

Cannabis

Among the first national law firms to establish a dedicated Cannabis Practice Group, Greenspoon Marder is at the forefront of this exciting and rapidly growing industry. We offer flexible and creative solutions to help achieve our clients' individual goals, and drive success for the cannabis industry as a whole. Our team helps cultivators, retailers, product manufacturers, distributors, and testing facilities, as well as ancillary industry businesses and investors.

Our attorneys know the unique risks and challenges facing the cannabis, medical marijuana and hemp sectors, so we take the time to understand our clients' products and business objectives. For many of our clients, the legal and regulatory requirements of cannabis business ownership are their least favorite parts of the job. We understand, and we work alongside company leadership to create the smoothest path to success.

Helping Cannabis Businesses Navigate a Complex Legal Landscape

With over 30 attorneys focused on the cannabis, medical marijuana and hemp sectors, our Cannabis Practice advises clients from early formation through an exit. We take a creative and proactive approach to the practice of law, enabling our clients to take advantage of the emerging legal developments and industry trends.

Cannabis businesses face unique challenges and opportunities in this fast-paced, highly regulated industry. Some of our attorneys have been involved in the marijuana industry since its earliest days of legalization, and we have been through the business lifecycle with many companies across the United States. We take a holistic view of a client's business, focusing not just on the immediate needs around tax and regulatory issues, but also on long term strategy as it relates to corporate planning, real estate best practices, and IP needs. What's more, having had a dedicated cannabis practice since 2016, we have created and nurtured a network of marijuana industry executives, investors and advocates around the world. We take pride in carefully connecting our network in ways that make sense for the parties involved and for the industry as a whole.

Related Areas

- Corporate
- Hospitality, Alcohol & Leisure Industry Group
- Labor & Employment
- Intellectual Property
- Litigation
- Real Estate
- Entertainment & Sports
- Tax

News

- Greenspoon Marder Partner Ryan Holz Named to The American Lawyer's 2022 Midwest Trailblazers List
- Greenspoon Marder Partner Irina Dashevsky Selected Among Law360's 2022 Cannabis Law Editorial Board
- Three Greenspoon Marder Partners Recognized in The National Law Journal's 2022 Inaugural List of Cannabis Law Trailblazers
- Greenspoon Marder Senior Counsel Kristin Stankiewicz Elected to the Executive Committee of the Cannabis and Psychedelics Section of the Oregon State Bar
- Greenspoon Marder Partner Ryan M. Holz Recognized Among 2022 "Illinois Rising Stars" By Super Lawyers
- Greenspoon Marder's Cannabis Law Group Named 2021 'Practice Group of the Year' by Law360

- Greenspoon Marder Partner Douglas Sargent Named to Crain's Chicago Business 2021 Notable Gen X Leaders in Accounting, Consulting and Law List
- Greenspoon Marder Partner Irina Dashevsky and Associate Fabian Limon Featured Speakers at Chicago Bar Association's "Doing Deals in Cannabis: What You Need to Know" CLE Seminar
- Greenspoon Marder Partner Irina Dashevsky Selected as Chicago Business Journal's Women of Influence honoree for 2021
- Greenspoon Marder Partner Nick Richards Named to The Global Top 200 Cannabis Lawyers List by Cannabis Law Report
- New Mexico Health Department Quietly Issued a Last-Minute Cultivation License Before Handing Over Control of the Program
- FDA and CDC Issue Warnings Regarding Delta-8 THC, Which Remains in Legal Grey Area
- New Mexico Has Begun Accepting Cannabis Producer Applications; Here's What You Need to Know and What's Next
- Cannabis Community Awaits Direction from New York Governor Kathy Hochul
- New Jersey's Initial Rules for the "Personal-Use of Cannabis" (That is New Jersey's Term for "Adult Use") Restrict Vertical Integration and Focus on Equity
- Illinois (Finally) Moves Towards Issuing New Licenses, But What's Next?
- Greenspoon Marder Partner Irina Dashevsky Named As A 2021 Law360 "Rising Star" in Cannabis
- Greenspoon Marder Expands Cannabis Law Practice in the Midwest and Names New Cannabis Group Chair
- Three Florida Supreme Court Rulings Will Shape the Future of Florida's Marijuana Market
- Greenspoon Marder Partner Nick Richards Featured Speaker At The 2021 NJCPA Cannabis Conference
- International and Cross-Border Tax Issues in the Cannabis Industry
- Greenspoon Marder Partner Nick Richards Featured Speaker At The Emerge Virtual Cannabis Conference & Expo
- Unions in the Cannabis Industry
- Greenspoon Marder Practice Groups Ranked In Chambers and Partners USA For 2021
- Greenspoon Marder Attorneys Ranked In Chambers and Partners USA For 2021
- Greenspoon Marder Attorney Nabil Rodriguez Shortlisted Among Chamber Diversity & Inclusion Awards As A "Future Leader"
- Greenspoon Marder Represents Cannabis Company In City Approvals For Downtown Miami Medical Marijuana Dispensary
- Greenspoon Marder Assists The Tank Brewing Company In Obtaining Licensing For First Ever South Florida Cannabinoid Derived Non-Alcoholic Beverage To Be Produced With Growth Industries
- Greenspoon Marder Partner Nick Richards Appointed To The Board Of Directors At Bhang Corporation
- Greenspoon Marder Innovation Summit Webinar Recordings
- Day Two Recap: Greenspoon Marder Innovation Summit
- Greenspoon Marder Defends Voice of Cannabis Industry in Colorado Complaint
- Greenspoon Marder Associate Nabil Rodriguez Named To Legislation Implementation Work Group
- Greenspoon Marder Partner Adam Kemper Recognized Among The Professional Excellence Award Honorees By The Daily Business Review
- Greenspoon Marder Ranked By Chambers And Partners USA In Nationwide: Cannabis Law For 2020
- Greenspoon Marder Recognized The "Top 11 Cannabis Law Firms" By Green Market Report
- Greenspoon Marder Supports The Dade County Bar Association's "A Review Of Florida's Cannabis Laws: Practical Business And Legal Considerations" Panel Discussion
- Greenspoon Marder Supports CannaVest East
- Greenspoon Marder Supports The National Cannabis Industry Association's Northeast Cannabis Business Conference
- Greenspoon Marder Partner Matthew Ginder Featured Speaker At The South Florida Banking Institute's "Cannabis" Panel
- Greenspoon Marder Promotes Robert Finkle To Partner
- Greenspoon Marder Partner Matthew Ginder Featured Speaker At NobleCon
- Greenspoon Marder Supports The Cannabis Lab's "Legislative Updates & Regulations In Cannabis, Hemp & CBD" Panel Event
- Greenspoon Marder Partners Matthew Ginder Featured Speakers At Kahner Global's Cannabis Private Investment Summit Florida
- Greenspoon Marder Continues Strategic Growth Of National Cannabis And Tax Law Capabilities With Addition Of New Partner Nick

