



Steven Stein

Partner

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Steve Stein is a litigator who focuses on media, intellectual property, entertainment and business disputes.

Steve has represented large businesses, media organizations, entertainment companies and individuals in lawsuits involving complex contract issues, valuable film and television projects, multimillion-dollar defamation claims, copyright and trademark infringement claims, and real estate disputes.

Steve also has significant experience in litigating and advising clients about issues in the cannabis industry and litigating business issues in high-net worth dissolution proceedings.

Before joining the firm, Steve wrote for the Washington Post and served as a law clerk on the United States Court of Appeal for the Fifth Circuit.

Whether writing a brief or arguing in court, Steve draws on his experience as a journalist and law clerk to distill complicated facts and issues into a concise, persuasive story.

Clerkship

- Honorable Stephen A. Higginson on the United States Court of Appeal for the Fifth Circuit

Awards

- *Los Angeles Business Journal*, Leaders of Influence: Litigators and Trial Attorneys, 2024
- *Super Lawyers* Rising Stars, 2019 - 2022

Bar Admissions

- California

Education

- University of Southern California Gould School of Law (J.D., 2012)
 - USC Law Review, Executive Articles Editor
- Emory University (B.A., *summa cum laude*, 2008)

Representative Experience

Media, Entertainment and Intellectual Property Experience

- Obtained summary judgment on behalf of clients Barstool Sports, Inc., Dave Portnoy and other Barstool personalities in high-profile defamation and fraud lawsuit in the Southern District of New York brought by actor Michael Rapaport arising out of a failed business relationship between the parties and related public comments and social media posts. Obtained unanimous Second Circuit Court of Appeal decision affirming dismissal of defamation claims against clients.
- Obtained decision from the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court (the highest court in the state) affirming the dismissal of a civil wiretapping lawsuit brought by a Massachusetts mayor against clients Barstool Sports, Inc. and Barstool personality Kirk Minihane. The decision held that the wiretapping statute was not violated where Minihane obtained an interview with the mayor by pretending to be a reporter from the Boston Globe because the recording of Curtatone was not made in secret.
- Prevailed on an anti-SLAPP motion to defeat a defamation claim filed against Scripps Networks, an affiliate of Discovery Communications, over on-air statements made by the star of the popular HGTV reality program Windy City Rehab.
- Filed opposition to anti-SLAPP motion in federal lawsuit that resulted in the motion being withdrawn and the matter settling favorably for music manager client in artist management dispute.
- After years of litigation, obtained favorable settlement for clients, a film production company and film producers, in connection with the financing of a \$33 million feature film starring Arnold Schwarzenegger and Michael Fassbender.
- Obtained favorable settlement for production company client in federal lawsuit concerning high-profile event broadcast online and on television.
- Obtained favorable settlement for music management company in royalty dispute.
- Defended and obtained favorable settlements for clients in dozens of copyright and trademark infringement claims.
- Arbitrated rights dispute over feature film for production company.
- Represented live action production boutique in trade secret and non-compete lawsuit.

Business and Real Estate Disputes

- Second-chaired jury trial concerning the entitlement and ownership of a five-star hotel on behalf of developer client.
- Obtained favorable settlement in arbitration for client who owns and operates Montessori schools against general contractor and architect.
- Obtained favorable settlement for client who purchased dental practice against seller in non-compete dispute.
- Represented professional athlete in trespass and nuisance dispute.

- Represented CEO of fitness company in dispute with prior counsel.
- Authored briefs obtaining Ninth Circuit reversal of false advertising judgment against manufacturer.
- Part of team that obtained Ninth Circuit reversal of \$23 million verdict against public school district.
- Part of team that obtained Ninth Circuit affirmance of anti-SLAPP ruling for public school district.
- Part of trial team that obtained ruling allowing client to sell the Los Angeles Clippers.
- Part of trial team that obtained favorable verdict for construction manager accused of wrongdoing.

Cannabis Litigation and Advice

- Filed anti-SLAPP motion on behalf of a marketing firm and its principals that resulted in favorable settlement of cannabis-related lawsuit.
- Defended cannabis company and its owner in lawsuit filed by investor.
- Advised major brand on groundbreaking licensing deal in cannabis space.
- Advised media company on cannabis-related licensing issues.
- Advised video game and e-sports company on CBD-related issues.

