

# Cannabis, CBD & Hemp

When Illinois implemented its Compassionate Use of Medical Cannabis Pilot Program, medical cannabis industry members turned to Amundsen Davis as their voice during the rulemaking process, and later for advice in the highly-competitive application process. Since then, as Illinois and other states have legalized adult and recreational use of cannabis, Amundsen Davis has emerged as the leading full-service firm in the Midwest counseling the cannabis industry nationwide. Our attorneys understand the difference between CBD and THC. They understand the significance of hemp production and what it means for businesses anticipating the legalization of cannabis. Most importantly, they understand the regulatory challenges cannabis business owners face.

The cannabis industry faces all the legal challenges more traditional industries face, as well as unique challenges posed by the complex regulatory schemes states have adopted and the conflicts between federal and state laws. Amundsen Davis's cannabis attorneys work closely with attorneys from its other practice groups to provide the type of collaborative and sophisticated legal services this industry needs, and that were previously difficult for industry members to find.

Amundsen Davis offers the following services to the cannabis industry, as well as businesses that wish to work with the cannabis industry:

## OUR SERVICES

- Business Formation, including Corporate Organization
  - Operating Agreements
  - Financing Agreements
  - Investment Agreements, and Succession Planning
  - Applications and Licenses
  - Regulatory Compliance
  - Outside General Counsel Services
  - Banking
  - Contract Drafting, Review, and Negotiation
  - Securities
  - Commercial Lending
  - Data Privacy and Security
  - Insolvency and Restructuring
  - Risk Management and Insurance

## PROFESSIONALS

Michael McGrory  
Partner

Darren P. Grady  
Partner

Laura Grebe  
Partner

- Business Sales and Purchases
- Mergers & Acquisitions
- Tax
- Venture Capital & Private Equity
- Intellectual Property, including Copyrights, Trademarks, Patents, and Licensing Agreements
- Labor and Employment, including Human Resources Advising and Legal Compliance
- Real Estate Transactions and Zoning
- Health Care
- Laboratory Testing
- **Litigation Services**
  - Business and Contract Dispute Resolution
  - Commercial Litigation, Mediation, and Arbitration
  - Regulatory Enforcement Proceedings
  - Insurance Litigation
  - Personal Injury Litigation
  - Product Liability Litigation
  - Labor and Employment Litigation
  - Intellectual Property Enforcement and Litigation
  - Insolvency, Restructuring, and Bankruptcy
  - Tax Disputes

### In the Industry

Amundsen Davis's cannabis attorneys have dedicated themselves to educating the cannabis industry and other industries on important legal issues arising out of the legalization of cannabis. We hosted a crucial "Meet the Regulators" when Illinois' medical cannabis program began, and also hosted a series of webinars addressing the particular difficulties otherwise routine legal problems pose to the cannabis industry. We have also been called upon to speak at a wide variety of venues, including:

- Marijuana Investor Summit
- Illinois Cannabis Bar Association
- National Business Institute
- Defense Research Institute
- Chicago Bar Association

- Chicago Cannabis Conference
- My Compassion Cannabis Conference
- Chicago Healthcare Risk Management Society
- Professional Liability Underwriting Society
- Association of Lloyd's Brokers
- Illinois State University's Katie School of Insurance & Financial Services
- Chartered Property Casualty Underwriters Institute

Our attorneys have been featured by media outlets across the country on cannabis legal issues and have written articles appearing in *Marijuana Business Daily* and *Marijuana Investor News*. We are members of the National and Illinois Cannabis Industry Associations, Illinois Women in Cannabis, and the Illinois Cannabis Bar Association, and serve on the My Compassion Legal Advisory Board.

