

Jonathan R. Todd

Co-Lead, Transportation & Logistics Practice

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Overview

A national authority on supply chain management, transportation and logistics, and international trade, Jonathan advises retailers, manufacturers, technology companies, transportation providers, and logistics firms on the movement of goods worldwide. His practice spans M&A, contract negotiation, licensing and permits, business operations, market entry, geopolitical risk, regulatory compliance and enforcement defense, and dispute resolution.

Experience matters because there is no one-size-fits-all supply chain. Jonathan's entire career has focused on advising clients in transportation, logistics, warehousing, fulfillment, procurement, sales, customs, and international trade compliance matters. He has served the industry on advisory committees and councils by appointment of the Transportation Secretary, Commerce Secretary, TSA Administrator, and Ohio Governor. He previously served as senior counsel and officer for a global transportation, logistics, and customs brokerage provider. Earlier in his career, he received a graduate degree in supply chain management in addition to his law degree, a certificate in international law, a customs broker license, and a fellow designation from the Association for Supply Chain Management.

Jonathan frequently speaks at events nationwide and his commentary is widely published including in NPR, Forbes Newsroom, Scripps News, Nasdaq TradeTalks, Vogue Business, Bloomberg Law, National Law Journal, Law360, Inbound Logistics, Supply Chain Dive and FreightWaves. He is a three-time JD Supra "Reader's Choice Award" recipient for International Law and Transportation Law subjects, a Supply & Demand Chain Executive's "Pro to Know" recipient, a LawDragon "Leading Lawyers in Maritime" recipient, and a Crain's "Notables in Law" recipient.

Benesch's National Band 1 ranked Transportation & Logistics Practice Group has also held the title of national "Law Firm of The Year" in Transportation Law for seven recent years.

Client Testimonials

"Jonathan and his team consistently provide high-quality legal advice and demonstrates a deep understanding of our industry and business goals. His team also shows excellent responsiveness and communication, always available when needed and proactive in keeping us informed." Benesch Client, Chambers USA

You are welcome to reach out and discuss any issue, big or small, any time at 1-216-363-4658 or jtodd@beneschlaw.com.

Representative Matters

- Advised TowerBrook Capital Partners in acquiring a majority stake in Rael, a leading women's wellness brand focused on holistic cycle care.
- Provided expedited regulatory due diligence for a private equity firm's acquisition of a freight brokerage having nearly $2 billion in annual revenue.
- Represented Astō Consumer Partners, a consumer-focused investment firm, in its $105 million strategic investment in Starface World, Inc.
- Represented Bluestone Equity Partners on its strategic investment in Selkirk Sport, the leading pickleball equipment manufacturer.
- Represented Purolator, a leading Canadian provider of integrated freight, package and logistics solutions, as U.S. deal counsel in its acquisition of Livingston International from Platinum Equity.
- Served as legal counsel to Atmus Filtration Technologies in its $450 million definitive agreement to acquire Koch Filter. The transaction strengthens Atmus' market position by providing direct access to Koch Filter's established customer network across commercial and industrial HVAC, data centers and power generation.
- Represented Harbor Global, a portfolio company of BayPine, in its acquisition of Encoretech, a specialized training and user adoption services company focused on the legal sector.
- Represented a Landlord for the lease of an entire six-story building (214,560 rentable square feet of premises) in Northbrook, Illinois, to the healthcare industry's largest medical-surgical product manufacturer and supply chain provider.

