



Michelle Mabugat

Partner

MMabugat@ggfirm.com

Ph. 310-785-6845

Fax 310-553-0687

Michelle Mabugat has a broad-based corporate and transactional practice that focuses on advising entrepreneurs and high-growth companies on matters that span the business lifecycle, from start-up through exit.

Often acting as outside general counsel, she assists clients with their general corporate and day-to-day transactional needs as well as their most critical transactions, including early- and growth-stage equity and debt financings, joint ventures and strategic alliances, licensing deals, and mergers and acquisitions (M&A) in both distressed and non-distressed situations. She also provides strategic advice to boards, management teams and investors on sensitive issues related to corporate governance, shareholder disputes, regulatory compliance and risk management.

She has earned significant accolades in her field, including being listed in *Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch® in America* in 2024 and 2025 and *Southern California Super Lawyers Rising Stars* from 2021 through 2025.

Professional Affiliations

- Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee, Association for Corporate Growth, Los Angeles Chapter (2021 - Present)
- Executive Committee, Primerus Cannabis Practice Group
- Cannabis Editorial Advisory Board, Law360 (2022 & 2023)
- Former Member of Legislative Advocacy Committee, Los Angeles Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce
- Provisors, Century City 7

Awards

- *L.A. Times B2B Publishing*, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Accessibility Visionary List, 2024
- *Los Angeles Business Journal*, "Women of Influence: Attorneys" List, 2024
- *Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch® in America*, 2024–2025
- *Southern California Super Lawyers* Rising Stars, 2021 - 2025
- "Top Cannabis Lawyers," *Los Angeles and San Francisco Daily Journal*, 2022

- "Cannabis Law Trailblazers," *National Law Journal*, 2022
- "Lawyer of the Year," California Cannabis Awards, Nominee
- Shortlisted on "250 Cannabis Law Leaders in the United States," Databird

Bar Admissions

- California

Court Admissions

- United States District Court, Central District of California
- United States Supreme Court

Education

- University of Southern California Gould School of Law (J.D., 2011)
- University of California, Los Angeles (B.A., 2007)
 - History/Political Science

Insights

April 2, 2025

How I Made Partner: 'Start Thinking and Acting Like a Partner Now,' Says Michelle Mabugat of Greenberg Glusker

ALM

March 20, 2025

Greenberg Glusker LLP Represents Coalesce in Acquisition of CastorDoc

February 21, 2025

37 Greenberg Glusker Attorneys Selected to 2025 Southern California Super Lawyers and Rising Stars
Super Lawyers

January 20, 2025

Michelle Mabugat and Brian Moskal Selected to Los Angeles Business Journal's "Leaders of Influence: Minority Attorneys 2025" List

Los Angeles Business Journal

November 12, 2024

Greenberg Glusker Awards Book Scholarships to Diverse 1L Law Students at 7 California Law Schools

October 13, 2024

Michelle Mabugat Selected to L.A. Times B2B Publishing's Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Accessibility Visionary List

L.A. Times B2B Publishing

August 15, 2024

46 Greenberg Glusker Attorneys Named to 2025 Best Lawyers® and Ones to Watch® Lists

June 11, 2024

8 Greenberg Glusker Attorneys Selected to 2024 Southern California Super Lawyers Rising Stars

Greenberg Glusker Press Release

May 27, 2024

Greenberg Glusker Partners Selected to Los Angeles Business Journal's 2024 "Women of Influence: Attorneys" List

Los Angeles Business Journal

May 7, 2024

Greenberg Glusker Advises Talley Inc. in Its Acquisition by Rexel USA

Greenberg Glusker Press Release

January 1, 2024

Greenberg Glusker Announces Three New Partners

September 1, 2023

Michelle Mabugat Authors Amicus Curiae Brief in Landmark California Supreme Court Decision

Greenberg Glusker Announcement

August 17, 2023

46 Greenberg Glusker Attorneys Named to 2024 Best Lawyers® and Ones to Watch® Lists

August 14, 2023

Michelle Mabugat and Alexa Steinberg Share Insights on the Business of Cannabis

Los Angeles Times B2B Publishing

August 4, 2023

Calif. Policymakers Should Aid Crashing Cannabis Market

Law360

July 10, 2023

'Glaring Double Standard': Targeting California's Legal Cannabis Industry As Black Market Booms

Benzinga

June 6, 2023

9 Greenberg Glusker Attorneys Selected to 2023 Southern California Super Lawyers Rising Stars

Greenberg Glusker Press Release

May 18, 2023

California pot industry facing 'extinction event'

SFGate

May 18, 2023

Is California's pot industry facing an "extinction event?"