### Experience

Represented Clients in New Retail Cannabis Licenses in Illinois When Adult Use Recreational Cannabis Became Legal

### Firm News

Mike McGrory Selected to the 2023 Irish Legal 100  
Firm News, *Irish Legal 100*, October 2023

Amundsen Davis Attorneys Included in the 2023 Illinois Super Lawyers and Rising Stars List  
Firm News, *Amundsen Davis*, January 23, 2023

### In the Media

Michael McGrory Quoted in *Grown In*, Discussing the Rise of a Holding Company in a Burgeoning Cannabis Industry  
Media Mention, May 21, 2020

"The delay is causing unexpected expenses..." *Grown In* Quotes Michael McGrory on Cannabis Dispensary Licenses  
*Grown In*, *The Cannabis Industry Newsletter*, May 21, 2020

Darren Grady is Quoted in *Law360's* Article, "3 Ways Attys Are Preparing For Illinois Cannabis Sales"  
Media Mention, *Law360*, December 20, 2019

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Michael McGrory Quoted in *Crain's Chicago Business* Article, "Law Firms Getting Over Their Fear of Cannabis"

Media Mention, *Crain's Chicago Business*, November 1, 2019

Darren Grady Interviewed by *ASweatLife* on the Cannabis Regulation and Taxation Act

Media Mention, *ASweatLife*, September 27, 2019

New Trends in Law -- Michael McGrory Featured in *DRI's* Podcast

Media Mention, *DRI*, September 2019

Darren Grady Cited in *The Washington Post*

Media Mention, *The Washington Post*, June 28, 2019

Darren Grady Quoted in *Law360* on the Cannabis Regulation and Tax Act

Media Mention, *Law360*, June 3, 2019

The Legalities of Prescribing Medical Marijuana – Physicians Practice Quotes

Michael McGrory

Media Mention, *Physicians Practice*, February 16, 2016

Illinois Medical Marijuana Regulations – Michael McGrory Interviewed by

Professional Solutions Insurance Company

Media Mention, *Professional Solutions Insurance Company*, October 27, 2015

## Events

Illinois Cannabis Roundtable

Speaking Engagement, GreenGrowthCPAs ; Webcast, November 8, 2023

Cannabis Law in Illinois: The Basics & Beyond

Illinois Institute of Continuing Legal Education, Webcast, October 21, 2021

Illinois Marijuana Business Law 2021 – Section III: Business Financing & Product Packaging

National Business Institute, Webcast, July 28, 2021

USLAW Network Virtual Worldwide Retreat: 2021 and Beyond

USLAW Network, Webcast, September 30, 2020 - October 9, 2020

When Compliance Fails: Defending Regulatory Enforcement Actions

DRI Cannabis Law Virtual Seminar, Webcast, September 17, 2020

Up in Smoke: A Briefing for Employers on the Impact of Legal Adult-Use Cannabis and the Workplace

National Automatic Merchandising Association, Seminar; Nashville, TN, May 7, 2020

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Marijuana in the Workplace

Clear Law Institute, Webcast, March 24, 2020

Cannabis Regulation and Tax Act - What Employers Need to Know

Speaking Engagement, Illinois Chamber of Commerce, Webcast, March 3, 2020

Cannabis and Hemp Law and Practice in Illinois: The Nuts and Bolts

Pincus Professional Education; Chicago, IL, February 21, 2020

Dealing with Cannabis in the Workplace - *A National Perspective*

Amundsen Davis, Webcast; Chicago, IL, February 20, 2020

Know the Salient Points of Recent Marijuana Laws and Effectively Advise Your Client

National Business Institute, Seminar; Oak Lawn, IL, December 19, 2019

Know the Salient Points of Recent Marijuana Laws and Effectively Advise Your Clients

National Business Institute, Seminar; Northbrook, IL, December 16, 2019

"Up in Smoke!" A Briefing for Employers on Legalizing Adult-Use Cannabis and How it Can Impact the Workplace

