



People

Eric L. Zalud

Co-Chair, Transportation & Logistics Practice Group; Vice-Chair, Litigation Practice Group

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Main Bio **Product Liability Bio** **Transportation & Logistics Bio**
Experience

“Eric is an exceptional litigator, and his ability to wade through the “noise” associated with litigation to identify the key aspects of the matter at issue and then develop an effective and cost-effective defense strategy and related tactics separates him from 95% of the litigators we engage in other jurisdictions.” – Benesch client

Eric is Co-Chair of the firm’s Transportation & Logistics Practice Group and a Vice Chair of the Litigation Group. Eric is a Past President of the Transportation Lawyers Association (TLA).

Under Eric’s leadership, Benesch was named Law Firm of the Year for 2025, 2023, 2022, 2020, 2017, 2016 and 2014 in the area of Transportation Law by Best Lawyers® “Best Law Firms”. Only one law firm per practice area in the U.S. receives this recognition each year, making this award a particularly significant achievement. For the twelfth consecutive year (2014-2026), Benesch also received a national first-tier ranking in Transportation Law also by Best Lawyers® “Best Law Firms.”

Eric is a member of the Ohio Foreign Commerce Association; the Association of Transportation Law, Logistics and Policy; The Traffic Club of Cleveland; The Trucking Law Subcommittee of the American Bar Association; The Transportation Consumer Protection Council; the Conference of Freight Counsel; the Transportation Loss Prevention & Security Council; The Transportation Intermediaries Association; The National Tank Truck Carriers; The Association of Transportation Law Professionals; the International Warehouse Logistics Association; the Intermodal Association of North America; the Council on Litigation Management; and a regular attendee at the Air Transport Association freight claims seminar. He is also a member of the Defense Research Institute, Trucking Law Subcommittee; the Air Forwarders Association; the Customs Brokers Roundtable; the Specialty Carriers & Rigging Association and the Swedish American Chamber of Commerce.

Eric has litigated or arbitrated matters in 29 states, before state and federal trial and appellate courts in various jurisdictions, and before the Surface Transportation Board, the U.S. Court of Veterans Appeals, the United States Olympic Committee, the Better Business Bureau and the Federal Maritime Commission. Eric serves on the TLA's committees on freight claims, motor carrier transportation, litigation, logistics and e-commerce. He received the TLA's Distinguished Service Award for 2001.

Eric has experience in Warsaw Convention litigation matters, Carmack Amendment litigation, COGSA litigation, PUCO dealings, NHTSA matters and DOT and Surface Transportation Board matters. He also has general experience in air and surface freight disputes, freight intermediary issues and litigation, private fleet formation, truck sale and purchase issues, freight undercharge and over length disputes, admiralty litigation, freight loss and damage litigation, motor carrier casualty and personal injury work, regulatory and registration issues, driver leasing issues and general regulatory compliance matters.

Eric was listed by Super Lawyers as an Ohio Super Lawyer from 2004-2020. Super Lawyers also listed him as one of the top 100 lawyers in Ohio and, furthermore, one of the top 50 lawyers in Cleveland in 2008. From 2007-2023, Eric was also named as one of The Best Lawyers in America® and named Best Lawyers' 2013 Cleveland Transportation Lawyer of the Year. Best Lawyers describes itself as the definitive guide to legal excellence in the United States.

Eric is a frequent speaker at industry seminars and has authored numerous articles on freight intermediary liability, carrier liability, broker defaults, shipper liability, freight loss and damage, improper loading and contractual liability. He also has experience in preparing and litigating transportation contracts.

In the course of his transportation-related legal work over the years, Eric has cultivated a diverse coterie of transportation industry experts across the country. These experts provide him with regular formal and informal consultation. This ongoing consult gives him valuable industry perspectives on the matters in which he is involved. It also serves as a helpful complement to his legal experience in these matters.

Highlights



Articles and Presentations

- December 4, 2025
Fifth Annual Benesch Investing in the Transportation & Logistics Industry Conference
- November 13-14, 2025

News

- November 14, 2025
Benesch's Transportation & Logistics Group Featured in Crain's Executive Insights on Global Supply Chain Transformation
- October 29, 2025

Wrapped Up and Tied With a Bow - Packaging Your Logistics/Warehousing Company for the Marketplace: Navigating Transactional Aspects in Merger, Acquisition, Consolidations and Integrations | Eric L. Zalud

October 23–24, 2025

The Rapid-Fire Multimodal Lightning Round; Rail, Sea, Air...and Beyond! | Eric L. Zalud

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Benesch Named 2026 Highly Recommended Firm by Benchmark Litigation; 10 Attorneys Recognized, Including Three First-Time Honorees

August 21, 2025

129 Benesch Attorneys Recognized in 2026 Best Lawyers® Rankings

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