

Garrett Graff

Partner



Connect with Garrett

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Services / Industries

Corporate

Cannabis & Regulated Industries

Hospitality, Food & Beverage

Private Funds

Real Estate

Bio

Garrett Graff is driven to provide his clients, who are often in regulated industries, with practical, real-world solutions that reflect their business objectives, internal and external considerations, and an assessment of associated risks, giving them the ability to navigate complex problems with relative ease.

In his practice, Garrett advises a wide range of clients, from start-ups to established private middle-market companies to family offices to publicly traded companies, on a wide variety of corporate matters, with an emphasis in regulated industries. His counsel includes corporate formation and structuring, equity and debt financings, mergers and acquisitions, raising capital, securities, real estate and other complex commercial contracting issues, along with expertise in navigating complex regulatory environments on a federal, state and local basis.

Garrett formerly served as the managing partner of a boutique full-service law firm prior to joining Gould & Ratner, and given such executive experience and legal expertise, Garrett often serves as outside general counsel to many clients, further advising on matters relating to corporate governance, fiduciary duties, employment law and other general corporate matters, affording Garrett the ability to advise clients in an integrated, strategic fashion across their business. Further, Garrett is experienced in advising clients on the protection of intellectual property, litigation, policy and international issues.

His clients cross a variety of industries, ranging from real estate companies, consumer packaged goods, operators in regulated spaces such as cannabis (marijuana and hemp), liquor, food and beverage, natural products and psychedelics, manufacturing, technology, and investment companies.

From a regulatory perspective, Garrett counsels clients in navigating the many layers of international, federal, state and local laws and regulations relating to their industries, FDA and FTC compliance related to food and beverage, supplements and other natural products, Proposition 65 compliance, as well as import and export issues, along with other regulatory considerations.

For clients in regulated industries, Garrett often represents clients from the outset in navigating complex regulatory environments, beginning with the application process in securing appropriate licensure, in both competitive and non-competitive jurisdictions; in ongoing regulatory compliance; and in defending administrative actions concerning alleged non-compliance. Further, he frequently works with federal, state and local authorities on policy and enforcement matters. Notably, Garrett represented hemp industry stakeholders against the DEA in confirming the Farm Bill's hemp provisions pre-empt DEA authority and the CSA. He also regularly

works with stakeholders in drafting model legislative and regulatory policy.

Given his expertise, Garrett was appointed by the Colorado Governor's Office and two state regulatory agencies to serve for nine months on a statewide task force developing a first-of-its-kind regulatory framework concerning intoxicating cannabinoids and the interplay between the marijuana and hemp industries. Further, Garrett has testified in judicial proceedings related to regulatory matters and frequently speaks in many forums, including conferences, symposiums, and related events regarding various issues, including cannabis and natural products. Since 2023, Garrett has been ranked in Chambers USA as a leading nationwide Cannabis Law attorney.

Credentials

Education

Drexel University Thomas R. Kline School of Law
University of Colorado

Bar Admissions

Colorado

Affiliations

- Colorado Hemp Association, Board Member
- Department of Revenue State Licensing Authority, Intoxicating Hemp & Cannabis Products Task Force