Grain & Feed Association of Illinois; Webinar, December 3, 2019

Recreational Marijuana and Its Impact on the Illinois Workplace Examined

Illinois Chamber of Commerce, Seminar; Glen Ellyn, IL, August 20, 2019

Legal Strategies to Serve the Cannabis Industry

BankersWeb, Webcast, July 18, 2019

Doing Business with CANNABIS

Rockwell Beer Co.; St. Louis, MO, June 26, 2019

CBD - The Future of Food and Convenience Services

NAMA Webinar, June 25, 2019

Marijuana in the Workplace

Clear Law Institute, Webinar, February 7, 2019

Marijuana in the Workplace

Speaking Engagement, Clear Law Institute, Webcast, October 16, 2018

The Future of Medical Marijuana in Missouri: Dealing With the Disconnect Between State & Federal Law

Event, Amundsen Davis, Webcast, September 18, 2018

Medical Marijuana Law in Illinois

National Business Institute; Chicago, IL, June 28, 2018

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New President, New Cabinet, New Employment Laws: How Does This Impact Your Workplace; CA & AZ Marijuana Update  
Arizona Automatic Merchandising Council & California Automatic Vendors Council Annual Meeting; San Diego, CA, September 21, 2017

The State of Cannabis Law in 2017 and Beyond  
Chicago-Kent College of Law, Seminar; Chicago, IL, March 16, 2017

Marijuana Update  
Chicago Bar Association, Chicago, IL, May 25, 2016

Medical Marijuana in Illinois: Legal Perspective  
2016 Katie School/CPCU Symposium; Bloomington, IL, April 22, 2016

Insurance Issues with the Rise of Medical Marijuana  
Association of Lloyd's Brokers, Chicago, IL, March 15, 2016

### Published Works

Four Concerns for States Launching New Cannabis Programs  
Publication, *USLAW Magazine*, Winter 2023

The Historic Cannabis Administration and Opportunity Act Could Finally End Federal Cannabis Prohibition  
*USLAW Magazine*, January 4, 2022

Defending Cannabis Regulatory Enforcement Actions  
*DRI's For the Defense*, November 2020

Up in Smoke- Legalized Cannabis is Becoming the Norm, Instead of the Exception  
*InTouch Magazine - NAMA*, Winter 2020

FDA Softening Stance On CBD? What Is In Store For Vending Employers?  
*VendingMarketWatch.com*, May 8, 2019

Through the Thicket: Issues When Working in, or with, the Legal Cannabis Industry  
*USLAW Magazine*, March 28, 2019

Sowing the Seeds of Change? Three New Federal Cannabis Bills Already Filed in 2019  
*DRI's The Voice Newsletter*, January 30, 2019

Cannabis Business Owners: You Can Fight City Hall  
*Marijuana Investor News*, March 23, 2016

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## Blog Posts

Economic Opportunities For Cannabis Businesses May Expand Following Rescheduling

*Cannabis Business Legal News*, June 13, 2024

A Major Step Towards Reform: The DEA Recommends Rescheduling Cannabis

*Cannabis Business Legal News*, May 1, 2024

Historic Cannabis Rescheduling on the Horizon? It's Up to the DEA Now

*Cannabis Business Legal News*, August 31, 2023

FDA Issues First Ever Guidance for Research of Psychedelics

*Cannabis Business Legal News*, August 3, 2023

Movement on the SAFE Banking Act? The Senate is Talking the Talk, but Not Ready to Walk the Walk

*Cannabis Business Legal News*, May 19, 2023

The Federal Government & CBD – What the FDA is Happening?

*Cannabis Business Legal News*, January 26, 2023

Illinois Lawmaker Introduces Legislation to Legalize Psychedelic Therapy Programs

*Cannabis Business Legal News*, January 24, 2023

Illinois Set to Roll out New Cannabis Retail License Applications and Lottery in Early 2023

*Cannabis Business Legal News*, January 19, 2023

Could a Small Town in Pennsylvania Force Congress to Deschedule Cannabis?

