

Robert J. Ward

Columbus
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Overview

Rob advises private equity sponsors, portfolio companies, and publicly and privately held companies in complex mergers and acquisitions, recapitalizations, joint ventures, and other strategic commercial transactions. He also counsels clients on corporate compliance and governance matters.

In addition to his M&A practice, Rob has substantial experience structuring and implementing employee stock ownership plan (ESOP) transactions. He represents ESOP trustees and privately held companies in ownership transition transactions, including those resulting in 100% ESOP ownership. His work includes pre-closing reorganizations, tax planning and elections, purchase agreement negotiation, financing arrangements, and the design of post-closing executive compensation programs.

Rob's experience spans a wide range of industries, including software and technology, manufacturing, professional services and consumer products.

Credentials

EDUCATION

- The Ohio State University, Moritz College of Law, 2013, J.D., *magna cum laude*
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- The Ohio State University, 2010, B.S., Business Administration, *summa cum laude*
  - Honors Accounting Program

BAR & COURT ADMISSIONS

- Ohio

Awards & Recognition

- Listed, *The Best Lawyers in America*, Corporate Law; Mergers and Acquisitions Law, 2026-2027
- Listed, *The Best Lawyers in America* "Ones to Watch," Mergers and Acquisitions Law, 2021-2025

News & Insights

- 126 Benesch Attorneys Recognized in 2027 Best Lawyers® Rankings
  August 20, 2026 | Press Releases
- Robert Ward mentioned in Columbus Business First People on the Move
  May 7, 2026 | Media Mentions
- Benesch Continues Corporate Practice Group Expansion
  March 17, 2026 | Press Releases
- Benesch Welcomes Corporate Partner Robert Ward to Columbus Office
  February 25, 2026 | Press Releases