KNX In Depth

May 18, 2023

Growing concerns about California's cannabis industry

CBS News Sacramento

April 20, 2023

Cannabis Companies Can Save Millions With One Tax Code Section

Bloomberg Tax

April 10, 2023

Cannabis – Blunt Business

Los Angeles Business Journal

April 7, 2023

Michelle Mabugat Selected to Law360's 2023 Cannabis Editorial Advisory Board

Law360

March 8, 2023

Michelle Mabugat Named Cannabis Industry Group Co-Chair

Greenberg Glusker Press Release

March 1, 2023

Social Equity, Cannabis, and LACBA's Pro Bono Program

Los Angeles Lawyer

December 28, 2022

Chaotic regulatory climate takes toll on weed clients

Daily Journal

December 15, 2022

Greenberg Glusker Corporate Social Responsibility Report 2022

July 20, 2022

Two Greenberg Glusker Attorneys Recognized in the Daily Journal's "Top Cannabis Lawyers" List
Daily Journal

June 7, 2022

11 Greenberg Glusker Attorneys Selected to 2022 Southern California Super Lawyers Rising Stars
Super Lawyers

May 23, 2022

Los Angeles revamps cannabis rules to speed permit approvals, boost social equity
MJBizDaily

May 15, 2022

Why Label Requirements for Cannabis-Infused Edibles are Notoriously Difficult to Navigate
Food & Quality Safety

April 21, 2022

Growth Industry for Cannabis Lawyers
The Primerus Paradigm

April 5, 2022

Michelle Mabugat Selected to Law360's 2022 Cannabis Editorial Advisory Board
Law360

April 1, 2022

Cannabis Attorney Michelle Mabugat Recognized in National Law Journal's 2022 Cannabis Law Trailblazers
The National Law Journal

November 12, 2021

INCBA and Greenberg Glusker Attorney Michelle Mabugat File Amicus Brief in Russell v. State of Mississippi
Greenberg Glusker Press Release

August 3, 2021

Greenberg Glusker Launches Cannabis Industry Podcast: "The Grass is Always Greenberg"
Greenberg Glusker Press Release

July 27, 2021

Cannabis Practice Creates Ethical Traps, Conflicts for Lawyers
Bloomberg Law

June 21, 2021

After a Pandemic Boost, Cannabis Delivery Companies Look to Maintain Momentum
Los Angeles Business Journal

June 8, 2021

11 Greenberg Glusker Attorneys Selected to Super Lawyers Southern California Rising Stars
Super Lawyers

April 19, 2021

Retailer Pure CBD Brings Beneficial Products to the Mainstream
Los Angeles Business Journal

April 19, 2021

Glass House Venture Grows Hemp in Mojave Desert
Los Angeles Business Journal

November 17, 2020

Post-Election Roundup—California 2020 Cannabis Ballot Measures

August 25, 2020

Cannabis Industry Leaders Join Greenberg Glusker

The Grass is Always Greenberg

Welcome to *The Grass is Always Greenberg®* – the podcast of the Cannabis Industry Group at Greenberg Glusker.

November 13, 2023

Roundup of New Cannabis Laws in California

In a step towards shaping California's cannabis landscape, Governor Gavin Newsom took action on a series of bills related to the industry. His decisions, encompassing both approvals and vetoes, reflect the evolving regulatory framework within the cannabis sector. Cannabis Bills...

August 14, 2023

Michelle Mabugat and Alexa Steinberg Discuss the Business of Cannabis in L.A. Times B2B Publishing

Cannabis attorneys Michelle Mabugat and Alexa Steinberg share insights regarding the latest developments within the business of cannabis. Q: Are cannabis sales still climbing? Michelle Mabugat, Counsel, Greenberg Glusker LLP: No. Legal sales in California are on a declining trend, hitting their lowest...

June 16, 2023

California's Debt Bubble Threatens the Viability of Cannabis Retailers

The cannabis industry in California is facing a severe financial crisis, with debt problems potentially leading to the closure of hundreds of shops across the state. This article explores the factors contributing to the crisis, including the state's tax...

January 10, 2023

Five Years of Legal Recreational Cannabis in California: Are Smoother Roads Ahead?

Episode 24

We recently passed the five-year anniversary of recreational cannabis being legal in California. But the industry isn't exactly popping the (CBD-infused) champagne. There are a lot of lessons to be learned from California's roll out of legal pot. Join...

November 30, 2022

(C)CRE: An Intro To Cannabis Commercial Real Estate

Episode 23

On September 20, 2022, Greenberg Glusker's Michelle Mabugat moderated "Entering The Cannabis Industry: Licensing, Regulatory Policy & Getting Projects Off of the Ground," part of BISNOW's California Cannabis CRE Conference. The panel, which included Michelle Garakian (Interim Exec. Director...

November 9, 2022

Have Employer Drug Tests Gone Up in Smoke?

Episode 22

Greenberg Glusker Employment Partner Karina Sterman joins Priya Sopori, Steve Stein and Michelle Mabugat to discuss new legislation enacted in California, AB 2188, which affects the ability of employers to discharge or refuse to hire employees based on their...

