



# Hilary Bricken

PARTNER

LOS ANGELES, CA\*

PHONE:

213.337.6550

PHONE:

213.337.6573

EMAIL: HILARY.BRICKEN@HUSCHBLACKWELL.COM

## OVERVIEW

With a passion for organizational growth, Hilary advises clients in the cannabis, healthcare, and life sciences spaces on transactions, regulatory compliance, governance matters, and other corporate needs.

Hilary likes being a dealmaker: she values building collegial relationships with clients and other attorneys, and she loves helping clients create value and business opportunities. She also appreciates the in-depth strategies that transactions rely on.

Much of Hilary's practice is devoted to mergers, acquisitions, and other transactions, as well as to serving as first point of outside counsel for certain clients. She also assists with entity formation and the drafting of various governance documents and asset portfolio management. In addition, Hilary advises clients on industry-specific regulatory compliance.

Hilary's experience with the cannabis industry dates to 2010, when she began assisting medical cannabis providers with business questions. It was immediately clear to her that this emerging, growing industry had a massive need for corporate counsel, and she has advised cannabis clients—including many major national

*"She has an excellent reputation and she acts as great legal counsel for her clients."*

— Chambers USA 2023

## Industry

Food Systems

## Services

Cannabis

Corporate

Healthcare Providers

Mergers & Acquisitions

Pharmacy

Securities & Corporate Governance

## HUSCH BLACKWELL

and international companies—ever since. Her experience includes cannabis licensing; marijuana and industrial hemp regulatory compliance; mergers and acquisitions; corporate and transactional matters, including negotiating management services agreements, fee slotting agreements, cultivation supply agreements, and intellectual property licensing agreements; receiverships; dissolution and wind downs; and financing and debt restructuring. In 2023, Hilary joined Husch Blackwell out of enthusiasm for the firm's deep bench of innovators in the cannabis and healthcare space.

Hilary also devotes a significant portion of her practice to healthcare clients, including physicians, physician groups, and medical services organizations, and she represents clients regarding the off-label application of controlled substances.

Known for offering a commonsense business approach to legal questions, Hilary never gives legal advice in a vacuum. She provides clients with definitive guidance that has practical applications, adding value and supporting business goals.

### Case Study

#### **Veterans' Weekly Coffee Group Grows to 700+ Members, Gains Non-Profit Status with Husch Blackwell's Help**

Husch Blackwell's Communities for Change initiative helped the group formally incorporate in the State of Wisconsin and seek 501C3 tax exemption status to encourage those able to make donations to assist.

### Experience

- Negotiated, drafted, and closed over \$200 million in acquisitions of closely held Washington and California agriculture companies with associated real estate by multiple public companies, both international and domestic, in two-year period.
- Represented Mexican family fund with real estate acquisitions, security interests, and investor relations in the United States.
- Represented private equity fund with investment into multiple U.S. healthcare clinics while navigating corporate practice of medicine and securities laws.
- Developed in-depth compliance program for multiple financial institutions entering highly regulated industry.

## Experience

- Represented the National Credit Union Administration regarding compliance programs for access to banking and compliance with the Bank Secrecy Act in highly regulated industries.
- Represented multiple mid-size Washington and California companies in complex multi-party transactions involving the acquisition of real estate and regulatory licenses along with corporate mergers and scheduled spin-offs.
- Acted as outside counsel for publicly traded, \$6 billion food company regarding corporate and regulatory compliance in highly regulated industry, including advising food manufacturing subsidiary on a variety risk management issues and employee training.

## Recognition

- *Chambers USA*, Cannabis Law: Western United States, Nationwide, 2021-2024
- Top 200 Global Psychedelic Lawyers and Policy & Regulatory Experts, 2021-2023
- Global Top 200 Cannabis Lawyers, 2021-2023
- Top California Cannabis Lawyers, 2022
- *Business Insider* Top Marijuana Industry Deal Attorneys, 2019
- American Bar Association, Top 40 Under 40 On the Rise Attorney, 2017
- Super Lawyers; Rising Star, 2014-present; Top Rising Star of Washington Women Attorneys, 2014-2015
- *Puget Sound Business Journal*; Deal Maker of the Year, 2013; 40 Under 40, 2015

## Education

- J.D., University of Miami School of Law
- B.A., Jacksonville University

## Admissions

- California
- Florida
- Washington
- Wisconsin

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\*Hilary works remotely. Contact Hilary via e-mail or telephone for in person/virtual meetings.



**Hilary Bricken**

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