

Matthew David Ridings

Cleveland
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Overview

Matt is a seasoned trial lawyer and strategic advisor with extensive experience in antitrust, anti-corruption, and government enforcement matters. He represents multinational corporations, executives, and boards in high-stakes investigations, litigation, and compliance matters across the United States and around the world.

Matt has successfully defended clients in complex criminal and civil proceedings involving allegations of price-fixing, market allocation, bid-rigging, foreign bribery, and other competition-related offenses. He has tried numerous cases to verdict, and his results-driven approach and deep regulatory insight make him a trusted advisor for clients navigating parallel investigations by agencies such as the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), Federal Trade Commission (FTC), Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), European Commission, Japan Fair Trade Commission, and Canadian Competition Bureau.

A Certified Compliance and Ethics Professional® (CCEP), Matt counsels global enterprises on building and strengthening compliance frameworks that anticipate enforcement risk. He regularly designs and implements global compliance programs, conducts internal investigations, and leads cross-border risk assessments addressing antitrust, Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA), and related anti-bribery laws. He also guides clients through merger reviews, civil investigative demands, and government Second Requests, often coordinating simultaneous inquiries in multiple jurisdictions.

*Matter completed prior to joining Benesch.

Representative Matters

- Led internal investigation into possible anti-corruption violations in connection with the construction of a public works project.*
- Represented publicly-traded company in SEC investigation of possible insider trading scheme by a member of executive leadership in anticipation of a privatization deal from a private equity fund.*
- Represented banking institution in internal investigation relating to federal and state investigations surrounding false statements and payment of kickbacks in connection with the sale of securities to state pension funds.*
- Led investigation of alleged theft and provenance of handwritten music lyrics to a chart-topping song on a multi-platinum album by 1970s American country-rock band.
- Represented private equity fund in conducting anti-bribery diligence relating to acquisition of water treatment company with sales in South and Central America and Russia.*
- Represented retailer in False Claims Act investigation and won dismissal of qui tam suit alleging fraudulent underpayment of postage on packages mailed through the United States Postal Service and improper categorization of mail under the Domestic Mail Manual.
- Represented agricultural biotechnology scientist criminally indicted for violations of the Economic Espionage Act alleging the theft of corporate trade secrets for the benefit of a foreign power.*
- Defended advertising firm alleged to have participated in a RICO conspiracy relating to the embezzlement of over $15 million by its client's Chief Marketing Officer.

Credentials

EDUCATION

- Washington and Lee University School of Law, 2005, J.D., *cum laude*
- Indiana University, 2002, B.S.

BAR & COURT ADMISSIONS

- Ohio
- U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois
- U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan
- U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Missouri
- U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Ohio
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit
- U.S. District Court for the Western District of Michigan

- U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Ohio

Memberships

- American Bar Association
- Ohio State Bar Association, Member, Antitrust Section Council, 2011 to 2014
- Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association
- Secretary, Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad Board of Trustees
- Sixth Circuit Criminal Justice Act appointment

Awards & Recognition

- Listed, *The Best Lawyers in America®*, Commercial Litigation, Criminal Defense: White-Collar; Litigation – Antitrust, 2014-2027
- Listed, *Benchmark Litigation* Under 40 Litigation Hot List, 2019-2020
- Listed, Ohio Super Lawyers, 2023-2026
- Listed, Ohio Super Lawyers – Rising Stars, 2013-2019

News & Insights

- There's Fifty New Sheriffs in Town: The Paramount-Warner Bros. Settlement and State Antitrust
  October 12, 2026 | Client Alerts & Insights
- 126 Benesch Attorneys Recognized in 2027 Best Lawyers® Rankings
  August 20, 2026 | Press Releases
- 16 Benesch Attorneys Recognized in 2026 Legal 500 City Elite Rankings
  July 28, 2026 | Press Releases
- Feds Set Their Sights on Ohio: Unpacking the Federal-State Partnership
  June 22, 2026 | Client Alerts & Insights
- The Devil is in the Details: DOJ Provides New Insights Regarding National Fraud Enforcement Division's Priorities
  April 23, 2026 | Client Alerts & Insights
- White House Taps Vice President to Lead New "Task Force to Eliminate Fraud"
  April 7, 2026 | Client Alerts & Insights
- FTC Enforcement Trends in 2026: What Businesses, Advertisers Should Be Watching Now
  February 20, 2026 | Client Alerts & Insights

- False Claims Act (FCA) Recent Developments: Constitutional Scrutiny Mounts for Relator-Based Actions
  November 19, 2025 | Client Alerts & Insights
- NCAA President Calls for Stiffer State Laws on Sports Betting Following NBA Betting Scandal and Revised Legislation Permitting Sports Betting for D-II and D-III Athletes
  October 27, 2025 | Client Alerts & Insights
- The “Streamline Act” Seeks to Raise Reporting Thresholds and Modernize the Bank Secrecy Act
  October 23, 2025 | Client Alerts & Insights

Speaking & Events

PAST EVENTS

- New DOJ Trade Fraud Task Force: Heightened Investigation and Prosecution of Tariff Evasion, Customs Regs | Matthew Ridings, Jonathan R. Todd
  December 3, 2025 | Speaking Engagement
- Preserving Attorney-Client Privilege in the Digital Age: Ethical Duties and Practical Strategies | Matthew David Ridings
  March 24, 2025 - March 27, 2025 | Speaking Engagement
- A Look Into the Future of Title IX's Sex and Gender Discrimination Regulations Post-Election 2024
  November 12, 2024 | Firm Events