

Michael Montgomery

Cleveland
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Overview

Michael Montgomery litigates differently. Before advocating for a client, Michael listens intently so that he fully understands what a successful outcome in any given dispute looks like for his client. Although no one wants to find themselves in a legal dispute, Michael partners with his clients to help them navigate the litigation process as painlessly as possible, and he takes the time to counsel his clients to help them avoid getting entangled in litigation moving forward.

This involves far more than a “paint-by-numbers” approach to litigation. Unafraid to challenge convention, Michael brings a creative perspective to his advocacy that helps his clients resolve disputes without wasting their time and money. He stays in close contact with his clients throughout a dispute-never billing his time for providing frequent updates-so that he can deftly change course if a new strategy is necessary to achieve the right result.

Michael has the tools to clear the high bar of excellence he sets for himself in every matter. After graduating in the top one percent of his law school class (and scoring in the top one percent among his fellow bar examinees), he spent three years as a law clerk for two federal judges at both the trial and appellate levels. Michael has now spent more than two decades applying his knowledge and insights to bring wins to his clients in trials and appeals all over the United States. He has done so in a staggeringly wide range of matters, including everything from high-stakes commercial disputes and product-liability actions to complex environmental litigation and actions to recover assets for Ponzi scheme victims.

But Michael strives to accomplish more than successful outcomes for his clients. Legal disputes are inevitably challenging and stressful for everyone involved. With this in mind, Michael treats everyone involved in the legal process with unfailing kindness and genuine respect. He is also known for cracking a joke from time to time, and he remains certain one of them will eventually elicit laughter in response.

**Matter completed prior to joining Benesch.*

Representative Matters

- Served as lead appellate counsel in proceedings arising from a range of litigation.*
- Successfully defended a major shipping company in a jury trial on a contract claim that sought to impose a multi-million dollar obligation for hauling services.*
- Provided counsel in litigation throughout the United States aimed to recover misappropriated funds in the largest Ponzi scheme in history.*
- Secured multiple favorable settlements of multi-million dollar product-liability lawsuits brought against a major vehicle manufacturer throughout the United States.
- Led team that successfully defended a $60 million claim for breach of a brand-license agreement following a multi-week arbitration hearing.
- Manages key elements of high-profile defamation litigation against major media outlets featuring claims for more than $2 billion in damages.
- Serves as primary litigation counsel for national commercial-property management firm involving a range of leasing and related disputes.
- Prevented a business competitor from obtaining an injunction to stop construction of a $200 million industrial facility.*

Credentials

EDUCATION

- The Ohio State University, Moritz College of Law, 1999, J.D., *summa cum laude*
  - Articles Editor, The Ohio State Law Journal
  - Order of the Coif
- The Ohio State University, 1996, B.A., *magna cum laude*

BAR & COURT ADMISSIONS

- Ohio
- U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit
- U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Arkansas
- U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Ohio
- U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Ohio
- U.S. District Court for the Western District of Arkansas
- U.S. District Court for the Western District of Wisconsin

Memberships

- Law Clerk to the Honorable James S. Gwin, United States District Court for the Northern District of Ohio (1999-2001)
- Law Clerk to the Honorable Ronald L. Gilman, United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit (2001-2002)
- Member, American Bar Association
- Federal Bar Association
  - Northern Ohio Chapter: Board of Directors
- Member, Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association
- Northern District of Ohio Advisory Group: Appointed Member (2017)
- Cleveland Marshall College of Law: Adjunct Professor of Law
- Merit Selection Panel for the Reappointment of a U.S. Magistrate Judge: Member
- Delegate, Sixth Circuit Judicial Conference

Awards & Recognition

- Listed, *The Best Lawyers in America®*, Commercial Litigation, 2018-2027
- Martindale-Hubbell: AV Preeminent

News & Insights

- 126 Benesch Attorneys Recognized in 2027 Best Lawyers® Rankings
  August 20, 2026 | Press Releases
- 129 Benesch Attorneys Recognized in 2026 Best Lawyers® Rankings
  August 21, 2025 | Press Releases
- Michael Montgomery Mentioned in Law360 on Dismissal of GrafTech Shareholder Lawsuit
  August 21, 2025 | Media Mentions
- 132 Benesch Attorneys Recognized in 2025 Best Lawyers® Rankings
  August 14, 2024 | Press Releases
- Benesch Continues Expansion of National Litigation Practice
  October 30, 2023 | Press Releases
- Best Lawyers in America® Rankings 2024
  August 17, 2023 | Press Releases
- U.S. News & World Report - Best Lawyers Rankings 2023
  August 18, 2022 | Press Releases
- U.S. News & World Report - Best Lawyers Rankings 2022
  August 19, 2021 | Press Releases
- U.S. News & World Report - Best Lawyers Rankings 2021
  August 20, 2020 | Press Releases
- U.S. News & World Report - Best Lawyers Rankings 2020
  August 15, 2019 | Press Releases