Publications

- [A Primer: Colorado Real Estate and the Cannabis Industry](#) , *Colorado Real Estate Journal* , September 20, 2023
- [Real Estate Issues Arise for Cannabis Businesses](#) , *Law Week Colorado* , August 25, 2023
- [How Should the FDA Regulate CBD and Hemp? Here's What the Experts Think](#) , *CBD Oracle* , August 18, 2023
- [Ten Experts Reflect on State of U.S. Hemp Industry](#) , *Natural Products Insider* , April 26, 2023
- [Suing FDA over CBD Would Face Procedural, Substantive Hurdles](#) , *Natural Products Insider* , March 16, 2023
- [Lawyers Skeptical FDA Warning Letters Will Chill delta-8 THC Market](#) , *Natural Products Insider* , May 16, 2022
- [California's CBD Law: One Step Forward, Two Steps Back?](#) , *Hemp Industry Daily* , February 25, 2022
- [Turning Over a New Leaf: Outlook for 2022](#) , *Marijuana Venture* , February 8, 2022
- [Hemp Experts Say 2023 Farm Bill Could Even Playing Field Between US and Rival Countries](#) , *Hemp Industry Daily* , October 21, 2021
- [Delta-8 THC Raises Questions About Intent of Farm Bill](#) , *Natural Products Insider* , July 23, 2021
- [An Evolving Perspective on Therapeutic Use of Cannabis by Athletes](#) , *Natural Products Insider* , June 11, 2021
- [Legal Cannabis Companies Pay Insane Tax Rates Thanks to a Minnesota Speed Dealer](#) , *Natural Products Insider* , April 30, 2021
- [Why the Cannabis Industry Needs To Get Greener](#) , *Greenhouse Grower* , January 8, 2021
- [Struggling Economy Might Signal Time for Cannabis Businesses to Seek Out Real Estate Deals](#) , *MJBizDaily* , August 16, 2020
- [The Regulatory Environment Surrounding CBD-Infused Foods and Drinks](#) , *Natural Products Insider* , July 17, 2020
- [Colorado Hemp Industry Responds to New USDA Rules](#) , *Denver Business Journal* , October 30, 2019

- [Hemp Investing 101: The Basics , AG Web , August 16, 2019](#)
- [Pennsylvania Senators Unveil Bill to Foster an Adult-Use Cannabis Program , Cannabis Law Report , April 2019](#)
- [Regulation of Different CBD Product Types , National Products Insider , April 1, 2019](#)
- [The FDA and HEMP: Status Check , Cannabis Law Report , March 2019](#)

Speaking Engagements

- Panelist, "Contemplating the Future for CBD: Navigating the Sale of CBD and Other Hemp-Derived Cannabinoids in the Wake of FDA's Recent CBD Announcement", Legal, Regulatory & Compliance Forum on Dietary Supplements, June 2023
- Moderator, "CBD, The FDA, and an Act of Congress... Oh My", NoCo Hemp Expo, March 2023
- Presenter, "The Top Three Legal Trends for Maintaining a Successful Brewery", Colorado Craft Brewers Summit, November 2022
- Moderator, "What Investors are Looking for in Today's Cannabis and Hemp Space", NoCo Hemp Expo, March 2022
- Presenter, "Lighting up Cannabis: Parallels between State Cannabis Regulation and Income Taxation", ABA-IPT Virtual Advanced State Income Tax Seminar, March 2022
- Presenter, "Regulatory Roulette: Federal and State Updates", MJBizCon, October 2021
- Presenter, "How CBD Can Keep Disrupting Categories", Informa Markets/Supply Side Network 365, August 2021
- Panelist, "Federal Policy – The Future of FDA and Cannabis Regulation", International Cannabis Bar Association, August 2021
- Presenter, "Cannabis: Organizational Forms for Growers and Dispensaries", CPA Academy, July 2021
- Panelist, "The Shake-Out Since the Farm Bill"

Key Cases or Transactions

- Represent sponsor member and manager in debt and equity financing exceeding \$350 million to finance the first of a planned series of significant boutique hotel developments spanning across several states, along with related corporate structuring, intellectual property, real estate and related commercial contracting matters.
- Represent general partner of limited partnership in series of 7- and 8-figure equity investments in various real estate projects nationwide, where the general partner manages funds ranging from \$10 million – \$50 million on behalf of limited partner pension funds, inclusive of advice concerning matters of exercise of fiduciary duties and corporate governance on behalf thereof.
- Represent general partner in litigation against development partners for failure to timely deliver projects on time and on budget, leading to damages awards of approximately \$4 million.
- Represent member in negotiating the settlement of a nine-figure liability arising from membership dispute and the related apportionment of parent company assets.
- Represent sponsor in the formation and management of Series LLC raising capital for various professional sports-related investments.
- Represent sponsor in series of investments focused on AI and medical-focused investments.
- Represent family office as the seller of various cannabis license assets in a series of transactions exceeding \$5 million aggregate.
- Represented cannabis manufacturer as the seller of in a transaction exceeding \$13 million in value.