*Cannabis Business Legal News*, November 14, 2022

No April Fool's Joke: The MORE Act was Just Passed by the House

*Cannabis Business Legal News*, April 1, 2022

Significant Increase in Production of Cannabis and Psychedelics for Research Proposed by the DEA for 2022 – What You Need to Know Now

*Cannabis Business Legal News*, October 21, 2021

Protecting Your Cannabis Business from the Trappings of the Telephone Consumer Protection Act

*Cannabis Business Legal News*, August 18, 2021

The Historic Cannabis Administration and Opportunity Act Could Finally End Federal Cannabis Prohibition

*Cannabis Business Legal News*, July 16, 2021

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Illinois Cannabis Market Poised to Take Off With New Dispensary Lottery Bill and Issuance of New Licenses for Craft Growers, Infusers, and Transporters  
*Cannabis Business Legal News*, July 15, 2021

Federal Cannabis Reform Gaining Momentum: New Legalization Bill Introduced by Republican Congressmen  
*Cannabis Business Legal News*, May 13, 2021

Is the US on the Brink of Cannabis Legalization? Not Quite, but the House *has* Voted to Remove Cannabis from the Controlled Substances Act  
*Cannabis Business Legal News*, December 4, 2020

Cannabis Related Collections Still a Race to the Courthouse  
*Cannabis Business Legal News*, April 30, 2020

Essential Yet Ineligible: Cannabis-Related Businesses Face Conundrum Under COVID-19  
*Cannabis Business Legal News*, April 5, 2020

FinCEN Clarifies Position on Hemp SARs  
*Cannabis Business Legal News*, December 5, 2019

MORE Movement on Federal Legalization of Cannabis?  
*Cannabis Business Legal News*, November 22, 2019

Illinois Expands Medical Marijuana Program in Response to Opioid Crisis  
*Cannabis Business Legal News*, August 29, 2019

Credit Unions Encouraged to Bank Hemp Business  
*Cannabis Business Legal News*, August 20, 2019

Cannabis News Quick Hitters, August 2019 – IL Expands and Makes Permanent Medical Use; ABA Supports Cannabis Law Reform  
*Cannabis Business Legal News*, August 15, 2019

Illinois Approves the Cannabis Regulation and Tax Act: What that Means & What Happens Next  
*Cannabis Business Legal News*, June 3, 2019

Is Illinois About to Legalize It? Cannabis Bill Could be Introduced by Week's End  
*Cannabis Business Legal News*, May 1, 2019

FDA Softening Stance on CBD? TBD (Public Hearing on 5/31/19)  
*Cannabis Business Legal News*, April 3, 2019

Illinois Cannabis Update – Adult-Use Recreational Cannabis Bill Filed on 1/25/19  
*Cannabis Business Legal News*, February 15, 2019

Congress Considers Making Banking Marijuana Related Businesses Legal  
*Cannabis Business Legal News*, February 7, 2019

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Sowing the Seeds of Change? Three New Federal Cannabis Bills Already Filed in 2019

*Cannabis Business Legal News*, January 24, 2019

Farm Bill Removes THC found in Hemp from the Controlled Substances Act - Could Medical Marijuana Be Next?

*Cannabis Business Legal News*, December 18, 2018

Pritzker's Win is a Big Win for Legal Cannabis in Illinois

*Cannabis Business Legal News*, November 7, 2018

Missouri Says "Yes" to Medical Marijuana - What To Know Now

*Cannabis Business Legal News*, November 7, 2018

Bankers Beware: Businesses Selling CBD Are Most Likely Marijuana-Related Businesses

*Cannabis Business Legal News*, October 11, 2018

First FDA Approved Cannabis-Based Medication Clears DEA Hurdle

*Cannabis Business Legal News*, September 28, 2018

Weeding Out the Competition: How to Protect Brands in the Booming Marijuana Industry

*Cannabis Business Legal News*, September 12, 2018

Small Step or Giant Leap? FDA Approves Cannabis-Derived Drug for the First Time

*Cannabis Business Legal News*, June 27, 2018

A Crack in the Courthouse Doors for Marijuana Related Businesses and the Availability of Bankruptcy Protection

*Cannabis Business Legal News*, May 7, 2018

If The Government Wants Us To Lend To Marijuana-Related Businesses They Sure Have a Funny Way of Showing It

*Cannabis Business Legal News*, July 29, 2016

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