



Cannabis

The trend is clear: today, two-thirds of U.S. states have legalized the use of medical marijuana and 11 of these states—representing 20% of the nation's population—have also legalized recreational cannabis. And while there remains an ongoing conflict between federal and state positions on the regulation of products containing more than 0.3% THC (the psychoactive component of cannabis), the U.S. Congress recently legalized the production of industrial hemp.

In other words, cannabis is the ultimate "growth" industry.

Hinshaw & Culbertson LLP helps investors, growers, distributors, dispensaries, pharmaceutical companies, supplement manufacturers, retailers, and other participants navigate the complex and sometimes contradictory legal and business challenges facing this emerging marketplace. We have attorneys licensed in and on the ground in nearly two dozen of the U.S. states that have legalized some form of cannabis use, including Arizona, California, Florida, Illinois, Massachusetts, Minnesota, and New York.

In addition to advising individuals and entities pursuing business opportunities in this sector, we also counsel hospitals, health systems and other healthcare providers on issues involving marijuana prescribed for medicinal purposes and in the context of clinical trials, and help employers understand their responsibilities and obligations with respect to employees who may engage in the legal use of medical or recreational cannabis.

We draw on experienced attorneys in a number of the firm's core practices to provide cost-effective counsel in the following areas, among others:

- **Regulatory and licensing compliance**, including policy development, product recalls, and government relations
- **Business and commercial transactions**, including entity formation, governance, mergers and acquisitions, joint ventures, debt and equity financing, taxation, and banking
- **Real estate**, including zoning, site selection, construction, and leasing
- **Insurance**, including crop loss, theft, and liability
- **Intellectual property**, including patent, copyright and trademark registration, and trade-secret protection
- **Employment**, including policy development, documentation and communications, background checks, drug testing, employee benefits and compensation, wage-and-hour compliance, and litigation
- **Dispute resolution**, including administrative appeals, breach of contract matters, product liability, shareholder disputes, and white collar and criminal defense

Industry Area Contacts

Mitchel C. Chargo
612-334-2715
mchargo@hinshawlaw.com

Melissa A. Schafer
310-909-8000
mschafer@hinshawlaw.com

Attorneys

Eliot C. Abbott

Samuel T. Crowley

Michael A. Dowell

Min K. Kang

Steven D. Lehner

David H. Levitt

Ross H. Manella

Stephen T. Masley

Roger M. Masson

Yvonne C. Ocrant

Vanessa V. Pisano

Russell L. Reed

M. Annie Santos

Jane C. Schlicht

Charles R. Schmadeke

Jack Shadid

Timothy M. Sullivan

Anthony J. Zeoli

Related Industries

Insurance Coverage

Related Services

Business & Commercial
Transactions



News

[Mitchel Chargo Offers Insights on the DEA's Anticipated Historic Move to Reclassify Marijuana](#)
May 7, 2024

[Hinshaw Recognized as "Distinguished in Litigation" in BTI Consulting's Litigation Outlook 2024 Survey](#)
November 16, 2023

[Mitchel C. Chargo Selected to 2023/2024 Global Top 200 Cannabis Lawyers](#)
September 1, 2023

[Mitchel Chargo Appears on the KQRS Morning Show, Discusses the Legalization of Adult-Use Cannabis in Minnesota](#)
August 3, 2023

[Mitchel Chargo Profiled in Higher Law Newsletter, Discusses Minnesota Cannabis Licensing and Regulations](#)
July 11, 2023

[Hinshaw Adds Seasoned Commercial Real Estate Partner and Former In-House Cannabis Lawyer to Minneapolis Office](#)
January 11, 2023

[How Can Counsel for Recreational Marijuana Companies Defend Against Failure to Warn Lawsuits?](#)
May 12, 2021

[Tips on Maintaining a Drug-Free Workplace in an Age of Medicinal Marijuana](#)
May 13, 2020

[Hinshaw Launches Cannabis Industry Team](#)
December 6, 2019

[Nicholas Bixler Explains Why a Pending Florida Supreme Court Decision Could Result in a Bonanza for Insurers of Medical Marijuana Clinics](#)
November 21, 2019

Events

[Mitchel Chargo to Present Two CLEs at the Minnesota CLE 2024 Cannabis Law Conference](#)
July 31, 2024
Minneapolis, Minnesota

[Mitchel Chargo to Present at the 2024 Lucky Leaf Expo on Why a Commercial Real Estate Strategy is Crucial to the Success of a Cannabis Business](#)
April 26, 2024
Minneapolis Convention Center, Minneapolis, Minnesota

Commercial Litigation

Complex Tort & General
Casualty

Intellectual Property

Labor & Employment

Real Estate & Lending

Regulatory and Compliance
Counseling

White Collar Defense &
Internal Investigations



[Mitchel Chargo to Present on Legal Issues Impacting Municipal Cannabis Dispensaries at the Minnesota Association of City Attorneys \(MACA\) 2024 Annual Conference](#)

February 9, 2024

Bloomington, Minnesota

[Mitchel Chargo to Participate in BGM-Hosted Discussion on Key Steps for Assessing Business Opportunities in Minnesota's Cannabis Market](#)

November 15, 2023

Bloomington, Minnesota

Publications

[DEA's Decision to Reschedule Marijuana Represents a Massive Shift in U.S. Drug Policy, But Challenges for Cannabis Industry Remain](#)

May 2, 2024

Hinshaw Alert

[10 Things You Need to Know About the Recreational Cannabis Legalization Bill Recently Introduced to the Minnesota Legislature](#)

February 16, 2023

Hinshaw Alert

[Where Cannabis Law Stands Today: When State Law Says Yes, but Federal Law STILL Says No](#)

December 2022 | Updated December 21, 2022

[U.S. Senate Bill Would Provide Safe Harbor for Insurers That Insure Cannabis-Related Businesses Operating in Compliance With State and Local Law](#)

March 25, 2021

Insights for Insurers

[Financial Services for Cannabis and Hemp Businesses](#)

January 13, 2020

Hinshaw Alert

[Financial Services for Cannabis and Hemp Businesses](#)

September 26, 2019

Hinshaw Alert