISSIONS

- Ohio
- New York
- District of Columbia
- U.S. Supreme Court
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit
- U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia
- U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Ohio
- U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Ohio
- U.S. District Court for the District of Colorado
- U.S. District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania

Memberships

- Member, American Bar Association
- Member, Ohio State Bar Association
- Member, Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association
- Law Clerk for Judge Albert V. Bryan, Jr., U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia, 1998-1999

Awards & Recognition

- Listed, Chambers USA Band 4, Litigation: General Commercial, 2026
- Named, “Lawyer of the Year,” *The Best Lawyers in America®,* 2025
- Listed, *The Best Lawyers in America®*, Commercial Litigation, 2016-2027
- Listed, Benchmark Litigation, Litigation Star, 2020-2027
- Listed, Benchmark Litigation, Future Litigation Star, 2015-2019
- Listed, Ohio Super Lawyers, Business Litigation, 2016-2026

- Listed, Ohio Super Lawyers – Rising Stars, 2009-2010

News & Insights

- Benesch Named 2027 Highly Recommended Firm by Benchmark Litigation; 14 Attorneys Recognized, Including 4 First-Time Honorees
  October 30, 2026 | Press Releases
- 126 Benesch Attorneys Recognized in 2027 Best Lawyers® Rankings
  August 20, 2026 | Press Releases
- Benesch Recognized as Leading Law Firm by Chambers USA 2026 with Record Growth in National and Regional Rankings
  June 4, 2026 | Press Releases
- Law360 Highlights Benesch Team Representing Industrial Power Systems in Kraft Heinz Dispute
  February 18, 2026 | Media Mentions
- 48 Benesch Attorneys Selected to 2026 Ohio Super Lawyers and Rising Stars
  January 27, 2026 | Press Releases
- 129 Benesch Attorneys Recognized in 2026 Best Lawyers® Rankings
  August 21, 2025 | Press Releases
- 49 Benesch Attorneys Selected to 2025 Ohio Super Lawyers and Rising Stars
  December 17, 2024 | Press Releases
- Benesch Named Recommended Firm by Benchmark Litigation for 10th Time, Six Benesch Partners Recognized as 2025 “Litigation Stars”
  October 8, 2024 | Press Releases
- 132 Benesch Attorneys Recognized in 2025 Best Lawyers® Rankings
  August 14, 2024 | Press Releases
- 41 Benesch Attorneys Selected to 2024 Ohio Super Lawyers and Rising Stars Lists
  December 31, 2023 | Press Releases