

Jeffrey J. Wild

Executive Committee Member; Firm Administrative Partner; Chief Strategy Partner; Chair, Real Estate Practice Group

Cleveland
T 216.363.4544
T 216.789.8748
jwild@beneschlaw.com

Overview

Jeff focuses his practice on commercial real estate matters, with an emphasis on development, acquisitions, dispositions, financings and joint venture work. He represents some of the country's largest publicly traded Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs), private equity funds, institutional investors, lenders, borrowers and family offices in all facets of commercial real estate transactions throughout the country.

Jeff's extensive experience extends to large-scale development and redevelopment projects, as well as the handling of a high volume of complex real estate acquisitions, dispositions and financings of retail, office, industrial and multifamily properties. His representation includes drafting and negotiating purchase agreements, joint venture agreements, loan documents, easements and other related real estate documentation, as well as coordinating all real estate due diligence. Regularly handling high-stake deals, Jeff has successfully closed transactions ranging from $10 million to in excess of $1 billion.

Jeff also has deep experience in multi-site portfolio acquisitions and dispositions, complex joint venture structuring, sale-leaseback transactions, mixed-use developments, loan workouts and distressed real estate matters. Additionally, Jeff serves as business counsel to many of his clients, advising them broadly on a range of corporate and business matters, including corporate formation and governance, corporate credit facilities and asset management matters.

Jeff has been named a Leading Lawyer in Real Estate Law by Chambers USA since 2011 and a Best Lawyer in Real Estate Law honoree by The Best Lawyers in America® since 2008. Additionally, he was recognized as a Thomson Reuters Stand-Out Lawyer in 2024.

Outside of the office, Jeff is civically involved as the immediate Past Chair of the Board of Directors of Cleveland Development Advisors (an affiliate of the Greater Cleveland Partnership), a Trustee of the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Foundation, President of the Board of Trustees of the Jewish Education Center of Cleveland, Vice Chair of the Jewish Federation of Cleveland and a member of the Board of Governors of the Jewish Agency for Israel, to name a few. Additionally, he is a member of the International Council of Shopping Centers, the National Association of Industrial and Office Properties and the Urban Land Institute, and is a graduate of Leadership Cleveland, the Wexner Heritage Leadership Institute and the National Young Leadership Cabinet of United Jewish Communities.

Client Testimonials

“[Jeffrey is] a very strong lawyer and a good communicator.” – Benesch client, Chambers USA

Representative Matters

- Represented a large publicly traded REIT in connection with the retail aspects of an over 600-unit multifamily development in California, including a master lease with a quasi-governmental entity.
- Represented Blackstone in connection with its acquisition of a portfolio of 228 mortgage loans from Atlantic Union Bank for approximately $2 billion.
- Represented Brookfield Asset Management in connection with the real estate and loan-related matters of its acquisition of a portfolio of 43 mortgage loans from Valley National Bank for over $920 million.
- Advised a leading international investment and management firm, performing all diligence and related needs for their purchase of loans in default for a total of over $600 million and subsequent foreclosures of more than 70 properties in California.
- Represented a prominent national developer on the ground leasing, joint venture structuring, financing, development, and construction of a 350+ unit luxury apartment development valued at more than $100 million as part of a larger master planned mixed-used project in Pittsburgh, PA.
- Serving as lead real estate legal counsel to Toys "R" Us Property Company I, LLC ("Propco I"), a subsidiary of Toys “R” Us, Inc., in an effort to maximize the value of Propco I’s portfolio of approximately 284 properties in 46 states totaling 14.5 million square feet as part of the Chapter 11 bankruptcy of Toys “R” Us and its affiliates. Benesch is performing comprehensive real estate legal services associated with the operation, lease and sale of these of properties, which include former Toys "R" Us and Babies "R" Us stores, distribution centers, the Company's corporate headquarters in Wayne, NJ, and surplus retail properties ancillary to the former store locations.
- Lender's counsel in connection with a real estate workout involving $100 million of loans secured by distressed assets including loan modification relating to additional collateral, inter-creditor issues and bankruptcy.

