

ROBERT W. BRIGGS

Chairman Emeritus & Partner | Cleveland
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ASSISTANT

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AREAS OF PRACTICE

Business
Trusts & Estates
Nonprofit & Foundation
Construction
Passing Assets in a Manner That Reduces Applicable
Death Taxes to a Minimum
Real Estate & Land Use (Zoning)



I am a partner, chairman emeritus and former CEO of Buckingham. My areas of focus are business, trusts and estates and nonprofits.

I have experience serving in leadership roles for both local and national foundations where I have led entities through key transitions including board restructuring, investment changes and overall directional shifts. My involvement in foundation leadership, collaboration and team-building allows me to provide our clients with exceptional strategic advice and comprehensive legal counsel.

My professional experiences are diverse and include my own entrepreneurial endeavors. Such experiences have helped me develop important and sophisticated perspectives that enable me to better serve our clients. I am also a licensed realtor in Ohio and Michigan. I have extensive experience in buying and selling real estate both personally and professionally.

EXPERIENCE

- Served as counsel for numerous businesses and foundations
- Serves on the Distribution Committee of the GAR Foundation (2012 to present)
- Served as former CEO of Buckingham
- Joined the law firm of Herndon & Bartlo in 1970, which merged with Buckingham, Doolittle & Burroughs, LLC in 1971, and elected shareholder in 1974
- Served on the board of managers for the firm from 1985 to 2000, president and CEO from 1990 to 2000, and chairman of the board from 2000 to 2004
- Served as a staff judge advocate with the United States Air Force from 1967 to 1970
- Served as president/executive director of the GAR Foundation from 1996 to 2011
- Served as president of the Northeast Ohio Council on Higher Education (2014-2016)

EDUCATION & ADMISSIONS

The Ohio State University College of Law (J.D., 1966)

Duke University (B.A., 1963)

Licensed Realtor in Ohio and Michigan

Admissions

New York

Ohio

U.S. District Court, Northern District of Ohio

U.S. Tax Court

AWARDS & HONORS

Listed in Best Lawyers in America® (2008-2021)

Named Best Lawyers in America® "Lawyer of the Year" for Corporate Law (2017)

Ohio State University Law Alumni Award (2016)

Recognized in Best Lawyers Business Edition® for Trusts and Estates Law (2015)

Selected for inclusion in Ohio's Super Lawyers® (2004-2005), as voted by his peers

Martindale-Hubbell Peer Review Rating of AV® Preeminent™, which is the highest possible rating in both legal and ethical standards as established by confidential opinions from members of the Bar.

Crain's Cleveland Business Power Pack, as one of Northeast Ohio's most influential business leaders (2002, 2007)

Named to Inside Business Magazine's Power 100 (2008-2011)

Honorary Chair of The Summit County Historical Society's 2013 Summit

Awards (2013)

Named to the Power 100 List (2013)

Named Crain's Cleveland Business Difference Maker (2011)

Named to Crain's Cleveland Business Who's Who: 150 names to know in Northeast Ohio (2010)

Project Love/Purple America's Gordon E. Heffern Award for Values, Ethics and Community (2013)

Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from the University of Akron (2012)

Ohio Grantmakers Forum Philanthropy Award (2011)

Harold K. Stubbs Humanitarian Award (2010)

Sir Thomas More Award (2009)

Honorary Doctorate, Baldwin Wallace College (2008)

Northeast Ohio Regional Leadership Task Force Regional Vision Award (2006)

1st Annual H. Peter Burg Regional Vision Award, Team NEO (2006)

Honorary Alumni Award, University of Akron (2002)

Community Service Award, Great Trail Council of the Boy Scouts and the Northwest Summit County Rotary (2001)

Distinguished Service Award, Akron Community Foundation (2001)

Hope Award, Northeast Ohio Chapter of Multiple Sclerosis Society (2001)

PROFESSIONAL & CIVIC INVOLVEMENT

Bay Harbor Community Council, Legal Committee

Cleveland Metropolitan School District, Board Member

GAR Foundation, Distribution Committee Member

Great Lakes Biomimicry, Emeritus Director

Jacobson Foundation, Trustee

Oak Clinic for Multiple Sclerosis, Board Member

Summa Behavioral Leadership Council, Board Member and Chair

Values in Action, Project Love/Purple America, Honorary Director

The 50 Club

Catawba Island Club

Firestone Country Club

Shoreby Club

Bay Harbor Yacht Club

Past Affiliations

Bratenahl Homeowners Association, Board Member

Buckeye Producing Co., Member, Board of Directors

Union Club, Member

Invent Now, Inc. fka National Inventors Hall of Fame Foundation, Trustee and Chair

2016 Aspire!, Boys & Girls Club Signature Event, Co-Chair

2015 Summa Sapphire Ball, Co-Chair

Stonebridge Tower Homeowners Association, Director

FirstMerit Corporation, Risk Management Committee and Executive Committee, Member, Board of Directors

Independent Sector, Board Member

Akron City Club, President and Member, Board of Directors
Akron Community Foundation, Secretary, Trustee and Two-Term President
Akron Neonatology, Inc., Member, Board of Directors
Akron Porcelain and Plastics Co., Member, Board of Directors
BancOhio National Bank, Akron, Board Member
Blossom Music Center, Co-Chair, Board of Overseers
Cascade Club, President and Member, Board of Directors
Catholic Diocese of Cleveland Foundation, Trustee
Congress Lake Club, Member
Fund for Our Economic Future, Chair and Member
GAR Foundation, President
The John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, Chair and Trustee
Law Enforcement Foundation, Campaign Chair and Member
Multiple Sclerosis Society (Northeastern Ohio Chapter), Chair
Musical Arts Association (Cleveland Orchestra), Trustee
National City Bank, Northeast, Board Member
National Inventors Hall of Fame, Board Chair
Northeast Ohio Council on Higher Education, subsequently President and CEO
2014-2016, Trustee
Northeast Ohio Technology Coalition, Trustee
Northeast Ohio Universities Collaboration & Innovation Study Commission,
Member
Ohio Foundation of Independent Colleges, Board Member
Ohio Venture Capital Authority, Co-Chair and Member
Old Trail School, Vice President and Trustee
One Cleveland dba One Community, Co-Chair and Trustee
Summa Health System, Trustee
Summa Health System Foundation, Trustee
Summit Education Initiative, Trustee
Walsh Jesuit High School Board of Trustees, Chair and Member
Austen BioInnovation Institute in Akron, Board Member
Portage Country Club

Associations

Akron Bar Association
 Past Board Member
New York State Bar Association
Ohio State Bar Association
American Bar Association
Emmet Association of Realtors
Akron Cleveland Association of Realtors
Ohio Realtors
National Association of Realtors