



Shape Your Future, Define Your Path

Welcome to the Benesch Summer Associate Program





About Benesch



“At Benesch, we are committed to providing a dynamic and inclusive environment where aspiring legal professionals can thrive. Our highly regarded exploratory Summer Associate Program is designed to offer a realistic view of a career in private practice, including client interaction, courtroom activities and teamwork with accomplished Benesch attorneys. We’re proud of what we’re building and invite you to get to know us!”

— Gregg A. Eisenberg, Managing Partner

FOUNDED

1938

ATTORNEYS

460+

GROWTH IN THE LAST 5 YEARS

84%

RANKED ONE OF THE 100 MOST LOVED
WORKPLACES IN AMERICA® BY

Newsweek

LATERAL RETENTION RATE*

85%

NAMED A TOP WORKPLACE
IN CLEVELAND BY

THE PLAIN DEALER
©cleveland.com

NAMED A TOP WORKPLACE
IN CHICAGO BY

Chicago Tribune

NAMED A TOP WORKPLACE
IN NEW YORK BY

amNY


NAMED A TOP WORKPLACE
IN SAN FRANCISCO BY

San Francisco Chronicle

OFFICES

Chicago | Cleveland | Columbus | New York | San Francisco | Wilmington

*Compared to the industry average of 50%.



“The highlight of my summer was having the opportunity to try a number of different practice groups while also learning from highly skilled attorneys. These different projects allowed me to learn about and explore different areas of law that I’ve never really sought out before. I was even able to sit in on client calls and meetings and present to the CEO of one of our client organizations for which I completed a project.”

— Matthew Wulf
Chicago Summer Associate





Core Practice Areas

Explore our ten core practice areas and wide-ranging specialty practices.

Our exploratory Summer Associate Program offers the chance to engage in meaningful work projects and cultivate relationships with attorneys across our practices, helping you deepen your understanding of these practices and begin shaping your career interests.

“The people at Benesch showed a genuine interest in helping to explain the practice of law so that I could succeed in my future career. I felt truly valued as a person rather than as just a way to get work product, and I really enjoyed getting to interact with clients early on through direct, hands-on work.”

— Collin Cahill
Columbus Summer Associate

Corporate

Our award-winning team of more than 85 dedicated attorneys advises clients across a range of focus areas, including M&A, private equity and securities compliance. In 2024, we successfully closed 400+ corporate and private equity deals worth billions of dollars in transactional enterprise value.

Litigation

The largest practice group at the firm with nearly 160 attorneys, we are known for our work in defamation, class action defense, construction litigation, trade secrets, white-collar defense and more. Our litigations have prevailed in nine-figure trade secret cases, one of the most significant auditor liability cases ever tried, multibillion-dollar securities fraud cases, large-scale product liability cases and every type of commercial litigation matter in between.

Healthcare

With more than 40 attorneys and paralegals, we have decades of experience representing healthcare industry stakeholders across the gamut of matters, ranging from transactions to administrative and judicial advocacy to navigating regulatory and compliance complexities that impact their businesses.

Real Estate

At more than 50 attorneys and paralegals strong, ours is one of the largest true Real Estate practice groups in the U.S. We are recognized for leading some of the largest and most complex acquisition, disposition, financing, leasing and development projects in the country.

Intellectual Property

Nationally ranked and recognized, the team includes more than 60 attorneys, patent agents and paralegals. We practice in four distinct areas on a national basis: Intellectual Property Litigation; Intellectual Property & Information Technology Transactions; Patent, Trademark & Copyright Prosecution; and Privacy & Data Security.

Labor & Employment

Year after year, the group and its lawyers are recognized as leaders in their field, advising on all facets of labor and employment law and representing clients before regulators and in courts nationwide. From counseling clients on daily employment issues to handling complex litigation, our 30-member team represents public and private sector businesses and organizations across the U.S. and has experience representing employers in virtually every type of lawsuit, in every kind of forum.

Commercial Finance & Banking

Our team integrates the corporate, commercial, bankruptcy and real estate experience of our attorneys and focuses directly on meeting the legal and related business needs of commercial lenders and financial institutions. We provide legal services to more than 30 banks, including large regional banks and some of the largest national banks in the country.

Restructuring & Bankruptcy

Our team delivers strategic, business-minded counsel to clients navigating the complexities of financial distress, special situations, insolvency and financial-related litigation. We represent a diverse range of stakeholders—lenders, debtors, capital partners, committees, trade creditors and investors—in both in-court and out-of-court restructurings across the country.

