



Leslie S. Johnson

Partner

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Leslie Johnson is a partner in Ice Miller's Business Group. She advises clients on matters regarding corporate and real estate law. Specifically, her practice includes mergers and acquisitions, corporate formation, private equity transactions, corporate governance, commercial contract negotiation, complex real estate acquisitions and divestitures and commercial leasing. She also works with cultivators, dispensaries, investors and ancillary service providers in the cannabis industry offering strategic legal counsel tailored to the unique challenges of the cannabis industry.

Prior to joining Ice Miller, Leslie was a partner at a national law firm, where she counseled clients in connection with significant business and commercial transactions in a variety of industries and advised clients in a wide array of commercial real estate transactions.

Leslie's real estate experience includes commercial leasing and development, real estate financings, and acquisitions and divestitures. She has also represented clients in the negotiation of real estate documentation such as easements, purchase and sale agreements, leases and joint venture agreements.

Leslie is a board member of Unverferth House, a member of the National Association of Women Business Owners and a member of the Make-A-Wish Foundation. She was named a Rising Star by *Ohio Super Lawyers*® in 2009 and 2010.

In 1993, Leslie graduated from The Ohio State University with a Bachelor of Arts in political science. She earned her juris doctor from Capital University Law School in 1997.

Education

- The Ohio State University (B.A., 1993)
 - Political Science
- Capital University (J.D., 1997)

Admissions

- Ohio

Services & Industries

- Advice to Directors & Officers
- Business
- Cannabis
- Mergers & Acquisitions

- United States Court of Appeals - Sixth Circuit

Professional Affiliations

- Member, Ohio State Bar Association
- Fellow, Columbus Bar Association; Committee Member, Real Estate Section; Committee Member, Probate, Estate & Gift Tax Section
- Member, American Immigration Lawyers Association
- Member, Women Lawyers of Franklin County
- Member, Alliot Global Alliance, Global Mobility Real Estate Specialty Group

Awards & Honors

- *The Best Lawyers in America*®, Business Organizations (including LLCs and Partnerships), Tax Law, Trusts and Estates, 2024-2026; Corporate Law, Mergers & Acquisitions Law, 2025-2026
- *Columbus CEO's Top Lawyers List*, Corporate Law, 2023
- Ohio *Super Lawyer* Rising Star

Community Involvement

- Board Member, Unverferth House
- Member, National Association of Women Business Owners
- Past President, Central Ohio Land Title Association
- Greater Ohio Volunteer Member, Make-A-Wish Foundation

Success Stories

Ice Miller Represents Clarus R&D Solutions in Acquisition by TriNet USA

Ice Miller LLP represented Clarus R&D Solutions, LLC in its sale to TriNet USA, Inc. (a subsidiary of TriNet Group, Inc.) Clarus R&D Solutions, LLC is a company founded in 2016 in Columbus, Ohio that has built a software platform that facilitates the acquisition of R&D and other tax credits for its business customers.

The Ice Miller deal team was led by partner [Leslie Johnson](#) and associates [Erik Olson](#) and [Kole Brinegar](#) with support from partners Gary Blachman, [Sid Bose](#), [Dustin DuBois](#) and [Brian Schultz](#) and associates Donald Burton, Casey Wright and [Abigail Barr](#) and paralegal [Lisa Samblanet](#).

Published In

- Contributing Author, "Inside the Minds: Immigration Strategies for Companies," *Aspatore Books*, January 2009

Thought Leadership

October 17, 2025

High Stakes in Ohio: DeWine Orders Crackdown on Intoxicating Hemp and What the Emergency Order and a New Lawsuit Means for Retailers and Cannabis Operators

March 24, 2025

FinCEN Issues Interim Final Rule Removing U.S. Companies and Persons from CTA Reporting Requirements

July 30, 2024

Delaware General Corporation Law Amendments Set to Take Effect

November 13, 2023

The Corporate Transparency Act: A Brief Overview

Speaking Engagements

- Moderator, "Doubling Down on Columbus: Capital, Growth & Opportunity in Columbus," Columbus Smart Business Dealmakers Conference, September 19, 2024
- "Obstacles and Opportunities for Advancement of Women in the Legal Profession," Women Lawyers of Franklin County, January 2010.
- "Business Entity Selection (Topics: Emerging Trends and Legal Updates and Ethical Considerations)," National Business Institute, December 2009.
- "Personal Estate Planning," Ohio Judicial College—Ohio Association of Magistrates Spring Conference, April 2009.
- "Modifying Irrevocable Trusts and Trust Decanting," Worthington Estate Planning Council, January 2009
- "The 7 Greatest Estate Planning Techniques in Ohio," Lorman Seminar, 2008