Richards

- Greenspoon Marder Associate Nabil Rodriguez Featured Speaker At The Inaugural Florida Cannabis Symposium
- Greenspoon Marder Promotes Six Attorneys To Partner In 2020
- Greenspoon Marder Senior Counsel Matthew Ginder And Of Counsel Francis Suarez Featured Speakers At Florida Priorities Summit
- Greenspoon Marder Supports The Kahner Global 1st Annual Cannabis Private Investment Summit In San Francisco
- Greenspoon Marder Supports The CLAB's 4th Annual Cannabis Law & Business Conference & Expo
- Greenspoon Marder hosts the Kahner Global Cannabis Private Investment Summit London
- Greenspoon Marder Hosts U.S. Cannabis Regulatory Update in Toronto
- Greenspoon Marder supports the Institutional Capital & Cannabis Conference East (IC3) in New York
- Greenspoon Marder Partner Jessica Wasserman Featured Speaker at the American Herbal Product Association Botanical Congress in Las Vegas
- Greenspoon Marder Partner Jessica Wasserman Panelist At The 2019 SupplySide West
- Greenspoon Marder Senior Counsel Matthew Ginder Featured Speaker At The Ralph E. Boyer Institute On Condominium And Cluster Development CLE
- Greenspoon Marder Senior Counsel Kristin Jordan Featured Speaker At The Connecticut Cannabis Conference
- Greenspoon Marder Partner Jessica Wasserman Panelist At American Bar Associations Tort Trial And Insurance Practice Section Cannabis Area
- Greenspoon Marder Senior Counsel Kristin Jordan Listed Among "Fifteen Powerful And Innovative Women In Cannabis Right Now" by Forbes
- Greenspoon Marder Partner Jessica Wasserman Moderator At American Herbal Products Association's Hemp-CBD Supplement Congress
- Greenspoon Marder Supports The NCIA Cannabis Business Summit & Expo
- Greenspoon Marder Partner Jessica Wasserman Featured Speaker At The 98th Annual AAEI Conference & Expo: Trade In A Shifting World
- Greenspoon Marder Senior Counsel Matthew Ginder Panelist At The Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance's International Action Team Meeting
- Greenspoon Marder Partner Jessica Wasserman Featured Speaker At The "Business Of Marijuana" Seminar In Michigan
- Greenspoon Marder Senior Counsel Kristin Jordan Moderator At Smart Cities New York
- Greenspoon Marder Senior Counsel Kristin Jordan Featured Speaker At Manhattan Community Board 9's "New Era In Cannabis" Forum
- Greenspoon Marder Senior Counsel Kristin Jordan Moderator At New York State Bar Association's CLE Event: Hot Topics In Cannabis Law
- Greenspoon Marder Hosts The Cannabis Investment: Real Estate, Opportunity Zones & NYC
- Greenspoon Marder Ranked By Chambers and Partners USA As A Band 1 Law Firm In Nationwide: Cannabis Law For 2019
- Greenspoon Marder Senior Counsel Kristin Jordan Featured Speaker For The 5th Annual New England Cannabis Convention
- Greenspoon Marder Partner Jessica Wasserman And The Liaison Group Principal And CEO Saphira Galoob Featured Speakers At California Cannabis Industry Association 4th Annual Policy Conference
- Greenspoon Marder Senior Counsel Kristin Jordan Featured Speaker At CannaGather: The Women Marching Forth The Cannabis Industry
- Greenspoon Marder Partner Jessica Wasserman Featured Speaker For The Consumer Federation of America National Food Policy Conference
- Greenspoon Marder Senior Counsel Kristin Jordan Recognized By The Green Market Report As One Of The 100+ Most Important Women In Weed 2019
- Greenspoon Marder Supports Cannabis 101 At The Capitol
- Greenspoon Marder Hosts Kahner Global 2nd Annual Cannabis Private Investment Summit
- Greenspoon Marder Hosts the Proctor & Gamble Alumni Roundtable

