



Jonathan R. Todd

Co-Lead, Transportation & Logistics
Practice

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

- 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

- [Customs Duty Assists: Regulatory Compliance Overview and FAQ](#)

June 17, 2026 | Client Alerts & Insights

- [TSA Authorized Representatives-Emerging Practice of Engaging Freight Brokers and Its Practical Implications](#)
June 17, 2026 | Client Alerts & Insights
- [Chameleon Carriers-FMCSA's "Reincarnated" Rule and Enforcement](#)
June 17, 2026 | Client Alerts & Insights
- [IEEPA Tariff Refunds Challenged in Court - Q&A for Supply Chains](#)
June 11, 2026 | Client Alerts & Insights
- [Tariff Refund Litigation: A Primer on Common Plaintiff's Theories of Recovery and Importer of Record Defenses](#)
June 10, 2026 | Client Alerts & Insights
- [Benesch Recognized as Leading Law Firm by Chambers USA 2026 with Record Growth in National and Regional Rankings](#)
June 4, 2026 | Press Releases
- [SCOTUS Extends FAA Exemption to Last-Mile Drivers: What the Flowers Foods Decision Means for Motor Carriers and Transportation Providers](#)
May 29, 2026 | Client Alerts & Insights
- [Benesch Partners Jonathan Todd and Philip Nester Publish Greater Houston Port Bureau Article on Supply Chain and Legal Risks Amid Iran Conflict](#)
May 26, 2026 | Contributed Content & Presentations
- [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

Speaking & Events

PAST EVENTS

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