



## Michelle Mabugat

Partner

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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* from 2024 through 2025 and *Southern California Super Lawyers Rising Stars* from 2021 through 2023.

Michelle represents clients across all industries but, as Co-Chair of the firm's Cannabis Industry Group, she has significant experience representing clients in the cannabis sector. Widely recognized as one of the nation's leading authorities on cannabis law, she has been named a "Cannabis Law Trailblazer" by the *National Law Journal* and a "Top Cannabis Lawyer" by the *Los Angeles and San Francisco Daily Journal*.

An active member of the Los Angeles community, Michelle provides pro bono counsel for the Cannabis Equity Retailers Association and to low-income applicants who qualify for the Los Angeles Cannabis Social Equity Program. She is also an Executive Committee Member for the Primerus Cannabis Practice Group; a Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DE&I) Committee Member for the Association for Corporate Growth - Los Angeles Chapter (ACG-LA); the Lead Member of the Policy Subcommittee for the Los Angeles County Bar Association (LACBA) Cannabis Section; and an Amicus Committee Member for the International Cannabis Bar Association.

### Publications

- Co-Author, "[Legal Weed: A Comprehensive Guide to California Cannabis Law & Regulation](#)"

### **Professional Affiliations**

- Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee, Association for Corporate Growth, Los Angeles Chapter (2021 - Present)
- Amicus Committee, International Cannabis Bar Association
- Policy Committee, Los Angeles County Bar Association Cannabis Section
- Pro Bono Counsel, Cannabis Equity Retailers Association
- Executive Committee, Primerus Cannabis Practice Group
- Cannabis Editorial Advisory Board, Law360 (2022 & 2023)
- Former Member of Drafting Committee, Minority Cannabis Business Association
- Former Member of Cannabis Law & Policy Committee, American Bar Association
- Former Member of Legislative Advocacy Committee, Los Angeles Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce
- Provisors, Century City 7

### **Awards**

- "Top Cannabis Lawyers," *Los Angeles and San Francisco Daily Journal*, 2022
- "Cannabis Law Trailblazers," *National Law Journal*, 2022
- *Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch® in America*, 2024–2025
- Southern California *Super Lawyers* Rising Stars, 2021 - 2024
- "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

August 15, 2024

**48 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 and Doug Mirell Author Amicus Curiae Brief in Landmark California Supreme Court Decision**

*Greenberg Glusker Announcement*

August 17, 2023

**52 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 Greenberg." 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&rdquo...

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...