



Jonathan R. Todd

Vice Chair, Transportation & Logistics
Practice Group

Cleveland

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Overview

Supply chains are the lifeblood of client businesses. Jonathan Todd knows the players, the playbook, and the value in quickly mobilizing. He is personally Chambers USA National “Band 1” ranked and has grown the best bench of lawyers around.

Jonathan’s clients include manufacturers, retailers, technology companies, carriers of all modes, freight forwarders, and property brokers. He has spent his entire career focused on handling transportation, logistics, warehousing, fulfillment, procurement, sales, and import or export matters.

His portfolio of experience includes industry mergers and acquisitions, contract drafting and negotiating of all forms, government license and permit management, business operations counsel, new business lines, new market entry, geopolitical risk management, regulatory compliance counsel and enforcement defense, claims, and dispute resolution.

Perspective is everything among attorneys. Jon 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. Along the way, he received a graduate degree in supply chain management, a certificate in international law, a customs broker license, and a fellow designation from the Association for Supply Chain Management.

Jon is a national authority on supply chain management, transportation and logistics, and international trade matters. He frequently speaks at events nationwide and his commentary is widely published including in: NPR, Forbes Newsroom, Nasdaq TradeTalks, Vogue Business, Bloomberg Law, National Law Journal, Law360, Inbound Logistics, Supply Chain Dive, and FreightWaves. He is a Crain’s “Notables in Law” recipient, a two-time JD Supra “Reader’s Choice Award” recipient, and a Supply & Demand Chain Executive’s “Pro to Know” recipient.

Representative Matters

- 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.
- 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.
- Represented a private equity buyer in its acquisition of a wholesale distributor of pipes, valves, and fittings.
- Represented Loar Holdings Inc., a diversified manufacturer and supplier of niche aerospace and defense components, in its acquisition of Applied Avionics, Inc., a manufacturer of highly engineered avionics interface solutions catering to the aviation industry, valued at \$385 million.

Credentials

EDUCATION

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

BAR & COURT ADMISSIONS

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

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

- Recipient, Top Author Award, JD Supra Readers’ Choice Awards, 2021, 2025, 2026
- Ranked Band 1 Nationally for Transportation: Road (Carriage/Logistics), Chambers 2024, 2025
- 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

- [Section 122 – Supply Chain Reactions to CIT Decision](#)
May 8, 2026 | Client Alerts & Insights
- [Benesch Partner Jonathan Todd Quoted in Law360 on Tariff Refund Litigation and Strategy](#)
April 28, 2026 | Media Mentions

- [Scripps News Interviews Partner Jonathan Todd on Customs Duty Refund Process](#)
April 21, 2026 | Media Mentions
- [Tariff Refund Q&A: What to Do Now and What Legal Issues Lie Ahead](#)
April 17, 2026 | Client Alerts & Insights
- [Benesch Partner Jonathan Todd Quoted in Manufacturing Dive on Tariff Refund Uncertainty Following SCOTUS Decision](#)
April 8, 2026 | Media Mentions
- [Instrumental's Build Better News Quotes Benesch Partner Jonathan Todd on Tariff Refund Uncertainty](#)
April 8, 2026 | Media Mentions
- [Contracting for Geopolitical Risk](#)
April 6, 2026 | Client Alerts & Insights
- [Iran Conflict – Global Shipping Risks Explained](#)
April 6, 2026 | Client Alerts & Insights
- [Benesch Partner Jonathan Todd Publishes Article on Reverse Logistics in Star Carrier](#)
March 31, 2026 | Media Mentions
- [Jonathan Todd Mentioned in Plastics News on Tariff Developments](#)
March 25, 2026 | Media Mentions

Speaking & Events

UPCOMING EVENTS

- [A Practical Roadmap to Supply Chain Mapping & Traceability and Diversification Risk Mitigation | Jonathan R. Todd](#)
June 12, 2026 | Speaking Engagement

PAST EVENTS

- [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
- [IEEPA Tariff Invalidation: Key Issues for Supply Chains and Importers; Navigating Alternatives and Refunds | Megan K. MacCallum, Jonathan R. Todd](#)
March 25, 2026 | Speaking Engagement
- [The Effect of Tariffs on Plastics Manufacturing | Jonathan R. Todd](#)
March 24, 2026 | Speaking Engagement

- [Navigating Compliance: How TSA, FMCSA, and IATA Regulations Shape Air Cargo | Jonathan R. Todd](#)
February 16, 2026 | Speaking Engagement