- Represent start-up cannabis in corporate formation, corporate governance, raising initial capital in excess of \$5 million and commercial contracting matters.
- Represent cannabis retail dispensary and related entities on ongoing matters as sublandlord, and previously, as the seller of its business assets and in the sublease of its leasehold interests pursuant to a master ground lease in a transaction exceeding \$4 million in value.
- Represent members of a manufacturing company in the sale of their respective membership interests in a transaction valued in excess of \$3 million, and subsequently, advising the sellers on post-closing disputes relating to post-closing operations of buyers, post-closing restrictive covenants of sellers and allegations of sellers' misrepresentation.
- Represent series of related party entities in negotiation and resolution of protracted commercial contracting disputes relating to leasehold interests, management services agreements and supplier relationships with third party.
- Represented multiple publicly or privately held companies and family offices in buy/sell transactions and related due diligence and regulatory compliance, ranging in value from \$50,000 – \$145,000,000, varying as corporate, regulatory, due diligence and/or local counsel.
- Represent and advise companies throughout the corporate life cycle, including corporate formation and structuring, corporate governance, commercial contracting matters, debt/equity financing, and mergers and acquisitions.
- Represent numerous companies (including multi-state operators) in industry-specific regulatory compliance, and complex multistate compliance strategies, ranging from jurisdiction-specific legislative and regulatory issues to jurisdictional surveys, inclusive of cannabis (both marijuana and hemp), alcoholic beverages, psychedelics and other regulatory and administrative law matters.
- Represent client in the purchase of and/or application for a series of liquor licenses, along with related corporate formation, corporate governance, real estate purchase and leasing considerations, for a planned series of 5-10 facilities in southern Colorado.
- Represent numerous landlords concerning matters relating to preservation, maintenance and/or transition of liquor licenses to inure to the benefit of incoming tenants and other related considerations.
- Represented publicly-traded company in the strategic deployment of over \$300 million of assets in the cannabis industry, including advisement corporate, strategic and regulatory considerations.
- Drafted and advised on majority of merit-based applications for client who ultimately successfully obtained 2 out of 3 applications in a competitive license jurisdiction.
- Represent numerous companies in regulatory compliance matters, ranging from FDA and FTC compliance in marketing and labeling; data privacy; Prop 65; to import/export.
- Represent clients in various litigation or pre-litigation matters, with claims ranging from breach of contract, civil theft, fraud, FED, trade secrets, CRCP 106 to declaratory judgment.
- Represent hemp industry stakeholders appellate challenges in federal appellate court in 2017 and 2020 challenges to DEA rulemaking.
- Advised numerous federal, state, local and tribal governments in drafting of legislation and promulgation of corresponding regulation to establish commercialized regulatory schemes.
- Represented association of Colorado hemp companies in lobbying and advocacy efforts.

News

Dean Richardson and Garrett Graff Ranked in 2026 Chambers USA for Cannabis Law, June 4, 2026

Two Gould & Ratner Denver Partners Named to Legal 500 City Elite List for Corporate and M&A, April 15, 2026

Gould & Ratner Appointed as MSI Global Alliance's Law Member in Colorado, November 19, 2025

Gould & Ratner Celebrates One-Year Anniversary of Denver Office with Growth in Talent, Clients and Practice Capabilities, July 24, 2025

Dean Richardson and Garrett Graff Ranked in 2025 Chambers USA for Cannabis Law, June 10, 2025

Gould & Ratner Opens Denver Office to Serve Growing Client Needs, July 25, 2024

Garrett Graff Joins Corporate Practice as Partner, April 30, 2024