



Peter N. Kirsanow

Cleveland

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Overview

Pete focuses his legal practice on representing management in employment-related litigation and in contract negotiations, NLRB proceedings, union matters, EEO matters and arbitration.

Pete previously served for two years as a presidential appointee to the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) in Washington D.C. While serving on the NLRB, he was involved with significant decisions including Oakwood Healthcare, Inc., Dana/Metaldyne and Oil Capital Sheet Metal, Inc. In addition, Pete testified before the Senate Judiciary Committee on the nominations of John Roberts, Samuel Alito, Sonia Sotomayor, Elena Kagan and Neil Gorsuch to the Supreme Court. He continues to testify before and advise members of the U.S. Congress on employment law matters.

Pete was reappointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives to his fifth consecutive six-year term on the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, making him the longest-serving member in the Commission's history. His term will expire in December 2031.

Pete's experience includes having served as lead counsel to the National Association of Manufacturers in litigation before the U.S. Circuit Court for the District of Columbia against the NLRB, challenging the Board's Notice of Employer Rights Posting Rule. The court ruled in favor of Benesch's client, striking down the NLRB's Rule in its entirety. This ruling impacted over six million employers nationwide who would have been subject to the posting requirement.

Representative Matters

- Prepared an amicus brief on behalf of several major trade associations.

- Represented the National Association of Manufacturers in litigation against the National Labor Relations Board.
- Represented a steel processing manufacturer in OSHA, workers' compensation and personal injury litigation proceedings following a machine failure resulting in the death of the machine operator.
- Represented a major hospital in complex bankruptcy proceedings involving three major unions.
- Successfully represented an employee leasing firm in the trucking industry in obtaining a court order vacating an arbitration award which reinstated a discharged truck driver who had tested positive for drugs.
- Represented a foundry before OSHA and the Industrial Commission after one of the company's employees died, allegedly from a workplace injury.
- Represented defendant in age discrimination case in Cuyahoga County.
- Secured summary judgment for client Myers Industries in a disability discrimination case brought by a former employee. We handled this case from filing to conclusion, ultimately prevailing at summary judgment.

Credentials

EDUCATION

- Cleveland State University College of Law, 1979, J.D.
 - Articles Editor, Law Review
- Cornell University, 1976, B.A.

BAR & COURT ADMISSIONS

- Ohio
- U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Ohio
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit

Memberships

- Past Chair of the Board of Directors, The Center for New Black Leadership
- Adjunct Professor, Cleveland State University, Cleveland-Marshall College of Law

Awards & Recognition

- Listed, *The Best Lawyers in America*®, Employment Law - Management; Labor Law - Management; Litigation – Labor and Employment, 2014-2026
- Listed, Benchmark Litigation, Labor & Employment Star, 2020-2024
- Best Lawyers®, Labor Law – Management, Lawyer of the Year, 2023
- Listed, Ohio Super Lawyers, 2015-2021, 2023
- Listed, Chambers USA Leading Lawyers, Labor & Employment 2016-2021

News & Insights

- [My Benesch My Team - Richard](#)
December 18, 2025 | My Benesch My Team: Client Feature Ads
- [Benesch Partner Peter Kirsanow Appointed to Fifth Term on U.S. Commission on Civil Rights; Becomes Longest-Serving Member](#)
December 18, 2025 | Press Releases
- [129 Benesch Attorneys Recognized in 2026 Best Lawyers® Rankings](#)
August 21, 2025 | Press Releases
- [White House Appoints Peter Kirsanow as Chairperson of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights](#)
January 29, 2025 | Press Releases
- [132 Benesch Attorneys Recognized in 2025 Best Lawyers® Rankings](#)
August 14, 2024 | Press Releases
- [Benesch Named Recommended Firm by Benchmark Litigation for 2024](#)
November 9, 2023 | Press Releases
- [48 Benesch Attorneys Named Best Lawyers in America](#)
October 30, 2023 | Announcements
- [June Kicks Off with a Flurry of Labor and Employment Law Developments and Activity](#)
October 30, 2023 | Client Alerts & Insights
- [Peter Kirsanow Interviewed on Fox & Friends](#)
October 30, 2023 | Media Mentions
- [Pete Kirsanow Quoted in Industry Week Regarding Controversial NLRB Posting Rule Being Struck Down](#)
October 30, 2023 | Media Mentions

Speaking & Events

PAST EVENTS

- The Impact of the Election on Labor | Peter N. Kirsanow
November 21, 2024 | Firm Events
- Regulatory Investigations and Audits: A Legal Guide on Prep and Response | Eric L. Zalud, Peter N. Kirsanow, Kelly E. Mulrane
July 20, 2020 - July 24, 2020 | Speaking Engagement
- How Employee Classification Rules Changes Will Affect Transportation & Logistics | Peter Kirsanow
October 11, 2019 | Speaking Engagement
- Right to Work and Your Business
June 20, 2012