

INDUSTRY

Cannabis

Benesch's nationally recognized Cannabis Industry Team boasts a deep understanding of the legal and business complexities within the dynamic cannabis and hemp industries, providing guidance to clients across the country navigating this ever-changing area of law.

We are a full-service practice, advising on regulatory compliance, risk avoidance, company formation and structuring, licensing, mergers and acquisitions, advertising and product packaging, brand strategy, and intellectual property protection.

Who We **Serve**

- Ancillary businesses
- Cultivators
- Distributors
- Investors
- Manufacturers
- Retailers

Representative **Clients**

- 1906
- Ayr Wellness
- Cresco Labs
- Firelands Scientific Dispensary
- Gold Flora Corp
- Greenlight Dispensary
- Green Thumb Industries
- springbig
- Terrabis

What We **Do**

- Advertising and marketing compliance
- Cannabis applications with regulatory agencies
- Contract drafting for vendors and suppliers
- Drafting and negotiating corporate transactions
- Employment policies on employee cannabis use
- Guidance on expanding cannabis operations
- Healthcare policies on medical marijuana
- Hemp production and trade guidance
- Intellectual property protection and licensing
- Investigations into drug diversion cases
- Legal support for cannabis capital raising
- Litigation for business and employment disputes
- Litigation on cannabis licensing decisions
- Post-licensure strategy for market entry
- Real estate agreements for cannabis operations
- Regulatory compliance and government advocacy

Numbers & Recognition

13

Dedicated cannabis attorneys

supported by 55+ attorneys across other key practices

Recognized

Top 5 cannabis law firms
by Grown In



Nationally Recognized
by Chambers



Ranked
for Cannabis Law
by The Legal 500



Regulatory Influence

Our team has strong relationships with regulators and actively shapes the policies that govern the legal cannabis industry.

Representative **Matters**

- ▶ Secured the complete dismissal of a novel cannabis class action in Illinois, alleging that certain concentrate products were deceptive. This decision marked a substantial win in a new area of law and helped put an end to a string of class actions against the cannabis industry.
- ▶ Represented Caliva, a leading California vertically integrated cannabis company, in its combination with Subversive Capital Acquisition Corp. (NEO:Gram.U), the largest cannabis SPAC and largest Canadian SPAC to date.
- ▶ Representing Red Arrow Farm, a Michigan-based cultivation and processing facility that has increasing market share in the still-developing adult-use market in the state, as outside general counsel in matters including regulatory and corporate counsel on an ongoing basis. Red Arrow is a pioneer in a brand-new industry in Michigan and faces myriad legal challenges at the state and local level along the way.
- ▶ Conducted a trade secret audit and worked with a private equity firm on identifying potential trade secrets of a cannabis grower in order to assess investment valuation and opportunity.
- ▶ Represented cannabis applicants in various states in connection with their formation, management, equity and debt structures.
- ▶ Represented springbig, the largest loyalty and marketing automation platform to serve the cannabis industry, in entering into a definitive agreement for a \$500 million de-SPAC transaction resulting in springbig being listed on Nasdaq through a merger with Tuatara Capital Acquisition Corporation. The merger accelerated springbig's visions to serve cannabis brands by consolidating a highly fragmented cannabis technology ecosystem across loyalty, data analytics, advertising, and other areas influencing consumer experience and marketing effectiveness.
- ▶ Represented California cannabis company The Parent Co. in its acquisition of dispensary and delivery company Coastal Holding Company for stock consideration.
- ▶ Represented GTI, a leading national cannabis company and owner of Rise™ and Essence retail stores, in matters including a cultivation license from the Ohio Department of Commerce, following an appeal. The cultivation operation will be located in Toledo as part of a processing and manufacturing facility that will also produce GTI's branded product portfolio.
- ▶ Represented a cannabis software company in vendor dispute arbitration.
- ▶ Represented PharmaCann, one of the country's largest vertically integrated cannabis companies, as lead counsel on a \$25 million senior secured convertible loan facility secured by Illinois medical and adult-use dispensary assets.
- ▶ Represented a private investment fund focused on investing in BIPOC-owned cannabis businesses.
- ▶ Represented a large family office that made very substantial investments in the cannabis business, including corporate structure for the entity into which the family office made its original investments and eventually raised additional equity that allowed the original investor to receive a return of a portion of its original investment.
- ▶ Advised a cannabis company on state- and county-specific regulations concerning dispensary applications and licenses.