



Helping Cannabis and Hemp Businesses Grow Smarter, Stay Compliant, and Succeed*

The cannabis industry continues to evolve at a rapid pace, shaped by a patchwork of state programs, shifting federal priorities, and now groundbreaking tribal initiatives. Entering the cannabis industry in jurisdictions in which it has been authorized requires an understanding and appreciation for the complex regulatory environment, which is constantly evolving and involves conflicts at the federal, state, and local levels of government. At Hinshaw, we help businesses, investors, and sovereign nations navigate this dynamic landscape with clarity, confidence, and foresight, all of which have been developed through practical, boots-on-the-ground experience.

Hinshaw's Cannabis Practice combines deep industry knowledge with the resources of a full-service Am Law 200 firm. Our team includes former in-house General Counsel to a state-registered cannabis medical marijuana manufacturer and the attorney who negotiated the nation's first tribal-state cannabis compact which facilitates tribal cannabis operations off of the tribe's sovereign territory. This real-world experience, paired with our firm's strengths in corporate, healthcare, employment, litigation, and regulatory law, allows us to provide clients with comprehensive, end-to-end legal support.

We advise operators, investors, and tribal enterprises across the US on licensing, cannabis and hemp regulatory compliance, business and real estate transactions, governance, and disputes. We also guide hospitals, health systems, and employers on the healthcare and workplace implications of legalized cannabis. With attorneys on the ground in nearly two dozen states that have legalized some form of cannabis use, we deliver both national perspective and local insight.

Industry Perspective: Our practice includes attorneys with direct experience inside cannabis businesses and with government regulators.

Tribal Cannabis Leadership: We negotiated the nation's first tribal-state cannabis compact, allowing for cannabis operations outside of a tribe's sovereign territory, and continue to advise tribal governments and their cannabis enterprises in connection with their ongoing cannabis operations.

National & Local Presence: With attorneys licensed in nearly two dozen cannabis-legal states, we provide multijurisdictional coverage and local insight.

Multidisciplinary Strength: We pair cannabis industry knowledge with Hinshaw's full-service capabilities in corporate, real estate, healthcare, employment, finance, and litigation..

Forward-Looking Counsel: We stay ahead of evolving laws, federal policy shifts, and emerging risks to guide clients through uncertainty with confidence.

Areas of Focus

Banking, Finance & Insurance

We advise clients on cannabis banking challenges, capital raises, investor compliance, insurance coverage disputes, and we guide financial transactions in an underbanked market.

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Commercial Contracts & Transactions

We draft and negotiate real estate, distribution, supply chain, white-label, and partnership agreements tailored to the cannabis industry's unique compliance requirements.

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Corporate Formation & Governance

We structure new ventures, joint ventures, and investor and finance arrangements, draft governance frameworks, and negotiate shareholder agreements in a high-risk regulatory environment.

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Employment & Workplace Issues

We help employers implement compliant workplace policies, drug testing programs, safety standards, and union/labor strategies in an evolving employment law environment.

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Hemp-Derived Products

The 2018 Farm Bill reclassified hemp as an agricultural commodity and opened the door for hemp-derived products containing cannabinoids such as CBD and certain levels of THC. Yet businesses in this space still face

complex federal and state oversight, FDA scrutiny, and evolving labeling and marketing standards.

Hinshaw advises producers, processors, distributors, and investors on licensing, regulatory compliance, labeling, product safety, and commercial transactions across the hemp supply chain. Leveraging our multidisciplinary strengths, we help clients innovate responsibly, expand into new markets, and mitigate risk in this dynamic sector.

Licensing & Regulatory Compliance

We align legal obligations with business objectives while advising operators, investors, and management companies on state and local licensing, ownership restrictions, compliance programs, audits, and investigations.

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Litigation & Dispute Resolution

We represent cannabis businesses in regulatory enforcement actions, contract and partnership disputes, employment litigation, and IP enforcement.

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Real Estate

We counsel our clients in connection with their acquisition or lease and financing of cultivation, manufacturing, retail, wholesale, and transportation facilities while navigating the complex regulatory environment in which those operations facilities will exist. We also assist with land use and zoning matters for cannabis industry properties.

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Tribal Cannabis & Sovereignty

Guiding tribal governments and tribal business enterprises through compacts, regulatory frameworks, and economic development initiatives, we help build cannabis ventures that advance sovereignty and create sustainable revenue streams.

Legal Support for the Future of Cannabis

As cannabis and hemp-derived products move further into the mainstream, Hinshaw is positioned at the forefront. We help clients across the ecosystem build strong foundations, scale responsibly, and protect their

long-term interests in one of the most dynamic legal markets in the world.

**Marijuana is a Schedule I controlled substance under federal law. This means that it is a federal crime to sell, distribute, possess, and/or use marijuana or marijuana-derived products, regardless of any state law that may authorize certain marijuana activity. As a result, state laws legalizing, decriminalizing, or otherwise authorizing cannabis activity are in conflict with federal law. Although federal enforcement policy guidelines may, at times, defer to state law and may further recommend enforcement discretion when a business or individual operates in compliance with state law that complies with federal enforcement priorities, businesses and individuals must understand that compliance with state law does not equate to or assure compliance with federal law. There is a risk that conflicting federal law(s) may be enforced in the future. It is also important to understand that federal marijuana policy may change at any time. No legal advice we give regarding marijuana law or policy is ever intended to encourage, guide, or assist clients in violating federal or state law.*

Insights

Event

Sep 10, 2025

Mitchel Chargo Analyzes Sustainable Solutions for Cannabis Real Estate

Press Release

Sep 2, 2025

Mitchel Chargo Celebrates Third Consecutive Year on the Global Top 200 Cannabis Lawyers Directory by *Cannabis Law Report*

Press Release

Aug 12, 2025

Mitchel Chargo Selected for the *Twin Cities Business* 2025 Notable Partners in Law

Webinar

Aug 10, 2025

Mitchel Chargo Presents a Panel at CannaCon Midwest

Press Release

Jul 10, 2025

Three Hinshaw Partners Named to *Minnesota Monthly's* 2025 Top Lawyers in Minnesota

In The News
Jun 12, 2025

Mitch Chargo Discusses Business Opportunities from Minnesota's New Cannabis Regulation

Event
Jun 10, 2025

Mitchel Chargo Co-Presents at the Tenth Annual Native American Cannabis and Hemp Conference

In The News
May 2, 2025

Mitchel Chargo Discusses Minnesota's New Adult-Use Cannabis Market Rules and Tribal Opportunities

In The News
Feb 24, 2025

Mitchel Chargo Discusses Community Benefits for Tribal Nations Participating in Minnesota Cannabis Market

Press Release
Feb 7, 2025

Mitchel Chargo Appointed to the Indigenous Cannabis Industry Association's Board of Directors

To Find Out More Contact



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Related Capabilities

Complex Tort & General Casualty

Corporate & Transactions

Financial Services Regulatory & Compliance

Healthcare

Insurance

Insurance Coverage Litigation & Counseling

Intellectual Property

Labor & Employment

Litigation & Trial

Real Estate

Real Estate Transactions & Lending

Regulatory & Compliance

White Collar Defense, Investigations & Enforcement