



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



Our Offices

- Chicago, IL
- Cleveland, OH
- Columbus, OH
- Miami, FL *(Location Coming Soon)*
- New York, NY
- San Francisco, CA
- Wilmington, DE

Founded in
1938



Strategic Growth and Expansion

#116

On the
Am Law 200

102

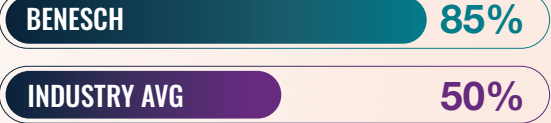
New Attorneys
in the last year

85

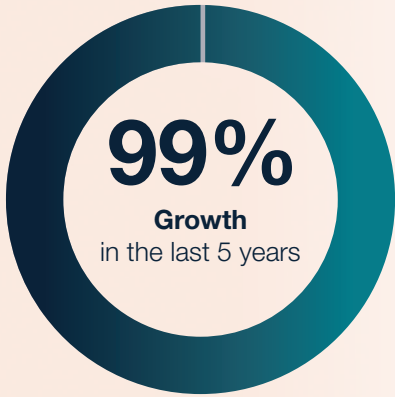
New Staff in
the last year

500+

Total Attorneys
Firmwide



Lateral Partner Retention Rate



Workplace Recognition

- | | | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|---|--|
| Top Workplace
in Chicago
 | Top Workplace
in Northeast Ohio
 | Top Workplace
in Columbus
 | Top Workplace
in New York
 | Top Workplace
in San Francisco
 | Most Loved
Workplaces
in America®
 |
|---|--|--|--|---|--|

“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.

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.

Corporate

Our award-winning team of more than 100 dedicated attorneys advises clients across a range of focus areas, including M&A, private equity and securities compliance. In 2025, we successfully closed 200+ corporate and private equity deals worth billions of dollars in transactional enterprise value.

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.

Healthcare

With more than 40 attorneys, 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.

Intellectual Property

Nationally ranked and recognized, the team includes more than 65 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 more than 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.

Litigation

The largest practice group at the firm with over 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.

Real Estate

At more than 80 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.

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 enhance overall deal outcomes.



"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.



"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

Summer Associate Program Highlights



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 Summit
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

CHAMBERS USA 2026 RANKINGS

43
Attorneys

21
Practice areas



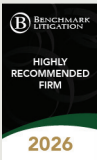
BEST LAW FIRMS® 2026 RANKINGS

76
National and Metropolitan Rankings



RECOMMENDED FIRM

11
Consecutive years



Vault Rankings



#13
Best Summer Associate Programs

#7
Best Summer Programs for Career Development

#9
Best Summer Programs for Attorney Interactions

#16
Best Law Firms for Social Experience

“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



Culture & Inclusion

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:



“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



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

Strengthen our community impact by fostering partnerships and supporting meaningful service, pro bono, leadership, and civic involvement across the firm.

Benesch 1L + 2L Fellowship Program

Benesch is proud of its commitment to creating a more inclusive legal profession. Through the Benesch 1L + 2L Fellowship Program, we seek to hire individuals who share that same commitment and who are eager to build a rewarding career in private practice. Fellows will spend both their **1L and 2L summers** with Benesch, gaining a deep understanding of the firm’s work, culture and clients—and preparing for a strong start to their legal careers. All 1L law students with a demonstrated commitment to inclusion who have done their research and are excited to grow their future at Benesch are encouraged to apply.

B-Sharp Initiative

Open to all Benesch team members, our B-Sharp initiative serves as a platform supporting women corporate counsel at all levels, promoting career development and advancement.

Benesch Culture Initiative

Benesch’s Culture Initiative reflects our intentional commitment to preserving and strengthening what makes the firm special: a collaborative, inclusive and high-performing environment where people feel connected, supported and empowered to do their best work. Through programs such as Culture Ambassadors, culture-focused onboarding and firmwide connection opportunities, the initiative brings our values to life and reinforces the shared responsibility we all have to care for one another, serve clients with excellence and build a better workplace together.

We attract people who want to build something extraordinary. Benesch offers:



Entrepreneurial Freedom

Our environment supports the flexibility to innovate and serve clients creatively.



Autonomy with Support

At Benesch, attorneys have the independence to shape their own practices, backed by the firm’s significant resources and investment in their growth.



Visionary Leadership

Our leadership is forward-thinking, nimble, and open to new ideas, creating an environment where adaptability and innovation thrive.



Meaningful Impact

Attorneys are trusted with responsibility early, respected for their contributions, and given opportunities to advance quickly through meaningful work.



Build Your Future

Benesch empowers attorneys to define their own success through a transparent 8-year path to partnership and a culture focused on long-term growth, not up-or-out expectations.



“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.

12,000+

Pro bono hours
contributed by
Benesch attorneys
in 2025

53%

Growth in pro
bono hours
from 2024 to 2025

260+

Benesch attorneys
engaged in pro
bono work in 2025

175+

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

September-November

Fall On-Campus Recruiting Events

Monday, November 2nd

Applications open for 1L 2027/2L 2028

December-January

Home for the Holidays 1L Receptions
in local Benesch offices

January-March

Interviews for 1L 2027/2L 2028

May-July

Summer Associate Program

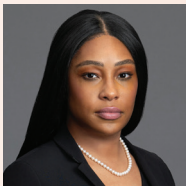


Our Summer Associate Program goes beyond gaining legal experience; it includes becoming part of a community that values inclusion, professional growth and client excellence. Join us and take the first step toward a rewarding legal career!

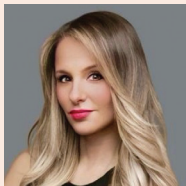
Meet the Benesch Law School Recruiting Team



Brittany Merhar
Director of Law School Recruiting
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Whitney Forbes
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Shana Scalise
Summer Associate Program Manager
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Sara Golden
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Ashley Bergen
Senior Law School Recruiter
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Emma Mruz
Law School Recruiting Specialist
emruz@beneschlaw.com

“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



Connect with Benesch

 beneschlaw.com

 Benesch Law

 @beneschlaw

Check us out on Vault



Check us out on Flo Forward



Locations

CHICAGO

71 South Wacker Drive
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T 312.212.4949

NEW YORK

1155 Avenue of the Americas
26th Floor
New York, NY 10036
T 646.593.7050

CLEVELAND

127 Public Square
Suite 4900
Cleveland, OH 44114
T 216.363.4500

SAN FRANCISCO

100 Pine Street
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T 628.600.2250

COLUMBUS

41 South High Street
Suite 2600
Columbus, OH 43215-6164
T 614.223.9300

WILMINGTON

1313 North Market Street
Suite 1201
Wilmington, DE 19801
T 302.442.7010

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.