- Greenspoon Marder Partner David Weisman Featured Speaker For The Florida Bar Webinar
- Greenspoon Marder Supports the 2019 Arcview Investor Forum in Los Angeles
- Greenspoon Marder Announces Partnership with Green Table
- Greenspoon Marder Cannabis Client Awarded \$8,800,000 Final Judgment
- Alcohol Beverage Producers See Potential in Cannabis and Cannabis Derived Products
- Greenspoon Marder Partner Heather Burke Featured Speaker at the State of Cannabis Conference
- Greenspoon Marder Supports the Cannabis World Congress and Business Expo in Los Angeles
- Greenspoon Marder Client Alert: First Federal Sentencing of Legal Marijuana Business Owner For Tax Crimes
- Greenspoon Marder Partner David Jaroslaw Featured Speaker At 2018 Federation of Defense and Corporate Counsel Annual Meeting
- Greenspoon Marder Client Alert: Constellation Brands' \$3.8 Billion Investment Promises Growth & Consolidation for the Cannabis Industry
- Greenspoon Marder Supports the 2018 San Diego Reception in Support of the Cannabis Action PAC
- Greenspoon Marder Attorney Matthew Ginder Featured Panelist at Sup-X: The Startup Expo
- Greenspoon Marder Partner David Weisman Featured Speaker at Cannabis Leasing Seminar
- Greenspoon Marder Announces the Acquisition of The Liaison Group
- Greenspoon Marder and The Liaison Group To Hold Briefing To Discuss Federal Updates, Including Latest Major Cannabis Industry Win in the House Appropriations Committee
- Greenspoon Marder Hosts The 2018 Spring Policy Conference Presented by Florida For Care
- Greenspoon Marder and The National Law Journal to Host Cannabis Legalization Webinar
- Greenspoon Marder Hosts the Cannabis Private Investment Summit
- Greenspoon Marder Supports Women Grow 2018 Leadership Summit
- Greenspoon Marder Attorney Alicia Lewis to be Featured Speaker at Sarasota County Bar Association Florida Medical Marijuana Law for Estate Planning and Business Lawyers CLE Course
- Greenspoon Marder Supports The Institutional Capital & Cannabis Conference East (IC³)
- Greenspoon Marder Encourages Congress to Act to Protect the Cannabis Industry from Unnecessary Prosecution Under Individual U.S. Attorneys
- Greenspoon Marder Attorney Matthew Ginder Speaker At United Way Of Broward's Tocqueville Tuesday
- Greenspoon Marder Attorney Kristin Stankiewicz Featured Speaker At NBI Seminar
- Our Comments to the State Agencies: Ownership, Priority and Terpenes
- Greenspoon Marder Supports the Dope Magazine Golden Ticket Party in Las Vegas
- Greenspoon Marder Supports the Fall 2017 Marijuana Business Conference & Expo in Las Vegas
- Greenspoon Marder Supports Cannabis Law, Accounting and Business Las Vegas Chapter Launch Party
- FDA Crackdown on Medical Claims Made by CBD Companies
- Nevada Supreme Court Halts Distribution Licenses for Non-Alcohol Distributors
- Greenspoon Marder Shareholder Joseph S. Geller To Deliver Keynote Address at the City of North Miami's Business Luncheon
- Where to Smoke: State Legislature Paves the Way for Consumption Lounges in Nevada
- Greenspoon Marder Senior Counsel Neal Gidvani to be Featured Speaker At National Business Institute's Recreational Marijuana Business Law Seminar
- Greenspoon Marder Presents Second Annual Cannabis Law, Accounting and Business Conference & Expo
- Greenspoon Marder Supports the Cannabis World Congress & Business Expo in Los Angeles
- Greenspoon Marder To Co-Host "United Stance" To Bring Together Key Voices in Fighting Opioid Epidemic
- Greenspoon Marder Partner Heather L. Burke to be Featured Speaker at Legal Seminar on Cannabis Law in Nevada City
- Greenspoon Marder Hosts the American Planning Association's (APA) Legislative Luncheon in Broward
- Greenspoon Marder Supports The Summer Fair in Portland

