



Justin M. Burns

Partner
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Justin is no stranger to complicated or sensitive litigation matters. He has been successful in trial courts and on appeal for a variety of cases, which includes defending against multi-million dollar disputes and securing multiple million-plus judgments on behalf of firm clients. Although most of his practice focuses on complex business litigation, he devotes significant time defending municipalities and public officials in Ohio, especially when there are allegations of civil rights violations. He also advises Ohio municipalities in Ohio's Sunshine Law and other matters, and he oversees prosecutions of criminal offenses in a local court.

Justin's practice is a natural extension of the two years he spent after law school as a law clerk to a federal judge. Justin had a front-row seat for observing how judges think through decisions and how the law develops – because he was there supporting a federal judge with resolving complex matters involving the U.S. Constitution and federal statutes. Justin leverages this unique perspective when advising clients not just on the law, but also on how a court might think through disputed legal and factual issues.

In addition to a busy litigation practice, Justin is often called-upon to publish and speak in the legal community. He has led dozens of continuing education classes for other lawyers, and he has presented his own research to international audiences on a variety of topics. He frequently speaks on matters involving the Supreme Court of the United States, and he has spoken on his personal research interests focusing on the intersection of societal developments as a factor in evolving judicial philosophy. He has presented to, among other organizations, the Ohio Bar Association and Columbus Bar Association, and he has led trainings throughout Ohio for police departments on evolving areas of the law. His written work has been featured in the *National Law Review*, the *Akron Law Review*, and *Ohio Lawyer* magazine.

Justin's success, both in the courtroom and in the community, earned him recognition as a *Rising Star*® by *Super Lawyers Magazine* each year since 2021– an honor received by only 2.5% of attorneys in each state. Additionally, in 2023, the Firm awarded him with the Alice J. Neeley Difference Maker Award, which recognized Justin's dedication to the Firm and its clients, as well as Justin's uncompromising ethics and professionalism in the community.

Outside the law, Justin is an avid sports fan, cheering on Ohio State and the Columbus Crew, and he is studying to become fluent in French.

Services

- Litigation

Education

- University of Akron School of Law (J.D., *magna cum laude*, 2015)
 - Akron Law Review, editor-in-chief
 - ABA's National Appellate Advocacy Competition finalist
 - CALI Award for Excellence (highest grade): School Law I and Civil Procedure II
- University of Tennessee (M.S., 2012)
 - College Student Personnel
- The Ohio State University (B.S., 2007)
 - Atmospheric Science

Bar Admissions

- Ohio

Court Admissions

- U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Ohio
- U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Ohio
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit

Distinctions

- *Super Lawyers Magazine*
 - Ohio *Rising Stars*®, Business Litigation (2021-Present)

Experience

Successfully Obtained Relief for Ohio Physician

We represented an Ohio physician in obtaining the first federal equivalent of Ohio Certificate of Qualification for Employment issued by a U.S. District Court in Ohio and for which there is no federal law or district case law. Obtaining this relief precludes Ohio Medicaid from relying on the client's prior conviction for health care fraud as a basis to permanently exclude the client from enrollment in Ohio Medicaid.

Successfully Obtained Employment Relief for Physician Client

We represented an Ohio physician in obtaining the first federal equivalent of an Ohio Certificate of Qualification for Employment issued by an Ohio court and for which there is no federal law or district case law. Obtaining this relief precludes Ohio Medicaid from relying on the client's prior conviction for health care fraud as a basis to permanently exclude the client from enrollment in Ohio Medicaid. Physician has been successfully re-enrolled, and is a provider for Ohio Department of Medicaid.

Publications

March 19, 2024

Supreme Court Issues Warning for Public Officials Using Social Media

July 15, 2022

Warning You of Your Right to Remain Silent is Not a Right After All

National Law Review

May 23, 2022

High Court Rulings Complicate Government Regulation Of Speech

Law360

December 17, 2020

Federal Judge Confirms Transgender Ohio Residents Are Entitled to Accurate Birth Certificates

November 25, 2019

Tracking Liability: What Can Employers Do?

Columbus Bar Association

July 22, 2019

Use It Or Lose It: Supreme Court of Ohio Delivers Victory to Construction Contractors by Declaring All Claims Subject to Statute of Repose

April 25, 2019

Supreme Court Agrees to Hear Cases Determining Extent of Title VII Protection for LGBT Workers

May 23, 2018

Muddied Waters: When Does a Stream of Benefits Become a River of Bribes?

Ohio Lawyer

March 5, 2018

Department of Justice Announces Task Force to Combat Prescription Opioid Crisis