- Benesch represents one of the nation's largest multifamily housing developers in the ground leasing, financing, and development of a 430+ unit multifamily apartment complex within a large scale vertical mixed-use project including ground floor retail, office and hotel uses and subterranean parking facilities in a high profile redevelopment project in downtown San Antonio, Texas. Benesch is handling all aspects of the ground leasing, redevelopment, and debt and equity financing for the project. The project involves a complicated master lease structure with multiple subleases, a leasehold condominium regime and reciprocal easement agreements. Benesch is handling negotiation of the multi-layered sublease structure, which governs the public-private partnership among the city, through a public facilities corporation, the master developer and the client. The development is further complicated by the inclusion of public park facilities, a subterranean garage and other shared infrastructure that is integral to the master plan for the development.

Credentials

EDUCATION

- Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law, 1997, J.D.
  - Member - Arts and Entertainment Law Journal
- Yeshiva University, 1994, B.A., *cum laude*, Political Science
  - Dean's List, all semesters
  - Student Senator

BAR & COURT ADMISSIONS

- Ohio

Memberships

- Board of Trustees, Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Foundation
- Chair, Board of Directors, Cleveland Development Advisors, an affiliate of the Greater Cleveland Partnership
- Board of Governors, The Jewish Agency for Israel
- Vice Chair, Board of Trustees, Jewish Community Federation of Cleveland
- Board of Trustees, Jewish Federations of North America
- President, Board of Trustees, Jewish Education Center of Cleveland
- General Chair, Jewish Community Federation of Cleveland's 2019-2020 Annual Campaign for Jewish Needs

- Member, International Council of Shopping Centers
- Member, National Association of Industrial and Office Properties
- Member, Urban Land Institute
- Class of 2010, Leadership Cleveland
- Member, The Wexner Heritage Leadership Institute
- Member, National Young Leadership Cabinet, United Jewish Communities
- Member, American Bar Association
- Member, Ohio State Bar Association
- Member, Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association

Awards & Recognition

- Listed, *The Best Lawyers in America®,* Real Estate Law, 2008-2027
- Recipient, Mendy Klein Community Service Award, Hebrew Academy of Cleveland, 2025
- Named, Thomson Reuters Stand-Out Lawyer, 2024-2025
- Listed, Chambers USA Leading Lawyers, Real Estate, 2011-2026
- Listed, Ohio Super Lawyers, Real Estate, 2012-2019, 2021-2026
- BTI Client Service All-Star 2015-2016
- Listed, Ohio Super Lawyers, Rising Stars, 2005-2007, 2011
- Listed, Leading Lawyers, *Inside Business Magazine* 2007-2008
- Member, Leadership Cleveland, Class of 2010
- Listed, 40 Under 40, *Crain's Cleveland Business* 2006
- Member, United Jewish Communities' National Young Leadership Cabinet
- Graduate, The Wexner Foundation's Leadership Development Program

News & Insights

- Benesch Partner Laura Sugarman Named Among Connect CRE's 2026 Women in Real Estate Award Winners
  October 30, 2026 | Press Releases
- 126 Benesch Attorneys Recognized in 2027 Best Lawyers® Rankings
  August 20, 2026 | Press Releases

- Law360 Highlights Benesch’s Addition of 20-Lawyer Real Estate Finance Team and Expansion into Miami
  August 5, 2026 | Media Mentions
- Asset Securitization Report Spotlights Benesch’s Real Estate and Structured Finance Expansion
  August 4, 2026 | Media Mentions
- Law.com Features Benesch's Addition of 21-Lawyer Real Estate Finance Team and Miami Expansion
  August 3, 2026 | Media Mentions
- Benesch Adds 20-Lawyer Real Estate Finance and Structured Finance Team from Reed Smith
  August 3, 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
- 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
- Jeffrey Wild Featured in Jewish Cleveland News on Vision as New Board Chair of Jewish Federation of Cleveland
  July 30, 2025 | Media Mentions