

Holly F. Gross

Columbus
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Overview

Holly helps clients understand how proposed, existing, and ever-changing local, state, and federal regulations and laws affect their business and ability to operate successfully, frequently and successfully advocating for advantageous changes, while addressing potential threats through the legislative and policymaking processes.

In addition to more than 10 years of lobbying experience, she helps organizations build a strong government relations infrastructure, provides analysis and insights on a national basis, and advises clients on regulatory matters, government enforcement actions, government licensure, procurement and contracting, grantmaking, and political and lobbying activity compliance. She has experience working across numerous subject areas representing a vast array of clients, drafting legislation, and amending the law to achieve their goals. She has successfully secured funding for clients as part of the state biennial Capital Budget and Main Operating Budget, as well as congressionally directed spending items.

In her former role as Vice President of Government Relations for the Columbus Chamber of Commerce, she led the organization's legislative and executive branch advocacy efforts at the local, state, and federal levels of government to represent more than 2,000 business members. She also managed the Chamber's workforce development efforts and served as In-House Counsel. Holly previously represented the state's retail industry before the Ohio General Assembly and Ohio's congressional delegation, and began her career as a legislative aide in the Ohio House of Representatives.

Holly also practices non-profit law, serving as outside general counsel to numerous tax-exempt organizations, specializing in formation, structure, and governance.

Holly has a strong technical understanding of the Ohio legislative process, and works as an adjunct professor at Capital University Law School, teaching Legislation for a fifth year.

Representative Matters

- Successfully thwarted inclusion of a harmful SNAP requirement that would have put additional strain on the state's hunger relief network.
- Helped secure over $48 million in vital funding for the Ohio Association of Foodbanks to fight statewide hunger.
- Leveled the playing field by ensuring sales tax now applies consistently to "casual sales" - whether they happen in person or online - bringing clarity and fairness to buyers and sellers alike.
- Secured $200,000 to expand career-connected computer science programming into rural communities - reaching students and educators who have historically had limited access to tech career pathways.
- Won a $350,000 earmark to launch an in-depth feasibility study that paves the way for statewide expansion of the crisis nursery model.
- Boosted core operating support to $2.7 million for licensed crisis care provider, strengthening day-to-day impact and stability.
- Advocated for pro-economic development policies to increase the threshold of voters required to advance a petition for rezoning referendum in a township and expand the purposes of the roadwork development grant to include certain private uses.
- Worked under the rapid timeline of the Ohio Transportation Budget to secure amendment fixing flawed new transportation dealer law that would have required duplicative and costly licensure for state's largest bus and van supplier.

Credentials

EDUCATION

- Capital University Law School, 2015, J.D.
  - President, Capital University Law School Democrats, April 2013 - May 2015
- The Ohio State University, 2010, B.A., Sociology, *cum laude*
  - Minor in Fashion Merchandizing

BAR & COURT ADMISSIONS

- Ohio

Memberships

- Ohio Bar Association
  - Vice Chair of the Ohio State Bar Association Nonprofit Corporation Subcommittee (of the Corporation Law Committee)
- Ohio Lobbying Association
- PAST Foundation, Trustee

Awards & Recognition

- Named, Columbus Business First Women of Influence, 2026
- Listed, Ohio Super Lawyers – Rising Stars, 2024-2025
- Named, Columbus Business First 40 Under 40, 2023
- Awarded 2018 Equality Ohio Ally of the Year for efforts to pass non-discrimination law for LGBTQ individuals

News & Insights

- Benesch Government Relations Partner Holly Gross Named Among 2026 Women of Influence by Columbus Business First
  June 2, 2026 | Press Releases
- Benesch Partners Kevin Frankel, Holly Gross and Managing Associate Bianca Smith Publish Law360 Article on Senate Ban on Prediction Market Trading
  May 20, 2026 | Media Mentions
- Prediction Markets and Public Power: Senate Restricts Trading, but Constitutional Questions Linger
  May 8, 2026 | Client Alerts & Insights
- Benesch Partner Holly Gross Quoted in Knox Pages on State Funding Applications
  February 5, 2026 | Media Mentions
- 48 Benesch Attorneys Selected to 2026 Ohio Super Lawyers and Rising Stars
  January 27, 2026 | Press Releases
- Benesch Announces 16 New Partners for 2026
  December 31, 2025 | Press Releases

- Knox Pages Highlights Benesch's Holly Gross
  October 14, 2025 | Media Mentions
- Why Ohio's Congressional Redistricting is Still in the Headlines
  September 26, 2025 | Client Alerts & Insights
- Unlocking Billions: Six Important Insights for Businesses Eyeing New Rural Health Transformation Program Funding
  September 22, 2025 | Client Alerts & Insights
- Ohio Senate Deliberates Ban on Noncompete Agreements for All Employees
  May 16, 2025 | Client Alerts & Insights

Speaking & Events

PAST EVENTS

- Legislative Update for the Metals Industry | Holly F. Gross
  September 12, 2024 | Speaking Engagement
- Sports Gaming Legislation | Holly F. Gross
  February 7, 2024 | Speaking Engagement
- Sports Gaming in Ohio | Holly F. Gross
  February 7, 2024 | Speaking Engagement
- Tax Treatment of Nonprofit Entities | Holly F. Gross
  August 23, 2023 | Speaking Engagement
- Opioid Litigation Settlement Update | Holly F. Gross
  June 5, 2023 - June 6, 2023 | Speaking Engagement