- Greenspoon Marder Senior Counsel Neal Gidvani Speaker at Las Vegas Medical Marijuana Association Legal & Legislative Update
- Greenspoon Marder Supports the Oregon Cannabis Association National Lobby Days in Washington, D.C.
- Greenspoon Marder Supports the Cannabis World Congress & Business Expo in New York
- Greenspoon Marder Supports the Spring 2017 Marijuana Business Conference & Expo in Washington, D.C.
- Greenspoon Marder Supports the 5th Annual Mother's High Tea Social
- Greenspoon Marder Supports the Cultivation Classic 2017 in Portland
- Greenspoon Marder Hosts Wharton Club of South Florida: Cannabis Industry Update Featuring Gerald Greenspoon and Scott Greiper
- Greenspoon Marder Attorneys Neal Gidvani And Phillip Silvestri To Speak At Medical & Recreational Marijuana Seminar
- Greenspoon Marder Supports Palm Beach County Bar Association's Cannabis Law Summit
- Greenspoon Marder Hosts Commercial Real Estate Women's Luncheon
- Greenspoon Marder Celebrates the Opening of its New Office in Denver with a Reception and Workshop on IP in the Cannabis Industry
- Greenspoon Marder Attorney Alicia Lewis A Featured Speaker On Legal News And Review
- Greenspoon Marder Supports The South Florida Banking Institute "Marijuana, The Law & Banking" Program
- Greenspoon Marder Supports The Institutional Capital & Cannabis Conference (IC³)
- Greenspoon Marder Cannabis Practice Group Monitoring Department of Justice Potential Action Regarding Recreational Cannabis
- Greenspoon Marder and The National Law Journal To Host Cannabis Legalization Webcast
- Greenspoon Marder Shareholder Jodi Laurence to be a Featured Speaker at the Cannaholdings Medical Marijuana Educational Symposium
- Greenspoon Marder Attorneys to be Featured Speakers at the Democrat Young Professionals Luncheon
- Greenspoon Marder Supports the High Times Business Summit 2017
- Greenspoon Marder Announces Further Expansion with Opening of Portland Office
- Greenspoon Marder Supports the 4th Annual Mother's High Tea Social
- Greenspoon Marder Hosts the United For Care Final 2016 Policy Conference
- Greenspoon Marder Sponsors the Cannabis World Congress & Business Expo in Los Angeles
- Greenspoon Marder Attorneys Join the Editorial Board of The Cannabis Law Journal
- Three Greenspoon Marder Attorneys Join the Editorial Board of The Cannabis Law Journal

Videos

- Cannabis Quick Hits: How to Increase Access to Medical and Legal Marijuana
- Cannabis Quick Hits: Social Equity in the Cannabis Space
- Cannabis Quick Hits: Legislative Updates
- Cannabis Quick Hits: Labor & Employment
- Cannabis Quick Hits: Litigation in the Cannabis Space
- Webinar: Year-End Cannabis Legislative Update
- You, Me & IP - Intellectual Property Questions from MJBizCon Conversations
- Webinar: Selling Your Cannabis Business
- Cannabis Quick Hits: Considerations for Cannabis Businesses for a Well-Positioned Eventual Exit
- Cannabis Quick Hits: Intellectual Property in the Cannabis Industry
- Cannabis Quick Hits: Determining a Long Term Plan for your Cannabis Business
- Cannabis Quick Hits: Considerations When Entering or Investing in the Cannabis Industry
- Cannabis Quick Hits: Employment Laws in the Cannabis Industry
- Webinar: Why the Cannabis Industry Needs Estate Planning

- What 280E is not Attacking - Emerging Cannabis Industry Tax Trends
- Webinar: Cannabis Banking: Post-Election Briefing
- Webinar: Oregon Cannabis Licensing Reform – What's In It for You?
- Webinar: Cannabis Legislative Update
- Webinar: Evolution on the Fast Track: The Cannabis Case Study
- Webinar: Cannabis in Quarantine - Burning Questions We Hear Most
- Meet the Lawyers: Justin McNaughton (Cannabis)
- Meet the Lawyers - Kelly Hayes (Cannabis)
- Greenspoon Marder Attends MJBizCon 2018 - Part 2
- Greenspoon Marder Attends MJBizCon 2018
- Greenspoon Marder Client Dinner at Twist
- C-LAB Conference - Gerry Greenspoon Keynote Address
- Greenspoon Marder Hosts the Cannabis Private Investment Summit Florida
- Greenspoon Marder Cannabis Law

Publications

- Big Candy and Big Food Companies Ask Congress To Intervene on Illicit Cannabis Packaging
- Patience is a Virtue: New York Senate Bill Sets Out Harsh Penalties For Anyone That Jumps the Gun on Cannabis Sales...or Transfers, Gifts and Trades
- People With Marijuana Convictions to Get Head Start on Dispensary Ownership in New York
- Illinois Lawmakers Poised to do the Right Thing: House Passes Bill Providing Workplace Protections for Cannabis Consumers
- NAICS Cannabis Industry Codes
- SCOTUS Looks to the Solicitor General in Deciding Whether Medical Marijuana is Covered by Workers Compensation
- Ramping Up: New York Issues New Medical Cannabis Regs.
- Blurred Lines: New York Passes Bill To Allow Hemp Farmers to Grow and Process Marijuana
- ADA Website Compliance Suits Start to Target Cannabis Companies
- Connecticut to Start Accepting Cannabis Business Applications in February
- The Time is Nigh! New Jersey Announces Application Release Dates, and They Are Not Far Away
- Open the Books; Illinois Needs to Stop Hiding Cannabis Craft Grow, Infuser, and Transportation Scores
- Ten Things You Can Do to Prepare for the Upcoming Release of New Jersey Recreational Cannabis License Applications
- New York Cannabis Business End Game: Real Estate
- New Mexico Health Department Quietly Issued a Last-Minute Cultivation License Before Handing Over Control of the Program
- FDA and CDC Issue Warnings Regarding Delta-8 THC, Which Remains in Legal Grey Area
- New Mexico Has Begun Accepting Cannabis Producer Applications; Here's What You Need to Know and What's Next
- Cannabis Community Awaits Direction from New York Governor Kathy Hochul
- New Jersey's Initial Rules for the "Personal-Use of Cannabis" (That is New Jersey's Term for "Adult Use") Restrict Vertical Integration and Focus on Equity
- Illinois (Finally) Moves Towards Issuing New Licenses, But What's Next?
- Three Florida Supreme Court Rulings Will Shape the Future of Florida's Marijuana Market
- Unions in the Cannabis Industry
- New Denver Marijuana Ordinances – Major Changes for License Holders
- Another Consequence Of COVID: Premature Tax Assessments
- Denver And Aurora Move Forward With New Marijuana Business Licensing
- The House Passes MORE Act

