

Ralph A. Simmons

Counsel

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Ralph leverages more than four decades of federal and state regulatory experience to help clients navigate the ever-evolving, complex web of key regulatory issues involving food safety, labeling and packaging.

Ralph regularly assists corporate and individual clients, including food and beverage companies, in a wide variety of matters, including regulatory and legislative proceedings, contracts, and litigation. He helps clients establish compliance with the laws and regulations administered by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), US Department of Agriculture (USDA), the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), and comparable state authorities.

His clients benefit from his diverse legal insight from having previously served as a senior policy analyst for the FDA. Ralph has advised countless corporations and trade associations with respect to federal, state and international legal and regulatory compliance.

Ralph played a leading role in the adoption and implementation of legislation and regulations creating the Food-Contact Substance Notification process and streamlining the FDA process for approving food packaging while ensuring the safety of the packaged food. Prior to his work at the FDA, Ralph spent more than 20 years in firm leadership at a law firm in Washington, D.C. There, he led a team of 25 lawyers and food scientists focused on FDA and international regulation of food

Services

Business & Corporate
Finance
Beauty & Wellness
Commercial & IP
Transactions
Food & Beverage
Consumer Brands
Luxury Law

Admissions

District of Columbia
U.S. District Court, District of
Columbia
U.S. Supreme Court

packaging while also serving as managing partner and on the firm's management committee.

Education

J.D., University of Virginia School of Law

B.A., Princeton University, Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs

News

Ralph Simmons Quoted in BNN Bloomberg on State-Level Bans of Artificial Food Dyes
BNN Bloomberg, 11.5.24

Foster Garvey Deepens Food & Beverage Regulatory Experience With Addition of Former FDA Senior Policy Analyst Ralph A. Simmons in Washington, D.C.
Foster Garvey Newsroom, 4.26.22

Speaking Engagements

"Federal and State Regulation of Ultra-Processed Foods – Whatever They Are," NJFPA Conference
Speaking Engagement
Atlantic City, NJ, March 5-6, 2026

"Co-Manufacturing Agreements - Setting up for success or Key Considerations," Slack Event
1.16.25

"Prebiotics, Probiotics & Functional Food Claims," 36th Annual Food Label Conference
Speaking Engagement
Washington, D.C., 6.2.24-6.5.24

"FCNs and Beyond: Alternative Pathways to FDA Compliance of Food-Contact Substances," Smithers Food Contact Conference
Speaking Engagement
Washington, D.C., 9.27.23

"Nutrition Communications in Times of Rapid Innovation," Food Edge's Innovation Summit
Panel Discussion
Virtual Event, 5.5.22

Legal Alerts

New Jersey Takes Action on Forever Chemicals in Consumer Products
2.26.26

FDA Proposes New Front-of-Pack Nutrition Label
2.4.25

FDA Revoking Authorization for Use of Red No. 3 in Food and Ingested Drugs
1.24.25

FDA's New Rule for "Healthy" Claim Has Broad Implications for Food Industry
1.23.25

FDA Issues Draft Guidance on Naming and Voluntary Nutrient Statements for Plant-Based Milk Alternatives
3.24.23

Food Allergy Safety Treatment Education and Research Act ("FASTER") - Sesame Update
2.22.23

Proposed Rule on "Healthy" Labeling
Foster Garvey Newsroom, 11.10.22