

Ryan J. Levitt

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Overview

Ryan is a career white collar litigator and criminal defense attorney. Whether it is challenging government overreach, defending the wrongfully accused and everything in between, he finds passion and purpose in every case. Ryan never needs to reach far to summon the full force of his formidable talents, knowledge and experience to bear on any adversary threatening his clients' freedom and well-being.

Ryan is an experienced litigator who has appeared in over 100 complex federal and state cases and dozens of trials. He focuses on all aspects of federal criminal practice, including defending against white collar and fraud offenses-whether in general financial matters, healthcare, banking or other industries. Ryan also focuses on government investigations, public corruption, money laundering and national security matters, as well as violent crimes, sexual misconduct and narcotics offenses. His practice includes representing and assisting companies that need the assistance of outside counsel to conduct internal investigations.

Ryan distinguishes himself from other white collar practitioners through the combination of his experience, preparation and natural talents. He is routinely sought out by other practitioners to provide trial and writing support in high-profile and other complicated matters. As a career-long defense attorney who considers his occupation more of a calling than an occupation, he understands and is attuned to the broader perspective, goals and motivations of clients. Clients appreciate the manner in which he always brings his full, authentic self to any given matter and trust his encyclopedic knowledge of criminal and related laws.

In addition, Ryan has acted as lead counsel on over a dozen appeals before the 7th and 8th Circuits, at all stages of the Illinois Appellate Courts, and on petitions for a writ of certiorari before the Supreme Court of the United States. He is a regular speaker, author and commentator on white collar related news, policy and legal developments.

*Matter completed prior to joining Benesch.

Representative Matters

- Secured the complete dismissal of all criminal charges against a major California hospice provider in a California healthcare fraud prosecution alleging more than $7 million in fraudulent hospice billing.
- Represented a civil plaintiff's attorney charged with fraud in connection with the high-profile Girardi Keese case and successfully negotiated a plea agreement to a single contempt of court charge, with all other charges dismissed at sentencing. Despite the government's request for a lengthy prison term, the court imposed a sentence of just four months' incarceration, with no additional financial penalties.
- Conducted numerous internal investigations, primarily pertaining to employment and compliance issues, including for multiple publicly traded corporations.
- Participated in trial defense and helped obtain full acquittal after jury trial for defendant accused of first degree murder.*
- Acted as second chair in bench trial for murder defendant; charges dismissed upon motion for a judgment of acquittal.*
- Participated in trial defense and jury trial for defendant accused of double homicide based primarily on surveillance and vehicle evidence; obtained full acquittal.*
- Acted as lead counsel on successful appeal of felony murder conviction, resulting in overturning of 56-year sentence.*
- Represented petitioner in habeas action resulting in vacated murder conviction on eve of hearing.*

Credentials

EDUCATION

- DePaul University College of Law, 2015, J.D.
- DePaul University, 2009, B.S., Economics

BAR & COURT ADMISSIONS

- Illinois
- U.S. Supreme Court
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit
- U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois

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

News & Insights

- Benesch Secures Full Dismissal of All Criminal Charges Against CarePlus Hospice Services Owners in Major California Healthcare Fraud Prosecution
  August 6, 2026 | Press Releases
- Benesch Attorneys Mark Silberman, Ryan Levitt, Johanes Maliza, SaDella Duval D'Adrian and Meghan Golden Published in IICLE Federal Criminal Practice 2026
  July 1, 2026 | Contributed Content & Presentations
- Who Cares About the Wires: Texas Federal Court Rules that Certain Wire Fraud Charges Violate Due Process in Tax Case
  May 18, 2026 | Client Alerts & Insights
- New Sentencing Guidelines for Economic Crimes Effective November 1, 2026
  April 27, 2026 | Client Alerts & Insights
- DOJ Solidifies Its Universal Policy for Corporate Cooperation Credits
  March 12, 2026 | Client Alerts & Insights
- 2026 Proposed Amendments to the Federal Sentencing Guidelines-Key Changes for Economic Crimes
  March 6, 2026 | Client Alerts & Insights
- Ryan Levitt Interviewed on Bloomberg Documentary | "How China's 'Perfect' Spy Got Caught"
  February 27, 2026 | Media Mentions
- False Claims Act (FCA) Recent Developments: Constitutional Scrutiny Mounts for Relator-Based Actions
  November 19, 2025 | Client Alerts & Insights
- Law360 Mentions Ryan Levitt on the Girardi-Related Contempt Case
  September 29, 2025 | Media Mentions
- Seventh Circuit Holds Drug Manufacturer's AMP Reporting Violated False Claims Act by Excluding Post-Sale Price Increases
  September 11, 2025 | Client Alerts & Insights