- Key House Committee Sends Marijuana Legalization Bill To Floor For Vote
- 2020 Finally Brings Good News! – Governor Polis Pardons Colorado Marijuana Convictions
- Day Two Recap: Greenspoon Marder Innovation Summit
- DEA Attempts To Regulate CBD Processing
- FDA Developments: COVID Rapid Antibody Tests
- EIDL Small Business Loan Portal Re-opens
- Oregon Stay At Home Order And The Cannabis Industry
- New Jersey Voters To Vote On Legalizing Recreational Cannabis
- FDA and CDC Investigate THC Vapes and Issue Warnings: Still more questions than answers...
- Pass the Salt...Pass the Sugar...Pass the Joint
- Greenspoon Marder Cannabis Blog: New Legislation May Force FDA's Hand to Legalize CBD as an Ingredient for Food and Supplements
- DEA Announces Moving Forward To Facilitate Research For Marijuana In The U.S.
- Greenspoon Marder Cannabis Blog: Blowing Smoke - Treasury Secretary Comment on Opportunity Zones
- Greenspoon Marder Hospitality, Alcohol & Leisure Blog: CBD-Infused Alcoholic Beverages: Coming Soon To A Store Near You?
- USDA Accepting Applications of Seed-Propagated Hemp for Plant Variety Protection
- California Establishes Industrial Hemp Cultivation Registration Fees
- Greenspoon Marder Cannabis Blog: Cannabis Edibles Companies will Need to Learn HACCP
- Greenspoon Marder Hospitality, Alcohol & Leisure Blog: Cannabis Conundrum
- Bank On It: One Step Closer to Cannabis Business Banking
- Tristate Cannabis Legalization Update: Who's Next?
- Further Discussion - USDA Hemp Webinar
- USDA Hemp Webinar Summary
- Florida Legislature Repeals Ban on Smoking Medical Marijuana
- New Mexico Takes One Step Closer To Recreational Cannabis
- States Move Forward with Hemp Production Plans; Upcoming Farm Bill Webinar
- Weekly Inside U.S. Hemp, Issue #3
- California Takes Steps to Dismiss over 8,000 Cannabis Convictions
- Why Companies Should Consider a Ban on Pre- and Post-Employment Marijuana Drug Testing
- Weekly Inside U.S. Hemp, Issue #2
- Weekly Inside U.S. Hemp, Issue #1
- Investing in Cannabis is Not a Sin
- Florida's New Governor, Ron DeSantis, Announced His Position to Expand Florida's Medical Marijuana Program
- Another Victim of the Federal Government Shutdown: Progress for Hemp
- Cannabis REITs - What You Need to Know
- Greenspoon Marder Client Alert: Attorney General Jeff Sessions Resigns – Trump Announces Sessions' Temporary Replacement
- Greenspoon Marder Client Alert: Proposed Modifications to California's Permanent State Regulations
- Alcohol Beverage Producers See Potential in Cannabis and Cannabis Derived Products
- LLCs V. Corporations: What's The Difference For Smaller Farmers?
- Greenspoon Marder Partner Heather Burke to Lead a Panel of Industry Experts on Cannabis Appellations 9/25 at 5:30 p.m. in Long Beach
- Greenspoon Marder Client Alert: First Federal Sentencing of Legal Marijuana Business Owner For Tax Crimes
- "Corona Owner's Investment A Turning Point For Cannabis" By: Stephen A. Lenn
- Greenspoon Marder Client Alert: Constellation Brands' \$3.8 Billion Investment Promises Growth & Consolidation for the Cannabis

Industry

- Greenspoon Marder Client Alert: Hemp-Derived CBD Prohibited in Food Products in California
- Oregon Liquor and Cannabis Commission Announces June 15th Deadline For License Applications
- Temporary Local Permits Update
- Nevada County, 2018 Growing Season: Temporary Local Permits and Water Board Enrollment
- Florida's Restrictive Medical Marijuana Regulations — The Basics
- Attempting To Patent Cannabis-Related Inventions May Be Challenging
- How the End of the Hands-Off Federal Policy Will Affect Dispensaries
- Advertising Restrictions for Dispensaries
- Using Trade Secret Protection To Shield Your Marijuana-Related Intellectual Property
- Our Comments to the State Agencies: Ownership, Priority and Terpenes
- FDA Crackdown on Medical Claims Made by CBD Companies
- Nevada Supreme Court Halts Distribution Licenses for Non-Alcohol Distributors
- Where to Smoke: State Legislature Paves the Way for Consumption Lounges in Nevada
- Rohrabacher-Blumenauer Amendment Blocked By The House
- Counties and Municipalities are Grappling with How to Regulate Dispensaries under Florida's New Medical Marijuana Law
- Social Use Consumption: Still Waiting
- Update: Nevada Department of Taxation Votes Unanimously To Move the Industry's Distribution Process Forward
- New Jersey Adult-Use: With Christie Headed Out, Murphy Could Spark Change
- Land Use Regulation of Cannabis Ag: Over-regulation, Moratoriums, and Outright Bans When Compromise Should Be the Answer
- Nevada Adult-Use Goes Live: Fear and Loathing in Cannabis Distribution
- The Oregon Cannabis Association Along With Sponsor Greenspoon Marder Descends on Capitol Hill: Outlook Hazy
- Jeff Sessions Asks Congress to Undo Rohrabacher-Farr; What Does This Mean?