Tax

We offer tax planning services in connection with private equity, corporate, partnership, real estate, tax-exempt and equity compensation transactions and matters. Our attorneys assist clients in understanding the tax implications of mergers, acquisitions, dispositions, and other corporate and real estate transactions, structuring these transactions to achieve the most tax-efficient solutions and enhancing overall deal outcomes.

Executive Compensation & Employee Benefits

Our team advises clients in designing, managing and administering employee benefits and executive compensation plans to incentivize and retain top talent. Understanding the complexities of our clients' HR and people services functions, we help them navigate complex compliance and regulatory issues while addressing risks and liabilities as they arise.

“Benesch attorneys truly encourage you to try every practice area and do not make you ‘choose’ a pathway until you are ready. This allowed me to work with many practice groups and get experience with a wide variety of projects, including assisting with an emergency matter for a client. It was both validating and exciting that the attorney trusted me to help with such a pressing, interesting client issue that needed to be solved quickly!”

— Karlye Sopczak
Chicago Summer Associate



Scan to read more about
our practice areas.

Summer Associate Program Highlights



“As a summer at Benesch, I received a lot of substantive assignments such as drafting complaints and motions for summary judgment. I also had access to and individualized attention from attorneys and partners. Everyone was more than willing to invest time into making sure I was able to learn and develop my skills as an aspiring attorney.”

— Manaal Shafi
San Francisco Summer
Associate

Duration

10 weeks

Practice Group Exploration

Exposure to the firm's core practice areas, including via practice group overviews led by the groups' respective chairs and associates, practice group hosted social events and access to work opportunities across various practice areas.

Real Work

Hands-on experience with a diverse range of work, encompassing various substantive areas of law and a wide array of project types.

Professional Development

Comprehensive professional development sessions and training programs, including mock negotiation and deposition simulations.

Client Interaction

Opportunities for contact with clients and involvement in strategy, negotiating and drafting sessions, and business development meetings.

Mentorship

Each summer associate is paired with a dedicated partner mentor and an associate buddy.

Feedback

Ongoing constructive feedback, plus formal midsummer and end-of-summer performance evaluations.

Social Events

Planned social events to build relationships, acclimate to the firm's culture and explore the best of the city.

Interoffice Integration

Like our full-time associates, Benesch's summer associates receive assignments from attorneys across all offices of the firm, often collaborating with fellow summer classmates on group projects. Additionally, our summers have the opportunity to visit 1-2 Benesch offices during their 10 weeks with us, fostering connections and building relationships across the firm.

Summer Associate Retreat

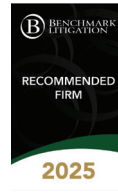
This two-day event brings together our summer associates from all offices for professional development and training sessions, teambuilding, social interaction and networking with attorneys.

Firm Accolades



74

NATIONAL & METROPOLITAN RANKINGS IN 2025 BEST LAWYERS® BEST LAW FIRMS



NAMED A RECOMMENDED FIRM BY BENCHMARK LITIGATION

10

CONSECUTIVE YEARS



RANKED IN CHAMBERS USA 2025:

40

ATTORNEYS

19

PRACTICE AREAS

VAULT RANKINGS:



#5

BEST SUMMER ASSOCIATE PROGRAMS

#3

BEST SUMMER PROGRAMS FOR CAREER DEVELOPMENT

#7

BEST LAW FIRMS FOR SOCIAL EXPERIENCE

#13

BEST SUMMER PROGRAMS FOR ATTORNEY INTERACTIONS



“Beyond the firm’s prestigious reputation, I chose it because of its commitment to diversity, which is important to me. I wanted to work in an environment where I felt valued, wanted and acknowledged, and a place where I could grow into a skilled attorney. Based on referrals from current and incoming attorneys at the firm, I knew Benesch was the right place for me.”

— Deedra Thompson
Cleveland Summer Associate

Programs

Benesch Inclusion & Opportunity Committee

At Benesch, our commitment to inclusion is integral to our firm’s culture and success. It is also woven into the fabric of our history, dating back to our Jewish founding partners who started Benesch in Cleveland when no other firms would hire them. We believe that fostering an inclusive environment not only strengthens our team but also enhances the quality of service we provide to our clients. Our inclusion initiatives are designed to ensure that diverse perspectives are welcomed and valued at all levels of our organization.

