

Vincent J. Michalec

Cleveland
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Overview

Vinny is an experienced trial attorney, with sedulous commitment to his work, firm clients, and the community. Among associates at Benesch, he is a veteran in the courtroom, who is regularly called in to handle an array of commercial litigation claims, IP infringement matters, and disputes involving royalties and leases.

Having grown up in Akron, Vinny takes pride in his Ohio roots. After completing a Classics degree at the University of Rochester, and developing a proficiency in both Latin and Ancient Greek, he returned to the Buckeye State to attend Law School at the University of Akron. It was there that he realized a passion for litigation. Focused on building a career as an advocate of the highest caliber, he balanced a full schedule of academic and experience-driven activities, including recognition in a national Client-Counseling Competition, Editor of Akron's Law Review, and Executive Board Secretary of Akron's Student Bar Association.

Over the past seven years as an associate at Benesch, Vinny has become an institutional talent in our Litigation practice group. Vinny brings a robust energy and meticulous attention to detail to all of his matters, while maintaining a commanding voice both in the courtroom and private negotiations. This has allowed him to make a substantive impact in numerous multi-million dollar trials for Benesch clients, including a $80-million royalty dispute, a $60 Million patent infringement case, and a 20-year-long lease dispute that culminated in a 6-week jury trial and a completely favorable verdict for our client-to name a few. Lately, Vinny's practice has included disputes involving Accounting & Financial Reporting, Corporate Governance, False Advertising & Unfair Competition, Partnership & Founders Disputes, as well as Domestic Arbitrations and Appellate matters.

Vinny's passion for advocacy extends beyond his work as an attorney. He is the current Chair of the Firm's Associate Development Committee, serving as a voice and resource for the Associate body as a whole. For several years, Vinny has also led a team of Benesch volunteers in the CMBA's "3R's" Program, which regularly visits a local high school civics class to provide practical career advice and to educate inner city students on their rights and responsibilities under the U.S. Constitution. Most recently, Vinny has joined the Board of Cleveland's own ICA-Art Conservation, a non-profit organization committed to the conservation and preservation of historical art and artifacts across the country.

In his free time, Vinny enjoys life by the Great Lakes, including fishing, Cleveland sporting events, and hikes in the Cuyahoga Valley National Park with his wife and miniature dachshund.

Representative Matters

- Represented a natural gas utility in defeating a $15 million foreclosure action brought by three counties arising from alleged pre-sale tax liabilities tied to a pipeline acquired from a receiver free and clear of prior obligations. After extensive briefing and oral argument, the Cuyahoga County Court ruled in the utility's favor, and the Eighth Appellate District affirmed, rejecting the counties' notice and property classification arguments. The decision established new Ohio precedent regarding the classification of natural gas pipelines as personal property and the impact of public utility tax liens on pipeline sales.

Credentials

EDUCATION

- The University of Akron School of Law, 2018, J.D., *magna cum laude*
  - Senior Associate Editor and former Assistant Editor Akron Law Review Fall 2016-2018
  - 3L Class Representative and former Executive Board Secretary, Student Bar Association 2016-2018
  - 2016 ABA Client Counseling Competition: School Tournament -1st Place, Region VI Tournament Finalist - 3rd Place, 36th Nationally
  - Student Member, Akron Trademark Clinic 2017-2018

- University of Rochester, 2015, B.A., *cum laude*, Classics with Minor in Legal Studies
  - President and former Vice President, Undergraduate Religion and Classics Council
  - Defensive End, Varsity Football 2011-2013, Academic Award and Letter Award
  - Order of Omega Greek National and Eta Sigma Phi Classics National Honors Society
  - Sigma Alpha Mu Fraternity Chapter Secretary, Philanthropy and Recruitment Chair and ??? Fleur de Lis Society Member
  - St. Sebastian Society Catholic Student Service Group, Captain, Head of Fundraising and Spiritual Director
  - Catholic Newman Society Member and Participant in *Yes Pa* Inmate Visitation and Mentorship Program at Monroe County Jail
  - L'Università degli Studi di Napoli L'Orientale, Naples, Italy

BAR & COURT ADMISSIONS

- Ohio
- U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Ohio
- Law Certificate, Intellectual Property Law and Technology – The University of Akron School of Law

News & Insights

- 126 Benesch Attorneys Recognized in 2027 Best Lawyers® Rankings
  August 20, 2026 | Press Releases
- Kal K. Shah, Michael S. Weinstein, and Vincent J. Michalec mentioned in Law360 | "LED Co. Must Pony Up for Bulb Maker in IP Row, Judge Says"
  December 29, 2022 | Media Mentions

Speaking & Events

PAST EVENTS

- OTA Safety Director Bootcamp |Vincent J. Michalec, Kelly E. Mulrane
  October 11, 2023 | Speaking Engagement