

James R. Bedell

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Overview

James focuses on complex commercial litigation, including contract disputes, business torts and class actions. James' practice covers all phases of litigation, including pre-filing investigation and negotiation, discovery, motion practice, trial and appeal.

He has worked with clients in a wide array of industries, including networking, telecommunications, energy, manufacturing, financial services, information technology, and sports and entertainment.

Prior to joining Benesch, James was an extern to Chief Judge Joy Flowers Conti of the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania where he honed his legal research and writing skills.

Representative Matters

- Achieved a significant summary judgment decision for election technology company Smartmatic in its defamation case against MyPillow and Mike Lindell. The Court found Lindell's accusations were false and defamatory per se and that MyPillow was vicariously liable for their publication. The ruling also found injunctive relief was appropriate pursuant to the Minnesota Deceptive Trade Practices Act. The case will be proceeding to trial in Minnesota Federal Court in 2026.
- Defeated class certification and prevailed on Daubert arguments dismissing the opinions of class plaintiffs' damages and consumer survey experts, successfully arguing on behalf of telehealth company that plaintiffs' claims involved too many individualized questions regarding injury and damages, rendering class treatment inappropriate.

- Defended manufacturing corporation in breach-of-contract action brought by former vendor claiming over $2 million in damages. Served as first chair for a multi-day arbitration and secured a full defense verdict.
- Represented Fortune 100 technology company in trade secrets lawsuit in California state court involving enterprise collaboration software brought by former potential vendor seeking in excess of $50 million dollars in damages. Helped obtain favorable settlement for a fraction of that amount on the eve of trial.
- Obtained summary judgment for publicly traded critical infrastructure company in $100 million trade secrets lawsuit brought by former vendor.
- Successfully secured a full defense award for a Fortune 100 technology company in arbitration stemming from a breach of contract claim seeking damages in excess of $1 million.
- Defended Fortune 500 company in eight-figure contract dispute through a three-week arbitration hearing related to a major Superfund project

Credentials

EDUCATION

- Case Western Reserve University School of Law, 2018, J.D., *magna cum laude*
  - Editor in Chief, Case Western Reserve Law Review, Volume 68
  - CALI Award for Highest Grade in Legal Writing I, Legal Writing II
- University of Pittsburgh, 2010, B.A. Political Science

BAR & COURT ADMISSIONS

- 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
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia

Memberships

- Extern to Chief Judge Joy Flowers Conti, U.S. District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania, 2016

Awards & Recognition

- Listed, *The Best Lawyers®* Ones to Watch, Appellate Practice; Commercial Litigation; 2024-2027
- Listed, Ohio Super Lawyers – Rising Stars, Business Litigation, 2022-2025

Beyond the office

Prized Possession

In 2009, I traded my car for a Rhodes piano

Favorite Restaurant

Sakagura in NYC or Mabel's in Cleveland

Favorite Vacation

Honeymoon in Acadia National Park

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
- Benesch Secures Major Trial Victory for Professional Bull Riders in High-Profile Bankruptcy Dispute
  November 3, 2025 | Press Releases
- Law360 Highlights Benesch's Major Defamation Win for Smartmatic Against MyPillow CEO
  September 30, 2025 | Media Mentions
- 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
- David A. Rammelt, Nicholas J. Secco, Michael D. Meuti, James R. Bedell and Michael B. Silverstein mentioned in Law360 | "Dentists Can't Get Class Certification In SmileDirectClub Suit"
  February 15, 2024 | Media Mentions

- 41 Benesch Attorneys Selected to 2024 Ohio Super Lawyers and Rising Stars Lists
  December 31, 2023 | Press Releases
- Best Lawyers in America® Rankings 2024
  August 17, 2023 | Press Releases