

Michael D. Stovsky

Partner, Intellectual Property and Technology Transactions, Data Security and Privacy, and AI

Cleveland
T 216.363.4626
mstovsky@beneschlaw.com

Overview

Mike has nearly three decades of experience representing technology companies from start-up to growth stage, middle market to Fortune 50, as well as major regional and national venture capital and private equity funds and their portfolio companies, and as lead outside counsel on technology transactions, intellectual property, artificial intelligence, and privacy and data security matters, and is CIPP/US certified by the International Association of Privacy Professionals.

He provides advice and guidance with respect to the protection of trade secrets and other confidential business information, drafts and reviews confidentiality, non-competition, and non-circumvention agreements, and performs due diligence with respect to trade secret and confidentiality issues in the context of technology deals and M&A transactions.

Representative Matters

- Served as outside counsel in connection with the completion of an agreement for the sale of Summa Health to HatCo. This represents one of the most significant healthcare system transactions in Ohio in recent years and one of the first in which a major health system has been sold to an affiliate of a private equity fund.
- Represented a private equity buyer in its acquisition of a wholesale distributor of pipes, valves, and fittings.
- Served as outside counsel to a developer of surgical instruments and spinal implants in connection with business issues, financings, sales of product lines and intellectual property and technology contracts and issues.

- Served as outside counsel to a national real estate investment trust in connection with a major ERP software license and integration transaction with a major international software vendor.
- Served as outside counsel to national condominium and apartment developers and owners in connection with satellite and cable television, broadband Internet access and VoIP services implementation agreements
- Served as lead outside counsel to a major international tire and diversified products manufacturer in connection with a multimillion dollar business process outsourcing transaction with Salesforce.com to provide and implement SaaS.
- Served as outside counsel to a Cleveland-based VoIP service provider in connection with a major ERP software license transaction.
- Served as outside consultant to State Senator Eric Fingerhut with respect to the formulation of the Ohio Digital Signature Act - an amendment to the Uniform Commercial Code in Ohio to expressly permit digital signatures, including the formulation of the initial proposal for digital signature legislation for the State of Ohio, the preparation of materials for use in the drafting of a digital signature bill, aiding the Senator to develop broad-based bipartisan support for the measure, and participation in the legislative process.

Credentials

EDUCATION

- University of Pennsylvania Carey Law School, 1991, J.D.
- Northwestern University, 1986, B.A.

BAR & COURT ADMISSIONS

- Ohio
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit
- U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Ohio
- Certified Information Privacy Professional/United States (CIPP/US)

Memberships

- Member, Jewish Federation of Cleveland
  - Technology Committee Member
  - Security Committee Member
  - Overseas Connection Committee Member
    - Chair, OCC STEM Education Subcommittee
  - Co-Chair, October 7 Commemoration Event (2025)
  - Co-Chair, Yom Ha'atzmaut Celebration Event (2020-2021)
- Board Member, American Jewish Committee Cleveland
- Member, Digital and Technology Advisory Committee, Cleveland Museum of Art
- Member and Co-Chair, Legal Node – Legislation Subcommittee, Blockland Cleveland
- Member, Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association
- Member, American Bar Association
  - Member, Committee on Law and Commerce in Cyberspace, Business Law Section
  - Member, Science and Technology Law Section
- Member, Leadership Cleveland (Class of 2010)
- Former Board Member, Friendship Circle of Cleveland
- Former Member, Anti-Defamation League National Commission
- Former Member, Anti-Defamation League, Board of Trustees – Ohio Region
- Former Board Member, Providence House
- Former Board Member, Beachwood Schools Foundation
- Former Member, Host Committee – 2019 Shout Out!, Cleveland Rape Crisis Center
- Former Board Member, IP Advisory Council, University of Akron Law School
- Former Adjunct Professor, Case Western Reserve University Law School

Awards & Recognition

- Listed, Chambers USA Leading Lawyers, Intellectual Property, 2022-2026
- Listed, *Crain's Cleveland Business* "Notables in Law" (2022)
- AV Rated, Martindale-Hubbell Peer Review
- Listed, *The Best Lawyers in America®*: Information Technology (2007-2027), Technology Law (2023-2027), IT Outsourcing Law (2023-2027), Data Security and Privacy Law (2023-2027)

- Listed, *Ohio Super Lawyers* (2006)
- Listed, *CrainTech's "*Who's Who in Technology" (2002-2006)
- Recipient, *Crain's Cleveland Business* "40 Under Forty" Award (1999)

News & Insights

- 126 Benesch Attorneys Recognized in 2027 Best Lawyers® Rankings
  August 20, 2026 | Press Releases
- Benesch Managing Partner Gregg Eisenberg and Partner Michael Stovsky Named to Crain's Cleveland 2026 "Notable Leaders in Accounting, Consulting and Law" List
  July 27, 2026 | Press Releases
- Benesch Recognized as Leading Law Firm by Chambers USA 2026 with Record Growth in National and Regional Rankings
  June 4, 2026 | Press Releases
- 129 Benesch Attorneys Recognized in 2026 Best Lawyers® Rankings
  August 21, 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
- Benesch Recognized in Chambers USA 2025 with Record Growth in National and Regional Rankings
  June 4, 2025 | Press Releases
- Federal Net Neutrality Reinstatement Denied by Court of Appeals; State-Level Laws Remain in Place
  January 16, 2025 | Client Alerts & Insights
- Benesch Partner Michael Stovsky Quoted in Los Angeles Times Article
  December 20, 2024 | Media Mentions
- DOJ Proposes Rules Limiting Transfer of Sensitive Data to Countries and Individuals
  December 12, 2024 | Client Alerts & Insights
- Benesch Advises Client Rotunda Capital Partners on Strategic Investment in Lehman Pipe and Supply, Inc.
  September 6, 2024 | Press Releases

Speaking & Events

PAST EVENTS

- AI Enablement and Risks in the Financial Services Industry | Michael D. Stovsky
  April 21, 2026 - April 23, 2026 | Speaking Engagement
- AI Governance | Michael D. Stovsky
  April 16, 2026 - April 17, 2026 | Speaking Engagement
- Cybersecurity and Privacy Protection Conference | Michael D. Stovsky
  April 11, 2025 | Speaking Engagement
- Cybersecurity Risk Management | Michael D. Stovsky
  December 3, 2024 | Speaking Engagement
- Defending Against The Modern Threat Landscape - A Layered Approach for Solving the “Cyber Problem” | Michael D. Stovsky
  November 1, 2023 | Speaking Engagement