October 6, 2022

A Changed Legal Landscape? Analyzing California's New Cannabis Laws

Episode 20

California Governor Gavin Newsom recently signed a slew of laws that could reshape California's cannabis industry. In the first of a series of episodes analyzing these laws, Greenberg Glusker attorneys Priya Sopori, Steve Stein, and Michelle Mabugat provide an overview...

August 30, 2022

The Impact of the Wrigley Lawsuit on Cannabis IP Rights

Episode 19

Greenberg Glusker intellectual property lawyer Elizabeth (Liz) Sbardellati joins cannabis practice colleagues Michelle Mabugat, Priya Sopori and Alexa Steinberg to chew over a landmark case in intellectual property law in this edition of "The Grass is Always Greener." Liz...

July 22, 2022

Lower Taxes, More Problems? Unpacking the Impact of AB195 on California's Cannabis Industry

Episode 16

California has finally enacted a law, AB195, that provides tax relief for cannabis distributors. But what might seem at first glance to be a win for the cannabis industry potentially complicates things for retailers and consumers. On this edition...

June 15, 2022

Proposition 65 – Changes That Will Impact the Cannabis Sector

Episode 15

The Grass is Always Greenberg welcomes Greenberg Glusker Environmental Law Partner, Sedina Banks, to discuss changes to California's Proposition 65, officially known as the Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986. Sedina shares her views with colleagues...

June 8, 2022

A Path Toward Legalizing Interstate Cannabis Sales? Analyzing California Senate Bill 1326

Episode 14

Cannabis remains illegal federally and in many states. The states that have legalized cannabis have a confusing patchwork of rules and regulations. As such, crossing state lines can create major problems in the cannabis space. California Senate Bill No...

April 20, 2022

Four Takeaways for 4/20

Episode 13

4/20 is considered a national holiday for cannabis. It has become a big business day for the cannabis industry and a day to mark how far the cannabis sector has come. This edition of "The Grass is Always Greenberg..."

March 23, 2022

Overview of California's New Proposed Cannabis Regulations

Episode 11

California's Department of Cannabis Control (DCC) has set forth proposals aimed at simplifying and streamlining regulations to refine and strengthen the Golden State's cannabis framework. In this edition of "The Grass is Always Greenberg," Greenberg Glusker's Alexa Steinberg, Michelle...

January 18, 2022

Insert Your Prediction for 2022 Here

Episode 9

2022 marks the 5-year anniversary of recreational legality in California, but the Golden State is still trying to figure out how to regulate the market and play catch up with the industry. In our inaugural episode of the year...

December 16, 2021

Mississippi's Burning Issue

Episode 8

Does the punishment fit the crime? That is the burning issue in a Mississippi case that “The Grass is Always Greenberg” examines in depth. Greenberg Glusker’s Michelle Mabugat, Priya Sopori, Alexa Steinberg and Steven Stein discuss the matter of...

November 17, 2021

Eastward Bound: Cannabis Market Trends, Taxation, and More

Episode 7

The Cannabis industry is expanding all over the country, especially towards the east coast where more and more states are legalizing its use. In this edition of “The Grass is Always Greenberg,” Mike Goral, National Cannabis and Hemp Tax...

November 3, 2021

MJBizCon is Back: Takeaways from the 2021 Conference

Episode 6

MJBizCon is the largest and most anticipated event of the cannabis business year, and was held in person for the first since the start of the pandemic. Greenberg Glusker’s Michelle Mabugat, Priya Sopori and Steven Stein participated in the events...

August 31, 2021

M&A in the Cannabis Sector

Episode 4

If you can’t beat ‘em, join ‘em? In the wake of the industry’s evolution, many cannabis companies are contemplating corporate consolidation. In this edition of The Grass is Always Greenberg podcast, Alexa Steinberg and Michelle Mabugat investigate the reasons behind...

July 23, 2021

Federal Regulation and Cannabis: Will Uncle Sam and Aunt Mary Jane Live Happily Ever After?

Episode 3

Now that many states have legalized recreational cannabis, hosts Priya Sopori, Michelle Mabugat, Alexa Steinberg and Steven Stein debate whether federal legalization is on the horizon in this edition of The Grass is Always Greenberg . Over/unders are offered...

July 22, 2021

Cannabis During and After the Pandemic

Episode 2

Join us on the “Grass is Always Greenberg” podcast for an essential look back at how the cannabis business survived, and even thrived, during the COVID-19 pandemic. Find out how cannabis became an essential business leading to a record-breaking...

July 15, 2021

Getting to Know Us and Our Podcast

Episode 1

The first episode of our podcast introduces you to our hosts, Priya Sopori, Michelle Mabugat, Alexa Steinberg and Steven Stein, along with the Cannabis practice at the law firm of Greenberg Glusker. Tune in while they chat a bit...