

Kristopher J. Chandler

Partner; Chair, AI Commission

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Overview

Kris focuses his practice on technology transaction, data security and privacy, and intellectual property protection. In addition, he serves as Chair of Benesch's multidisciplinary AI Commission, leading the firm's efforts to guide clients in safely and legally deploying AI technologies and tools to enhance operations, drive innovation, and optimize and customize customer experiences.

The team advises B2B and B2C businesses in wide-ranging industries, AI tech and tools developers, investors, collaborators, service providers and users/integrators on the legal implications of AI innovations and associated risks while proactively monitoring proposed laws, regulations and litigation.

As an intellectual property lawyer by trade, Kris represents clients in various sophisticated technology transactions, assisting high-tech companies market, protect, commercialize and distribute their intellectual property. Kris has experience navigating the various data security and privacy regulations of the United States, including the CCPA and the GDPR. Kris has represented numerous clients, with domestic and international business operations, in developing and implementing compliant data security and privacy policies and procedures. Kris also supports a number of mergers & acquisitions transactions, assisting clients with corporate, intellectual property, and data security and privacy related needs arising from these types of transactions.

In addition to intellectual property matters, Kris has experience navigating the difficult and intricate regulatory framework of cannabis at the federal, state, and local level across the United States. Kris represents numerous clients as they seek to enter into and succeed in the cannabis marketplace. He provides licensure assistance, successfully obtaining licenses in merit based, competitive jurisdictions as well as non-competitive jurisdictions. Upon licensure, Kris provides continual corporate governance, strategic assistance, and post-licensure compliance to successfully bring these companies to market and maintain compliance with all applicable laws and regulations Kris has represented clients in several cannabis related transactions across the United States and in foreign jurisdictions, including mergers, acquisitions, complex loan agreements, and various other corporate transactional matters. By utilizing his MBA in connection with his wealth of knowledge and experience in the cannabis marketplace, Kris is able to develop and implement creative and "outside the box" business strategies and solutions to ensure compliance in this heavily regulated industry while competing for, and obtaining, greater market share and higher revenues.

Representative Matters

- Represented American Equipment Solutions, a portfolio company of Rotunda Capital Partners, in its divestiture of Kanawha Scales & Systems and related industrial weighing business to Investcorp.
- Provide guidance to several clients related to data use and compliance obligations as it relates to AI tool usage and data privacy concerns.
- Assist clients in the navigation of certain legal compliance requirements related to use of AI tools for certain consequential use cases.
- Assist several clients in the negotiation of vendor agreements for the procurement of technology solutions including and incorporating AI features and functionality.
- Represent large client through a competitive RFP process in the procurement of enterprise IT services, including certain application development and management services that relate to AI development and deployment.
- Assist large energy and global materials science company with the development, deployment and implementation of enterprise wide responsible use and AI governance policy governing employee and contractor use of AI tools in furtherance of job functions, including ethical considerations, best practices and use case approval process.
- Assist large healthcare system with the development, deployment, and implementation of responsible AI security policy to govern security and data protection terms and conditions for procurement of AI tools.
- Represented Gridiron Capital in the sale of Foundation Wellness, a leading consumer wellness platform that designs, manufactures, markets, and sells high-value branded wellness products, to Bansk Group.

Credentials

EDUCATION

- The Ohio State University, Moritz College of Law, 2017, J.D.
  - Staff Editor, *Ohio State Business Law Journal*
  - Vice-President, Business Law Society
- The Ohio State University, Fisher College of Business, 2017, MBA
  - Weidler Scholar
- The Ohio State University, 2013, B.A., *magna cum laude*, Political Science and History

BAR & COURT ADMISSIONS

- Ohio

Awards & Recognition

- Named a 2024 and 2025 Ohio Leading Lawyer, *Ohio Business Magazine*

News & Insights

- InterConnect Newsletter | Q3 2026
  October 20, 2026 | Newsletters
- Cross-Border Transport Risks: Cabotage Regulatory Enforcement Intensifies
  September 18, 2026 | Client Alerts & Insights
- Where AI Regulation Stands Today Part 2: State Attorneys General as the Primary AI Enforcers
  June 22, 2026 | Client Alerts & Insights
- Columbus Business First Highlights Benesch Insights on AI Prompt Risks and Litigation Exposure
  June 9, 2026 | Contributed Content & Presentations
- Ohio Board of Professional Conduct Issues Ohio Ethics Guide on Artificial Intelligence for Lawyers and Judicial Officers
  June 3, 2026 | Client Alerts & Insights
- AI in the Infusion Suite: What Infusion Providers Need to Know Now
  May 28, 2026 | Client Alerts & Insights
- Benesch Announces 16 New Partners for 2026
  December 31, 2025 | Press Releases

- Benesch Advises American Equipment Holdings LLC and Kanawha Scales & Systems in Sale to Investcorp
  November 17, 2025 | Press Releases
- Businesses Must Be Ready for Additional October Compliance Obligations under the DOJ's Bulk Data Transfer Rule when Interacting with Countries of Concern and Covered Persons
  August 21, 2025 | Client Alerts & Insights
- Kristopher Chandler Quoted in Law360 on Evolving AI Regulations
  August 18, 2025 | Media Mentions

Speaking & Events

PAST EVENTS

- High-Risk Commercial Contract Provisions in 2026: Performance Excuses, Price Allocation, and AI Vendor Terms | Kristopher J. Chandler
  September 23, 2026 | Speaking Engagement
- AI-Powered Freight: Contracting, Liability, and Compliance for Maritime and Intermodal Tech Tools | Kristopher J. Chandler
  April 29, 2026 - May 1, 2026 | Speaking Engagement
- Safely Using AI To Enhance B2B Marketing Strategies & Business Results | Kristopher J. Chandler
  October 22, 2025 - October 23, 2025 | Speaking Engagement
- Guidance for the Legally Compliant Deployment of AI Tools | Kristopher J. Chandler
  October 1, 2025 - October 3, 2025 | Speaking Engagement
- The Rise of the Machines - Practical Legal Solutions for AI and Logistics | Kristopher J. Chandler
  April 9, 2025 - April 11, 2025 | Speaking Engagement