Meet the Team

- Jeffrey A. Backman
- Michael Burwick
- Irina Dashevsky
- Scott J. Fuerst
- Patricia Gannon
- John Gelety
- Matthew Ginder
- Gerald Greenspoon
- Ryan M. Holz
- Robert E. Hunt
- Robert Johnson
- Fabian Limon
- Michael Martinez
- Justin McNaughton
- Aliya J. Nelson
- Nick Richards
- Michael E. Ross
- Douglas R. Sargent

- Phillip Silvestri
- David Standa
- Kristin Stankiewicz
- Sharon Urias
- David Weisman
- Robert P. Wessely

Sub-Practices

Corporate

We provide a full range of corporate services to our cannabis clients, including:

- Corporate Finance and Securities Transactions
- Mergers, Acquisitions and Dispositions
- Joint Ventures and Strategic Alliances
- Restructuring and Workouts
- Private Equity and Venture Capital Fund Formation and Governance
- Complex Commercial Agreements
- Corporate Entity Formation and Corporate Governance

Corporate Finance and Securities Transactions

Growing companies require growth capital, and cannabis ventures are no exception. Our cannabis group has significant experience with all types of financing transactions, including private placements of debt, equity and convertible/hybrid securities, leveraged recapitalizations, public offerings and reverse mergers or reverse takeovers (RTOs). Our attorneys have participated in private and public financing transactions in all major industries, including the rapidly growing legal cannabis industry, from the “seed” or angel stage to the venture capital, and private equity stage to later stage liquidity events including public offerings and RTOs.

Mergers, Acquisitions and Dispositions

Cannabis companies are engaging in M&A transactions at an increasing rate. Our cannabis law practice group has participated in a significant number of M&A transactions, both public and private, from the smallest “mom and pop” transactions to the largest of institutional transactions. Our team of attorneys have observed the rapidly increasing sophistication of M&A transactions in the cannabis space and have the experience both in cannabis and other industries to handle even the most sophisticated transactions in the cannabis space.

Joint Ventures and Strategic Alliances

As cannabis clients grow, many are finding strategic opportunities that are best pursued through a joint venture or strategic alliance rather than an outright acquisition or disposition. Our team of attorneys have structured highly complex joint ventures and strategic alliance transactions both domestically and cross-border, and we are seeing an increasing number of these types of transactions in the cannabis space.

Private Equity and Venture Capital Fund Formation and Governance

As the cannabis industry has grown in size and scale, a group of institutional investors has entered the cannabis space. Our attorneys have experience with and have recently been tasked with forming private equity and venture capital fund vehicles, and related management and advisory entities, to assist these clients in raising funds and deploying those funds in the cannabis industry.

Restructurings and Workouts

As cannabis companies grow, it occasionally becomes necessary to restructure certain of their financial obligations. Restructuring the obligations of a cannabis client can pose unique challenges. Our cannabis law practice group is called upon to advise creditors in the cannabis space in the restructuring of these obligations

Complex Commercial Agreements

Cannabis as an industry is growing very fast, and our clients are increasingly turning to us for assistance in structuring complex commercial transactions among cultivators, manufacturers, distributors, retailers, vendors and other service providers. Our team of attorneys are often able to draw from their analogous experience in other industries to craft agreements to meet the clients' commercial needs.

Corporate Entity Formation and Corporate Governance

Good corporate hygiene is the backbone of any high growth company – particularly in the cannabis industry. Our experienced attorneys can help your business, no matter what the size, build and maintain a strong corporate foundation. Having a solid corporate foundation that evolves with the company is one of the most important things a business can do. Our attorneys advise cannabis companies on their day-to-day operations as well as on their most sophisticated transactions. We are backed by the resources of a full-service national law firm with over 240 lawyers in all areas related to the cannabis industry.

We help create and execute growth strategies for our clients, including business formation, raising capital, tax strategies and more. Our goal is to truly understand each client's vision and provide support and guidance to get there.

Tax and 280E

Cannabis businesses face tax challenges that no other businesses operating in the United States face, which is why it is imperative that companies seek legal counsel with an experienced marijuana business attorney. IRC §280E prevents businesses that are engaged in "drug trafficking," including marijuana, from taking regular business deductions. §280E forces cannabis businesses to use specific accounting methods, makes them more likely to be audited and significantly raises the potential tax liability for cannabis operators. The experienced lawyers in the Greenspoon Marder Cannabis Law Practice can help you navigate through the tax issues your cannabis-related business will most certainly face.

Our firm can help with:

- Corporate structuring and entity formation
- §280E guidance, accounting methods and cost of goods sold decision-making
- State, local and IRS audits
- White collar and tax crime representation
- Tax controversy
- Tax Court litigation

Until Congress acts on §280E and excludes marijuana businesses from this limitation, it remains one of the biggest challenges that operators face. It is extremely important to be thoughtful from a tax perspective about how your corporate structure, understand clearly how to operate under §280E and have an experienced marijuana business attorney on your team if your business is audited or you are contacted by the IRS or other taxing authorities.

