



Michael O'Donnell

Chicago

T 312.212.4936

mpodonnell@beneschlaw.com

Overview

Mike focuses his practice on complex commercial disputes in federal and state courts across the country. His experience includes breach of contract disputes, consumer class action cases, and appeals. On these cases, Mike has conducted critical legal and factual research and drafted various motions, briefs, and written discovery.

Mike earned his law degree from Case Western Reserve University School of Law, where he graduated magna cum laude and was actively involved in several experiential learning opportunities. As a first-year student, he externed for the Honorable Judge Donald C. Nugent in the Northern District of Ohio. In his third year, he joined Case Western Reserve University's Appellate Litigation Clinic, where he drafted a petition for certiorari to the United States Supreme Court, prepared appellate briefs, presented oral arguments before the Ohio Eighth District Court of Appeals, and negotiated affirmative relief for a client appealing a trial court judgment against her.

Michael also served as Executive Articles Editor for Volume 74 of the Case Western Reserve Law Review. Additionally, as Co-President of the Student Legislative Initiative of Cleveland, he managed a legislative research project and drafted a Cleveland city ordinance to establish a non-police response system for mental health crises.

Credentials

EDUCATION

- Case Western Reserve University School of Law, 2024, J.D., magna cum laude
 - Order of the Coif
 - Executive Articles Editor, Case Western Reserve Law Review (Vol.74)
 - Co-President, Student Legislative Initiative of Cleveland (SLIC)
 - Received numerous CALI Excellence for the Future Awards as distinction for highest grade
 - Teaching Assistant, Advanced Appellate Legal Writing (2023)
 - Writing Tutor, 1L Legal Writing (2022-2023)
- Loyola University Chicago, 2019, B.A., Anthropology, summa cum laude
 - With honors
 - Minor in History
 - Phi Beta Kappa

BAR & COURT ADMISSIONS

- Illinois
- U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois

News & Insights

- [Thomson Reuters Honors Eight Benesch Attorneys as 2026 "Stand-Out Lawyers"](#)
February 4, 2026 | Press Releases
- [Samantha Marchand and Michael O'Donnell Mentioned in Crain's Chicago People on the Move](#)
December 10, 2024 | Media Mentions