The firm’s efforts are focused in the following areas:

- **Education:** Increase awareness and appreciation of the unique attributes each individual brings to our firm.
- **Retention:** Foster an environment that allows all individuals to excel and advance in their profession.
- **Community Engagement:** Deepen our impact beyond the firm by partnering with organizations that advance inclusion and opportunity, while also encouraging and supporting our attorneys and staff in their own community service, pro bono work, board leadership and civic participation.

Benesch 1L Fellowship Program

Benesch is proud of its commitment to creating a more diverse and inclusive legal profession, and we seek to hire individuals who share that same commitment. The Benesch 1L Fellowship Program was created to foster diversity and inclusion in the legal profession. All 1L law students with a demonstrated commitment to diversity and inclusion are encouraged to apply. A demonstrated commitment to diversity and inclusion can include but is not limited to efforts and commitments to support members of populations that have been historically underrepresented in the legal profession.

B-Sharp Initiative

Open to all Benesch team members, our B-Sharp initiative supports women corporate counsel at our clients and beyond, promoting career development and advancement.



“I chose Benesch because of its friendly and welcoming culture. From day one, the attorneys were approachable and genuinely invested in my growth. As a Summer Associate, I was given meaningful, hands-on work that made me feel like a valued part of the team. I believe that Benesch strikes the perfect balance of offering great opportunities and sophisticated client work, while still fostering strong mentorship and personal connections”

— McKenna Murray,
Chicago Summer Associate

Pro Bono

At Benesch, we embrace our responsibility to advocate for equal access to justice and to be good stewards in our communities by helping those who need it most. We believe that everyone deserves fair, effective representation regardless of their means or circumstances, and we are committed to giving a voice to the voiceless.

Pro bono work is an integral part of who we are and a core value at Benesch. As attorneys, we believe in using our knowledge of the law for the greater good, which is why we offer **billable hour credit for up to 100 hours annually**. We find deep personal fulfillment in serving our community, and we value the opportunity to foster professional growth as our attorneys gain hands-on experience that enhances their skills.

13,000+

TOTAL PRO BONO HOURS
CONTRIBUTED BY BENESCH
ATTORNEYS IN THE PAST TWO YEARS

60%


GROWTH IN PRO BONO HOURS
FROM 2023 TO 2024

200+

BENESCH ATTORNEYS ENGAGED
IN PRO BONO WORK IN 2023 AND 2024

150+

NEW PRO BONO MATTERS OPENED
IN THE LAST TWO YEARS



“One of my favorite features of the summer program was the exploratory nature of the assignments. I started the summer with a specific practice group in mind, but still had the opportunity to work with attorneys across the firm and see a variety of practices. One of my favorite projects allowed me to work with a team of Benesch attorneys and a pro bono client. I drafted discovery requests and was invited to meet with the client in-person.”

— Philip Cramer
Chicago Summer Associate

Benesch Recruiting Timeline



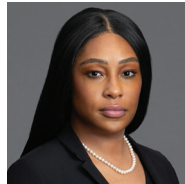


Our Summer Associate Program goes beyond gaining legal experience; it includes becoming part of a community that values inclusion, professional growth and client excellence. Join us and take the first step toward a rewarding legal career!

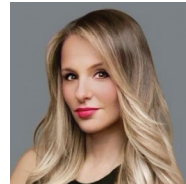
Meet the Benesch Law School Recruiting Team



Brittany Merhar
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Emma Mruz
Law School Recruiting Specialist
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“Apart from Benesch’s incredible reputation in the legal field and the opportunity to gain experience in high-level work, the main reason I chose Benesch is the people. During the entire interview process, everyone was genuinely interested to talk with and get to know me. What stood out to me the most was how highly they spoke of Benesch as a place to work. You could feel the authenticity behind what they were saying, and my summer experience at Benesch lived up to every word of it!”

— Grace Bradley
Cleveland Summer Associate



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 Benesch Law

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Check us out on Vault



Check us out on Flo Forward



Locations

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Benesch is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation or preference, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, age, alienage, citizenship status, ancestry, marital status, military or veteran status, genetic information, medical condition (including pregnancy and breastfeeding), physical or mental disability or other handicap, or any other basis prohibited by applicable federal, state or local law. This policy governs all aspects of employment including, but not limited to, hiring, assignments, promotions, discharges, and other terms and conditions of employment. In addition, it is the firm's policy to provide an environment that is free of unlawful harassment of any kind, including that which is sexual, age-related, racial or ethnic.