

Richard A. Plewacki

Cleveland
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Overview

Rich was a longtime partner with the firm's transportation practice and he now continues his relationship with the firm in a more senior role as Of Counsel. Rich's practice focuses on advising and representing motor carriers, leasing companies, third party logistics providers, national shippers, large private fleets and water carriers in the domestic, non-contiguous trade lanes. Rich's experience includes independent contractor/owner-operator issues; shipper/carrier matters, including international and multimodal arrangements; industry specific litigation; transportation related service agreements; freight claims; mergers and acquisitions; corporate and regulatory compliance; and licensing and permitting.

Rich has been involved with the transportation and logistics industry, both as a businessman and an attorney, for over 45 years. He has been an active member and committee participant in several industry associations and a frequent presenter at their meetings, including the American Trucking Associations (ATA), the Truckload Carriers Association (TCA), National Tank Truck Carriers (NTTC), the Customized Logistics and Delivery Association (CLDA) and the Ohio Trucking Association (OTA).

Credentials

EDUCATION

- The University of Akron School of Law, 1980, J.D.
- Bowling Green State University, 1970, B.A.

BAR & COURT ADMISSIONS

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

Memberships

- Member, American Bar Association
- Member, Ohio State Bar Association
- Member, American Trucking Associations ("ATA")
  - Member, Independent Contractor Policy Committee
    - Member, Working Group on Member Education and Best Practices
    - Member, State Model Language Working Group
  - Member, Labor & Regulatory Policy Committee
- Member, Truckload Carriers Association ("TCA")
  - Member, Board of Directors
  - Member, Carrier/Shipper Relations Committee
  - Member, Independent Contractor Practices & Policy Committee
  - Member, Highway Policy Committee
- Member, National Tank Truck Carriers, Inc.
- Member, Ohio Trucking Association
- Member, Transportation Lawyers Association

Awards & Recognition

- Served for over a decade as National Transportation Counsel for The Kroger Co. and its affiliated companies
- Listed, *The Best Lawyers in America®*, Transportation Law, 2007-2027
  - 2017 Cleveland Transportation Lawyer of the Year
- AV® Rated, Martindale-Hubbell Peer Review
- Listed, Ohio Super Lawyers 2017-2020

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
- Final-Mile Delivery and Nature of Commerce - The Most Important Legal Question Providers Struggle to Answer
  May 29, 2025 | Client Alerts & Insights
- 132 Benesch Attorneys Recognized in 2025 Best Lawyers® Rankings
  August 14, 2024 | Press Releases
- Ejected! California District Court Dismisses Trucking Industry's New AB5 Challenge
  March 18, 2024 | Client Alerts & Insights
- 44 Benesch Attorneys Named Best Lawyers in America® 2013
  October 30, 2023 | Announcements
- 48 Benesch Attorneys Named Best Lawyers in America
  October 30, 2023 | Announcements
- Richard Plewacki quoted in Material Handling & Logistics | "Supreme Court Could Redefine Independent Driver Status"
  October 30, 2023
- U.S. News & World Report - Best Lawyers 2017
  October 30, 2023 | Announcements
- U.S. News & World Report - Best Lawyers 2019
  October 30, 2023 | Announcements