



## Robert A. Zimmerman

Chair, Government Relations Practice Group; Partner, Litigation Practice Group

Cleveland

T 216.363.4437

[rzimmerman@beneschlaw.com](mailto:rzimmerman@beneschlaw.com)

## Overview

**As a civil trial and appellate lawyer with over 30 years' experience, Rob has litigated cases involving employment discrimination, wrongful discharge, unfair competition, defamation, breach of contract, real estate, landlord-tenant, zoning, land use, eminent domain, constitutional rights, election law, campaign finance, trusts, administrative, business and commercial law.**

He has achieved excellent results for his clients in jury and bench trials, motion practice, administrative hearings, arbitrations, mediations and appeals.

He practices in state of Ohio courts and in federal courts in Ohio and around the country.

Rob has been recognized as one of the Top 100 Lawyers in the state of Ohio and Top 50 Lawyers in Cleveland by Ohio Super Lawyers. Rob is listed in Best Lawyers in the area of government relations practice, one of the few Cleveland-area lawyers so recognized.

He is a frequent lecturer on various legal topics and his opinions are often solicited by the print and broadcast media.

Rob has deep expertise as a lawyer on matters of public concern. He has litigated notable cases on behalf of all levels of Ohio government, impacting law and policy in the process.

Rob has worked in and around Ohio politics for 40 years and served on his city council for 16 years. He is deeply knowledgeable about state and local government from a personal and legal perspective and has relationships with public officials from the courthouse to the statehouse and city halls all around the state. Governmental entities, elected leaders, candidates and companies rely upon Rob for his legal advice, advocacy and good judgment.

## Representative Matters

- Resolved longstanding criminal proceeding against senior living facility through combination of legal and governmental advocacy.
- Resolved permitting dispute on behalf country's only African American-owned circus so the show could go on.
- Represented manufacturer seeking to build factory in multiple townships as part of mega site type project. Successfully obtained township rezoning through statutory process so project can proceed.
- Advised and raised funds for multiple successful candidates for legislative and judicial office.
- Drafted legislation for Ohio municipality to revise compensation structure for mayor, city council and department directors.
- As special counsel hired by the Cuyahoga County Prosecutor, successfully defended a Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court Judge in disqualification proceedings filed by a convicted double murderer in the Ohio Supreme Court.
- Represented Joseph's and Mary's Home, a ministry of the Sisters of Charity Health system in Cleveland, in the Cuyahoga County Council budgeting process.
- Represented OneOhio Recovery Foundation in cases before the Ohio Supreme Court and the Franklin County Court of Common Pleas concerning the Ohio Public Records Act and Ohio Open Meetings Act ("Acts").

## Credentials

### EDUCATION

- The Ohio State University, Moritz College of Law, 1991, J.D.
  - Chief Justice of University Court
- The Ohio State University, 1988, *cum laude*
  - with University Honors

### BAR & COURT ADMISSIONS

- Ohio
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit
- 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 Eastern District of Wisconsin
- U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan

## Memberships

- Executive Committee Member, Eighth District Judicial Conference
- Co-Chair, National Council, The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law
- Board Secretary, Friendship Circle (special needs children service organization)
- Charter Class Member, Cleveland Bridge Builders
- Member, City Club of Cleveland
- Leadership Cleveland Class of 2023
- Member, Shaker Heights City Council, 2006-2021
- Former Member, Ohio Democratic Party Executive Committee
- Member, Cuyahoga County Democratic Party Central and Executive Committees
- Director of Finance, Cuyahoga County Democratic Party
- Delegate to 2000 Democratic National Convention on behalf of Vice President Al Gore
- Past Board Member of Jewish Federation of Cleveland, Anti-Defamation League (Civil Rights Committee Chair), American Jewish Committee, Cleveland Jewish News and Menorah Park Center for Senior Living
- Member, Ohio State Bar Association
- Member, Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association

## Awards & recognition

- Life Member, Eighth District Judicial Conference
- Listed, *The Best Lawyers in America®*, Employment Law - Management; Government Relations Practice; Litigation – Labor and Employment, 2010-2026
- Listed, Ohio Super Lawyers, General Litigation, 2004-2005, 2010-2026
- 2023 Outstanding Faculty Award, National Business Institute (NBI)
- Named, Top 100 Lawyers by Ohio Super Lawyers, 2016
- Listed, “2014 Top 50 Lawyers Cleveland,” Ohio Super Lawyers

## News & Insights

- [48 Benesch Attorneys Selected to 2026 Ohio Super Lawyers and Rising Stars](#)  
January 27, 2026 | Press Releases
- [Why Ohio's Congressional Redistricting is Still in the Headlines](#)  
September 26, 2025 | Client Alerts & Insights
- [129 Benesch Attorneys Recognized in 2026 Best Lawyers® Rankings](#)  
August 21, 2025 | Press Releases
- [Trump-Inspired One Big Beautiful Bill Passes U.S. House](#)  
May 27, 2025 | Client Alerts & Insights
- [2024 Government Relations Practice Group Year in Review](#)  
February 28, 2025 | Client Alerts & Insights
- [Navigating the Impact of the Trump Administration's Federal Funding Freeze](#)  
January 30, 2025 | Client Alerts & Insights
- [Ohio's 2024 Lame Duck Session: Highlights and Missed Opportunities](#)  
January 3, 2025 | Client Alerts & Insights
- [49 Benesch Attorneys Selected to 2025 Ohio Super Lawyers and Rising Stars](#)  
December 17, 2024 | Press Releases
- [Ohio General Assembly Tackles Lame Duck Session and Selects New Leaders for the Next](#)  
November 26, 2024 | Client Alerts & Insights
- [132 Benesch Attorneys Recognized in 2025 Best Lawyers® Rankings](#)  
August 14, 2024 | Press Releases

## Speaking & Events

### PAST EVENTS

- [Tales and Tips from the Trenches-Dealing with Ethically Questionable Tactics | Joseph N. Gross, Robert A. Zimmerman](#)  
April 24, 2026 | Speaking Engagement
- [Zoning Ordinance and Map Amendments: Proving Necessary Criteria and Ethics in Zoning and Land Use Law | Robert A. Zimmerman](#)  
August 13, 2025 | Speaking Engagement
- [Key Tax Changes You Need to Know | Robert A. Zimmerman](#)  
July 11, 2025 | Speaking Engagement
- [Public Records: Maintaining and Responding to Requests | Robert A. Zimmerman](#)  
May 30, 2025 | Speaking Engagement
- [Ethics | Robert A. Zimmerman](#)  
May 30, 2025 | Speaking Engagement