

James J. Walsh

Cleveland
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Overview

James is a trial lawyer and business litigator who advocates for and advises clients in complex commercial matters. He has experience in federal and state courts, arbitral tribunals, regulatory investigations, and administrative agency proceedings, including case development and strategy, pleadings and motion practice, written and oral discovery, trial and expert witness preparation, and appeals.

Recently, James represented a client in a two-week arbitration trial in San Francisco, California, during which he examined and cross-examined both fact and expert witnesses.

James has represented business entities and nonprofit organizations of all sizes in a wide array of industries and disciplines. He is often called to assist on matters involving unique factual circumstances and novel areas of law, especially those involving the intersection of government and business. His doggedness in pursuing his clients' best interests and his insatiable curiosity have resulted in clients and colleagues calling him a "born litigator" and a "fierce competitor." He has substantially contributed to briefs filed in the Supreme Court of the United States, the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit, the Supreme Courts of Ohio, New Hampshire, and West Virginia, and the District of Columbia Court of Appeals. Some of his recent representative experience includes:

- Representing a professional sports league in a high stakes dispute against a celebrity-owned media company regarding the licensing of media rights.
- Representing a global leader in sports marketing in multi-jurisdictional litigation against an iconic sports figure's company relating to the handshake deal that established the modern sports marketing industry.

- Representing a multinational advanced manufacturer in a directors & officers insurance coverage action seeking tens of millions of dollars in damages relating to a complex trade secrets action. In his pro bono practice, James has had the honor of representing numerous nonprofit organizations, public officials, and civic institutions in cases critical to shaping important public policies, including domestic violence prevention and redressing public corruption.

James also serves as an advisor to closely-held businesses involved in governance disputes, mergers and acquisitions, and other significant corporate actions. He strives to assist business owners in achieving common sense solutions, avoiding litigation and formal dispute resolution procedures wherever possible.

Representative Matters

- Part of team that successfully defended a college sports marketing company in a federal class action brought by a college football celebrity, who asserted a challenge to college-athletics amateurism.
- Part of team that represented telehealth company in various cases, including class actions, involving false-advertising and related consumer protection issues.
- Part of team that successfully defended an energy company in a state class action lawsuit brought by local residents.
- Successfully sought to compel arbitration in federal court against several non-signatories to an arbitration agreement on behalf of Benesch's client.
- Represented a major public electric utility in an action against a large municipal electric utility alleging state constitutional violations, including in the Supreme Court of Ohio.
- Defending a pharmaceutical distributor in MDL 2804, National Prescription Opiate Litigation, which has been hailed as the largest and most complex litigation in U.S. history.
- Successfully defended a dental services organization in a False Claims Act case pending in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Ohio. Won dismissal with prejudice at the motion to dismiss stage.
- Representing a publicly traded real estate investment trust in an environmental insurance coverage action pending in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Ohio. Successfully cross-examined opposing expert and delivered closing argument at Daubert hearing.

Credentials

EDUCATION

- Case Western Reserve University School of Law, 2017, J.D.
  - *magna cum laude*
  - Order of the Coif
  - Business Concentration (with honors)
  - *Case Western Reserve Law Review*: Associate Editor, Vol. 66; Contributing Editor, Vol. 67.
- Cleveland State University, 2014, M.A.
- Ohio Wesleyan University, 2010, B.A.

BAR & COURT ADMISSIONS

- Ohio
- U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Ohio
- U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Ohio
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit

Memberships

- Member, Federal Bar Association, Northern District of Ohio Chapter
- Treasurer, Federal Bar Association, Northern District of Ohio Chapter
- Member, Board of Directors, Federal Bar Association, Northern District of Ohio Chapter
- Former Chair, Newsletter Committee, Federal Bar Association, Northern District of Ohio Chapter
- Volunteer Mentor, Federal Bar Association, Northern District of Ohio Chapter
- Former Volunteer, Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association 3Rs Program
- Former Mentor, Case Western Reserve University School of Law Mentoring Alumni Program (MAP)

Awards & Recognition

- Listed, *The Best Lawyers in America®* Ones to Watch, Appellate Practice; Commercial Litigation; 2024-2026
- Listed, Ohio Super Lawyers – Rising Star, 2020-2026

News & Insights

- 126 Benesch Attorneys Recognized in 2027 Best Lawyers® Rankings
  August 20, 2026 | Press Releases
- 48 Benesch Attorneys Selected to 2026 Ohio Super Lawyers and Rising Stars
  January 27, 2026 | Press Releases
- Law360 Mentions Benesch Partner James Walsh in Coverage of Logistics Compliance Dispute
  January 5, 2026 | Media Mentions
- Benesch Announces 16 New Partners for 2026
  December 31, 2025 | Press Releases
- Benesch Secures Major Trial Victory for Professional Bull Riders in High-Profile Bankruptcy Dispute
  November 3, 2025 | 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
- 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
- James Walsh mentioned in Crain's Cleveland Business | "Case Western gives youth baseball league priceless support"
  October 30, 2023 | Media Mentions