Advocacy and Lobbying

As a Greenspoon Marder wholly-owned subsidiary, The Liaison Group, DC's only lobbying firm focused exclusively on the cannabis industry, works to preserve state-approved cannabis programs and to remove barriers to the industry at the federal level. The Liaison Group advocates for clients who believe that an industry committed to compliance – via sound regulatory frameworks that address finance and banking, manufacturing practices, labeling and packaging, as well as inventory and security measures – will create a prosperous environment for all stakeholders.

Services

Government Relations & Lobbying

TLG ensures our cannabis clients' voices and values are heard and understood by federal lawmakers. By understanding the short, medium and long term impacts of pending legislation and policy for the industry, TLG serves its clients as their "eyes and ears" inside the beltway. TLG's strategic advantage is that we have "boots on the ground" experience with decision-makers and policy influencers throughout the federal government.

Strategic Planning & Consulting

Successfully and effectively communicating a message begins with a thoughtful, targeted and comprehensive plan. TLG works closely with every client to ensure that their organization's vision aligns with their government affairs and public policy initiatives to ultimately support their strategic goals.

Learn more at <https://www.theliasongroup.com/>

Hemp & CBD

On December 20, 2018 the President signed the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 ("Farm Bill"). This law is groundbreaking because it removes hemp (containing less than 0.3% THC) from the purview of the Controlled Substances Act. The FDA will now have an expanded role in regulating these products and hemp – including CBD – will be subject to the same regulations and requirements as other non-cannabis FDA-regulated products.

As the industry navigates and creates this "new normal" regulatory environment, it is more important than ever to have experienced legal advisors on your team. Greenspoon Marder attorneys and affiliates in our D.C. office are speaking weekly, if not daily, with the offices at the federal agencies (and Members of Congress and Committee staff) seeking clarification of the issues and timeline for implementing the hemp provisions of the 2018 Farm Bill. We share our knowledge freely with clients and industry participants through blogs and media outlets.

FDA

Hemp and hemp-derived CBD companies regulated by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) understand that qualified strategic advisors are critical to their success. The Greenspoon Marder FDA practice provides comprehensive legal services to companies subject to the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FDCA), the Public Health Service Act, the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) and the Dietary Supplement Health and Education Act (DSHEA) and related federal and state laws. Our team is extremely well connected to FDA legislative initiatives and counsels clients across the nation regarding advocacy advice on FDA policy, legislative matters and governmental affairs.

We support hemp clients through the regulatory life cycle of their products including food, pet/animal food, ingredients and food contact/packaging. We work with risk assessment experts, scientists and technical advisors for an integrated solution.

Greenspoon Marder attorneys can help with:

- Research and commercial agreements
- GRAS and NDI ingredients
- FSMA compliance
- FDA-enforcement action
- Manufacturing compliance (GMPs)

- Post-market compliance counseling
- Pre-market approval and clearance strategies
- Product labeling, advertising and promotional approaches
- Recalls

We work in varied industries across the nation with businesses including:

- Manufacturers
- Investors
- Distributors
- Retailers
- Researchers & Developers
- Suppliers
- Trade Associations
- Medical Centers & Health Care Providers
- Vendors and Independent Contractors
- Non-Profit and Patient Advocacy Organizations

Employment Law

Just like traditional businesses, cannabis businesses need advice and help with employment related issues. Greenspoon Marder's employment lawyers can help cannabis businesses navigate the myriad of state and federal employment laws to ensure that employees are safe and compliant and to prevent unnecessary liability on behalf of the employer. Having happy and well managed leadership and employees is one of the most important aspects of running a successful business.

Whether you are running an established business or just launching our lawyers can help you with a wide range of employment issues including:

- Employee handbooks
- Employment and independent contractor agreements
- Non-compete and non-disclosure agreements
- Employment litigation
- Workman's compensation claims
- OSHA, BOLI and other agency complaints
- Wrongful discharge and termination claims
- Staff and employee trainings
- Sexual harassment claims
- Separation agreements and claims release
- Cannabis related investigations and employee incidents
- Disciplinary proceeding and HR guidance

Our cannabis employment attorneys work with clients on pro-active compliance, liability mitigation, crisis management, and dispute resolution. We counsel our clients on the implementation of employment policies and practices that help protect against potential claims and/or violations; and, when necessary, we draw upon the extensive experience of our Litigation Practice Group to ensure the best possible outcome for our clients.

Intellectual Property

In the cannabis industry, intellectual property protection is often one of the most critical – and most overlooked – competitive advantages. Greenspoon Marder’s intellectual property attorneys work with clients throughout the nation on patents, copyrights, trademarks and trade secrets. We leverage our diverse backgrounds in business, science, technology and the law with an in-depth understanding of intellectual property rights to help our clients succeed in today’s increasingly competitive cannabis marketplace.

Until marijuana is legal at the federal and state level, obtaining federal trademark protection for cannabis-related goods and services will continue to have its challenges. It is critical for business owners to consult with experienced attorneys who can advise on the most strategic and cost-effective options. In some cases, it may be advisable to pursue state trademark protections only, which, along with common law rights, afford some protection of a company’s brand. In other cases, U.S. trademark registration is advisable.