Credentials

EDUCATION

- St. Louis University, 2013, MBA, Supply Chain Management
- St. Louis University School of Law, 2008, J.D., International Law Certificate
- Westminister College, 2003, B.A., Political Science

BAR & COURT ADMISSIONS

- Ohio
- U.S. Customs Broker
- APICS Certified Supply Chain Professional Fellow (CSCP-F)
- New York

Memberships

- Member, Air Forwarders Association (AFA) – Regulatory Compliance Committee; Contributor to "At The Bar" Column
- Member, American Production and Inventory Control Society (APICS)
- Member, American Trucking Associations (ATA) - Supply Chain Security Policy Committee
- Member, Council of Supply Chain Management Professionals (CSCMP)
- Board Member – District Export Council for Northern Ohio
- Member, Institute for Supply Chain Management (ISM)
- Member, National Customs Brokers and Forwarders Association of America (NCBFAA)
- Member, Transportation Lawyer's Association (TLA)
- Board Member – Truckload Carrier Association (TCA)
- Voting Member – TSA Surface Transportation Security Advisory Committee

Awards & Recognition

- Named, 500 Leading Lawyers in Maritime, Admiralty & The High Seas, 2026
- Recipient, Top Author Award, JD Supra Readers' Choice Awards, 2021, 2025, 2026
- Ranked Band 4 Nationally for International Trade: Customs, Chambers 2026
- Ranked Band 1 Nationally for Transportation: Road (Carriage/Logistics), Chambers 2024-2026
- Ranked Band 2 Nationally for Transportation: Road (Carriage/Logistics), Chambers 2023
- Listed, *Crain's Cleveland* Notables in Law, 2022
- Listed, Chambers USA Leading Lawyers, Transportation: Road (Carriage/Logistics) Nationally, 2020-2022
- Listed, Pros to Know, Supply & Demand Chain Executive Magazine, 2021

Beyond the office

Hobbies/Activities

Desert hiking, baseball and hockey games, and watching almost any movie (particularly documentaries)

Favorite Quote

“A problem well-defined is a problem half solved.” – John Dewey

News & Insights

- Jonathan Todd Authors Law360 Expert Analysis on Supply Chain Challenges Amid Iran Conflict
  November 3, 2026 | Contributed Content & Presentations
- New BIS “Affiliates Rule” Compliance Date is November 10 Unless Suspended by U.S.-China Truce
  November 2, 2026 | Client Alerts & Insights
- Owner-Operators and Federal Leasing Regulation Compliance: Legal Q&A
  October 22, 2026 | Client Alerts & Insights
- InterConnect Newsletter | Q3 2026
  October 20, 2026 | Newsletters
- Restrictions on Foreign Interests in the Transportation and Logistics Sector: A Look Ahead
  October 19, 2026 | Client Alerts & Insights
- FMCSA MOTUS Implementation - Common Motor Carrier Concerns
  October 14, 2026 | Client Alerts & Insights
- Canada Trade - New Tariff Announcement and USMCA Non-Renewable Stakes for North American Supply Chains
  October 14, 2026 | Client Alerts & Insights
- Crossing Lanes and Catching Fraud: DOJ, DHS and DOT Launch “Crossroads of America” Task Force to Crack Down on Trucking Fraud
  October 14, 2026 | Client Alerts & Insights
- IEEPA Tariff Refund Litigation: Deciding Next Steps for CAPE Phase III
  October 8, 2026 | Client Alerts & Insights
- Cross-Border Transport Risks: Cabotage Regulatory Enforcement Intensifies
  September 18, 2026 | Client Alerts & Insights

Speaking & Events

PAST EVENTS

- Legal Updates to Close Out 2026 | Jonathan Todd, Christopher Razek, Robert Pleines
  November 5, 2026 | Speaking Engagement
- Supply Chain Security | Jonathan R. Todd
  October 4, 2026 - October 7, 2026 | Speaking Engagement
- A Practical Roadmap to Supply Chain Mapping & Traceability and Diversification Risk Mitigation | Jonathan R. Todd, Megan K. MacCallum
  June 12, 2026 | Speaking Engagement
- IEEPA Tariff Refund Update | Jonathan R. Todd
  April 29, 2026 | Speaking Engagement
- Navigating the Legal Fallout of Tariffs, Trade Wars, and Immigration on the Food Industry | Jonathan R. Todd
  April 28, 2026 | Speaking Engagement