

Liquor Law

Lewis Roca Rothgerber Christie has one of the most robust and experienced liquor law teams in the region. Our attorneys regularly provide legal and strategic advice to public and private companies, Indian tribes, and governmental agencies regarding a variety of liquor law matters. Our national practice helps clients navigate through complex state, local and federal laws in this highly regulated arena. Our lawyers support a diverse portfolio of businesses including representing all three tiers of the alcohol industry and other industry players such as service providers and marketing agencies.

Relevant Service Areas

Licensing

Our national practice assists with a wide range of liquor licensing needs, from applying for a new liquor license to license renewals and changes of ownership. We also assist with identifying suitable locations and obtaining special use permits for certain properties. Our attorneys have years of experience assisting local and national clients to open a variety of new businesses, including craft breweries, restaurants, gaming establishments, and retail liquor establishments. We have guided countless clients through the application process, which starts with the preparation and filing of an application and ends with a hearing before a local or state licensing authority. For national companies, we often serve as local counsel to help in-house counsel navigate through various local requirements and serve as key contacts for local agencies during the licensing process.

Similarly, we have advised and assisted various regulatory bodies, including local governments and Indian tribes to develop licensing structures to suit their needs. This includes drafting liquor ordinances and accompanying regulations.

Manufacturing

We advise producers, whether craft distillers or larger suppliers, on all matters relating to licensing and compliance, trade practices, and distribution. We have been called upon to perform comprehensive review and risk analyses of federal and state liquor laws and to provide our clients with advice to avoid compliance actions by government authorities. In addition, our attorneys frequently draft and review licensing, bottling, and distribution agreements.

Distribution

Our team has represented large networks of distributors, including both local and national players. Our attorneys are often called upon to review and guide

Our Services

Liquor Violations Hearings

Key Contacts

Marla J. Hudgens

**Chair, Liquor Industry
Group**

602.262.5773

distributors through primary source and franchise law disputes, as well as regulatory, licensing, legislative, and trade practices compliance matters. We also draft and review distribution agreements for local, national and international distribution.

Retail

We represent hotels, airlines and limousines, restaurant and hotel chains, independent restaurant and bar and tavern owners, and owners of grocery, convenience and liquor stores in all matters involving liquor licenses, trade practices, and other compliance matters. We help our clients obtain liquor licenses, including those involving common consumption areas, and we assist with transferring licenses involved in bankruptcies or foreclosures. Our firm regularly represents major hospitality industry operators in connection with management agreement matters. We also regularly represent clients before the local community and state liquor control boards.

Government Relations

Our team of lobbyists and attorneys provide legislative advocacy at state and federal levels. We assist clients in identifying and resolving legal and regulatory issues through changes in the law.

Intellectual Property

Our team regularly advises liquor clients, including craft brewers and distillers, on a variety of intellectual property matters, including trademark and patents.

Certificates of Label Approvals (COLAs)

Our attorneys assist in ensuring that alcoholic beverage product labeling complies with the detailed federal regulatory requirements for label content of the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau and the Food and Drug Administration.

Regulatory Compliance

Our attorneys have extensive experience with liquor code violations. We counsel clients on compliance issues relating to sales and marketing of alcoholic beverages to ensure compliance with federal and state laws. We also assist with required notifications to local agencies regarding corporate restructuring and assist with the licensing of additional key individuals appointed to management.

Related Services

Liquor Violations Hearings

Arizona Government Relations

Nevada Government Relations

Colorado Government Relations

Commercial Gaming

Gaming

Government Relations

Indian Gaming

Related Industries

Gaming & Hospitality