



Matthew David Ridings

Partner

Cleveland

T. 216.363.4512

mridings@beneschlaw.com

Main Bio

Matt's practice encompasses government enforcement, internal investigations, and compliance matters, with a specific emphasis on international antitrust, product distribution, and anti-corruption issues. He has successfully tried numerous criminal and civil trials involving allegations of antitrust violations, corruption, and other competition-related matters.

Outside of the court room, Matt has conducted internal investigations and represented and advised corporate executives, multinational corporations, and their boards of directors in response to civil and criminal inquiries from the Department of Justice, Federal Trade Commission, and Securities and Exchange Commission, including managing parallel investigations involving the European Commission, Japan Fair Trade Commission, and the Canadian Competition Bureau, among others.

Matt is a Certified Compliance and Ethics Professional® (CCEP) and has significant experience advising global companies on risk management, organizational compliance and ethics, and the antitrust implications of product distribution. He has designed and conducted comprehensive risk assessments and developed and evaluated compliance programs for companies of all sizes, as well as leading international anti-corruption due diligence in connection with mergers and acquisitions.

**Matter completed prior to joining Benesch.*

Experience

Antitrust

- Counseled multinational manufacturers on the application of and compliance with U.S. and EU antitrust law, particularly relating to distributorships, distribution agreements, and vertical restraints.*
- Represented multinational, publicly-traded energy company in anti-corruption risk assessment and revision to FCPA and related anti-corruption policies, procedures, and controls.*

Related Practices

Litigation

White Collar, Government Investigations & Regulatory Compliance

Antitrust

Education

- Washington and Lee University School of Law, 2005, J.D.
 - *cum laude*
- Indiana University, 2002, B.S.

Credentials

- Ohio
- U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois
- U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan
- U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Missouri
- U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Ohio
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit

Recognitions

- Selected for inclusion in *The Best Lawyers in America*® 2014 to 2024 for Commercial Litigation and Litigation-Antitrust
- *Benchmark Litigation* Under 40 Litigation Hot List, 2019 to 2020

- Represented Tier 1 automotive supplier regarding antitrust implications of a strategic alliance with a competitive supplier in the creation and manufacture of automotive parts.*
- Represented manufacturer of aviation fuel filtration systems in connection with merger challenge and Civil Investigative Demand from the Department of Justice.*
- Represented manufacturer of offshore drilling equipment in response to Second Request from Department of Justice and Canadian Competition Bureau.*
- Represented global services firm in responding to a Civil Investigative Demand from the Federal Trade Commission relating to a merger challenge.*
- Designed and presented training programs for various global companies relating to international antitrust and anti-bribery and corruption compliance.*
- Represented international building products manufacturer on the creation and maintenance of a North American product distribution network.*
- Won dismissal of multimillion-dollar antitrust litigation against corporate executive alleged to be ringleader of antitrust conspiracy.*
- Represented global jewelry retailer in review and assessment of its anti-money laundering compliance program.*
- Represented company in civil litigation against its former employee for breach of duty of loyalty and theft of trade secrets in federal jury trial, winning verdict.*
- Obtained restraining order preventing the FDA from blocking the importation of electronic cigarettes, ruling upheld on appeal.*
- Won willful damage jury award on behalf of global media licensing company for willful infringement of its copyrights.*
- Won punitive damage award against competitor of client for tortiously interfering with the client's employees.*
- Represented company alleged to have participated in a RICO conspiracy to defraud government purchasers.*
- Selected to the Ohio Super Lawyers list, 2023, 2024
- Selected to the Ohio Rising Stars list, 2013 to 2019

Memberships

- American Bar Association
- Ohio State Bar Association, Member, Antitrust Section Council, 2011 to 2014
- Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association
- Secretary, Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad Board of Trustees
- Sixth Circuit Criminal Justice Act appointment

White Collar, Government Investigations & Regulatory Compliance

- Won acquittal for charges of conspiracy to commit bribery in a federal program, wire fraud, and conspiracy to commit honest services fraud (only defendant acquitted among more than 60+ politicians and public officials charged).*
- Represented subsidiary of a publicly-traded, multinational company in anti-corruption due diligence investigation relating to the acquisition of a company with operations in more than

70 countries, including Africa, Asia, Russia, and South America.*

- Defended managing director of global investment bank from allegations of unsafe and unsound banking practices and FCPA violations in proceedings before the Federal Reserve Board of Governors.*
- Represented members of the Amish community in winning a reversal at the Court of Appeals for their convictions under the Hate Crimes Prevention Action, which was the first case brought under the statute for religiously-motivated violence.*
- Represented telecommunications company before the DOJ and SEC in connection with alleged Foreign Corrupt Practices Act violations in Africa and Southeast Asia.*
- Represented private equity fund in conducting diligence relating to acquisition of water treatment company with sales in South and Central America and Russia.*
- Represented foreign national and investment bank executive in connection with possible Foreign Corrupt Practices Act violations in China.*
- Defended Taiwanese national against possible FCPA violations relating to Asian banking industry investigation by the DOJ and SEC.*
- Represented foreign executive in connection with inquiry relating to alleged violations of CFIUS agreement.*
- Representation of a financial institution in an internal investigation of alleged kickbacks paid to politicians and public officials in connection with the sale of securities to public pension funds.*
- Defended foreign national in worldwide price-fixing investigation of the shipping industry involving the DOJ, Japan Fair Trade Commission, and European Commission.*
- Investigated possible insider trading scheme by executive of a publicly-traded company prior to a privatization deal from a private equity fund.*
- Represented company in an internal investigation into possible anti-corruption violations in connection with the construction of a public works project.*
- Defended scientist alleged to have been engaged in economic espionage on behalf of a foreign power and stolen trade secrets from his employer.*
- Represented financial institution in internal investigation regarding allegations of false statements made in connection with the sale of securities.*
- Defended corporate executive charged with conspiracy to commit mail fraud, theft of government property, and extortion in nine-day federal trial.*

- Represented multinational chemical manufacturer in price-fixing cartel investigation led by the Department of Justice.*
- Represented broker-dealer in FINRA investigation and enforcement proceedings alleging false statements made in connection with the sale of securities.*

Articles and Presentations

- The “China Initiative” Just Won’t Die - Recent DOJ Settlement Highlights the Lasting Effect of Trump-Era Policy on Health Care Institutions, May 22, 2024
- How DOJ’s Safe Harbor Policy Alters the Calculus for M&A Due Diligence, May 20, 2024

News

- Matthew David Ridings mentioned in Crain’s Cleveland People on the Move, May 20, 2024
- Matt David Ridings quoted in Law360 | “Benesch Adds Antitrust Partner From Thompson Hine, May 3, 2024
- Benesch Welcomes Partner Matthew David Ridings to Firm’s White Collar Practice Group, May 1, 2024