

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

Darren P. Grady
Partner

Michael McGrory
Partner

Krissy Atterholt
Associate

Laura Grebe
Partner

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- 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

Managed the Local Adult-Use Cannabis Retail Licensing Process in Michigan

Developed Compliant Training Documents for a Cannabis Employee Training Platform

Contributed Narratives for Medical Cannabis License Applications Across Several States

Helped Secure an Injunction in Mahoning County Court of Common Pleas

Represented Multiple Applicants to Ohio's Medical Marijuana Control Program in Chapter 119

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

Krissy Atterholt Discusses Hemp-Based Cannabis with *Isthmus*
Media Mention, *Isthmus*, August 20, 2025

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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

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

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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

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

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

The State of Hemp-Derived Products in Wisconsin

Publication, *Wisconsin Lawyer*, January 2026

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 Excpetion

Publication, *InTouch Magazine – NAMA*, Winter 2020

FDA Softening Stance On CBD? What Is In Store For Vending Employers?

Publication, *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

Blog Posts

Bill to Reopen U.S. Government Poised to Kill the Multi-Billion Dollar Intoxicating Hemp Products Industry

Cannabis Business Legal News, November 14, 2025

Marijuana Legalization Cut From Wisconsin Governor's Proposed Budget

Cannabis Business Legal News, May 15, 2025

Marijuana Legalization Proposed Again in Wisconsin: Considerations and Potential Opportunities

Cannabis Business Legal News, March 6, 2025

Essential Considerations for Advertising and Marketing in Ohio's Cannabis Industry

Cannabis Business Legal News, September 27, 2024

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

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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

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

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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