Fortunately for cannabis companies, marijuana’s Schedule 1 status is not relevant to patentability. There are currently a wide range of patents and applications on the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) database, including cannabis plants, products, extraction and processing methods, consumption devices, methods of medical cannabis use, and more.

Similarly, marijuana’s Schedule 1 status is not relevant to protection of trade secrets or copyrights either. Each of these types of intellectual property can be used to protect your company.

Our intellectual property attorneys can help you evaluate and secure the right type of protection, and are skilled in:

- Trademark registration, protection and enforcement
- Patent litigation
- Patent prosecution
- Copyright registration, protection and enforcement
- Trade secret protection and disputes
- Domain name registration and disputes
- IP audits
- IP asset due diligence
- Trademark licensing
- Technology licensing

Real Estate

Greenspoon Marder’s cannabis attorneys can help you and your business through every stage of a cannabis real estate transaction. If you are a cannabis business, you will need real estate legal help. Whether it’s negotiating a lease or purchasing property, our marijuana law firm can help you navigate the unique real estate issues facing cannabis businesses including:

- Due diligence on property feasibility
- Standard due diligence
- Cannabis specific lease provisions and lease negotiations
- Understanding water and power availability
- Historic easements and neighbor relations
- Title and deed review
- Real estate values for existing operations

Land Use

One of the most interesting and dynamic components of a cannabis business is picking the correct location. Because licensing is almost always attached to the property, it is crucial that you ensure your property is licensable, has the appropriate water rights, is zoned correctly and that you can get local government sign-off. An experienced cannabis

business attorney at Greenspoon Marder Cannabis Law Group can help in a myriad of ways including:

- Local government licensing and land use hearing
- Appearances in front of land use boards
- Vetting property for suitability
- All types of land use applications
- Determining and obtaining water rights
- Work collaboratively with local governments to help achieve land use permits
- Contest land use decisions
- Change of use and zoning changes

Litigation

An experienced lawyer at our firm can assist cannabis businesses facing litigation. For more than 35 years, Greenspoon Marder has provided skilled representation for a wide range of businesses and industries, including cannabis businesses. Our trial attorneys have a proven track record in resolving all types of business disputes, representing clients as plaintiffs and defendants in civil, commercial, and complex commercial litigation matters, both in state and federal courts and at the trial and appellate levels.

Our experienced litigation team has argued cases before judges and juries in state and federal courts throughout the United States, in matters that are local, national and international in scope and involving a broad spectrum of cannabis specific legal issues.

How Our Cannabis Law Firm Can Help You

Because of complication federal legalization issues, cannabis litigation poses very specific challenges that our marijuana business lawyers work to navigate including:

- Business and partner disputes
- Breach of contract
- Landlord/tenant disputes
- Civil racketeering
- Copyright and trademark disputes
- Cannabis license violations and revocations

Contact a Cannabis Litigator Today

Greenspoon Marder's cannabis litigators focus on keeping clients out of the courtroom. We pro-actively counsel business clients on ways to resolve disputes without the necessity of litigation and how to avoid future business disputes. However, when trial proves necessary, our team of attorneys is aggressive, experienced, and skilled in the courtroom, whether facing judge or jury. At Greenspoon Marder we stand by our clients from start to finish, guiding them through all facets of the case.

Licensing & Compliance

Licensing

In the states with recreational cannabis legalization that allow some form of commercial activity, licenses to operate are required. Many states have open application programs that are considered noncompetitive, like California and Oregon, while other states have only a small number of licenses to operate being issued.

Our cannabis licensing team has filed thousands of applications in both competitive and noncompetitive states. By having dedicated drafting teams and institutional application experience, our licensing lawyers can help you submit the best

possible application.

Because of Greenspoon Marder's cross disciplinary approach our cannabis practice group can also provide assistance with all parts of the application and back end legal work including real estate, land use and corporate formation.

Compliance

Because of the contradictions between state legalization and federal law, running a compliant cannabis business is extremely important. Our compliance attorneys across the country specialize in keeping your business safe and operating according to state law and agency rules.

Our attorneys, by being engaged in rule making and policy discussions in each state we practice, work hard to be consistently on top of the ever-changing rules cannabis businesses must follow. Greenspoon Marder's commitment to policy work allows us to communicate quickly and effectively about new changes and to make sure that those changes make practical sense when applied.

We provide a wide range of compliance services including:

- Local government compliance
- Compliance audits
- Inspection readiness walkthroughs
- Compliance education services
- Employee and staff training
- Coordination with contractors and service providers
- Representation at license violation and revocation hearings
- Rules updates
- Advocacy at state and local hearings
- Representation at state legislative hearings

Running a compliant cannabis business can feel daunting but our attorneys are here to help. With onsite visits to written operating procedures to legislative updates, our attorneys are constantly striving to keep your business compliant and informed.

*Disclaimer: The materials found in this site are for general informational purposes only and are not for the purpose of providing legal advice or legal opinions on specific facts or circumstances. Though certain individual state constitutions and related marijuana codes and associated regulations allow medical and recreational marijuana businesses, marijuana sales, marijuana cultivation, and marijuana possession by certain qualified individuals and businesses, the sale, cultivation, use, and distribution of marijuana remains **ILLEGAL** under Federal law.