Dissolution Proceedings

- Represented wife in dissolution proceeding concerning high-net-worth estate. Obtained disqualification of major law firm from representing husband on grounds of conflict of interest. Part of team that tried character of valuable LLC that was part of estate.
- Represented high-net-worth hedge fund founder in divorce proceeding against his wife.
- Represented investment banker in divorce proceeding against his wife.

Insights

April 20, 2025

Legal Experts Highlight Key IP Trends To Watch

LA Times Studios

April 4, 2025

Beer Battle Lays Bare Ambiguity in 'Stolen' Cuban Trademark Law

Bloomberg Law

July 15, 2024

Ricardo Cestero, Julia Haye, and Steven Stein Selected to Los Angeles Business Journal's "Leader's of Influence: Litigators and Trial Attorneys" List

Los Angeles Business Journal

January 9, 2024

Greenberg Glusker Litigation Team Secures Victory in Second Circuit for Client Barstool Sports in Defamation Case

Greenberg Glusker Press Release

November 3, 2023

A Top Law Firm Where Culture Reigns Supreme And Attorney Happiness Comes First

Above the Law

December 15, 2022

Greenberg Glusker Corporate Social Responsibility Report 2022

December 13, 2022

Twitter Dissolves Trust and Safety Council

Spectrum News 1

June 7, 2022

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

Super Lawyers

June 1, 2022

Insight Into California's Increasing Cannabis Litigation

Law360

April 14, 2022

Greenberg Glusker Prevails on anti-SLAPP Motion Defeating Defamation Lawsuit Over Popular Reality Television Program

January 1, 2022

Greenberg Glusker Elevates Five Attorneys to Partner

August 23, 2021

Greenberg Glusker Attorneys Represent Allison Huynh in a Divorce with a Silicon Valley Billionaire

August 3, 2021

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

Greenberg Glusker Press Release

June 14, 2021

Greenberg Glusker Prevails in Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court on Behalf of Client Barstool Sports

June 8, 2021

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

Super Lawyers

March 30, 2021

Greenberg Glusker Prevails on a Motion for Summary Judgment on Behalf of Client Barstool Sports

February 1, 2021

Greenberg Glusker Appears Before Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court on Behalf of Client Barstool Sports

June 25, 2020

2020 Global Report on Cannabis Policy

June 9, 2020

12 Greenberg Glusker Attorneys Selected for Super Lawyers Rising Stars

May 18, 2020

Cannabis in the Time of COVID: Where Things Stand and Where they are Going
Los Angeles Business Journal

June 6, 2019

12 Greenberg Glusker Attorneys Selected for Super Lawyers Rising Stars

May 28, 2019

The Business of Cannabis: Counterfeit Cannabis - A Threat to Public Health
Los Angeles Business Journal

February 14, 2019

WLG Cannabis Legalization Webinar: Europe Update
The World Law Group

January 18, 2019

Getting into the Weeds: Sorting Through the New Regulations on Cannabis

August 28, 2014

The Upside of Being Upfront: New Case Illustrates the Benefits of Disclosing Defects
AIRWaves

August 12, 2014

Sterling Family Trust Completes \$2 Billion Sale of Los Angeles Clippers to Steve Ballmer
Greenberg Glusker Press Release

July 28, 2014

Judge Approves \$2 Billion Sale of Los Angeles Clippers; Allows Sale to be Completed Regardless of Appeal
Business Wire

May, 2014

Importance of Disclosure in Dual Agency Underlined
AIRWaves

The Grass is Always Greenberg

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

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...

December 7, 2022

6 Years Post Cannabis Legalization In California, What Have We Learned?

We recently passed the six-year anniversary of voters legalizing recreational cannabis in California. But cannabis businesses in the Golden State aren't exactly popping the (CBD-infused) champagne. What some thought would be a "green rush" has turned out to be...

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 Mabus 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 18, 2022

Cannabis and Bankruptcy Laws

Episode 21

Greenberg Glusker bankruptcy and financial restructuring partner Keith Banner joins his colleagues Alexa Steinberg and Steve Stein for a look at the intersection of cannabis and bankruptcy law. Can cannabis companies obtain protections under bankruptcy law? If not, why? What alternatives do...

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 Mabus provide an overview...

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"...

April 6, 2022

It's Lit? Insight into the Increase in Cannabis-Related Litigation in California

Episode 12

In this edition of "The Grass is Always Greenberg," Greenberg Glusker's Alexa Steinberg and Steve Stein discuss the latest trends in cannabis litigation and how cannabis cases often have special considerations. Steve also shares what he learned at the...

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...

February 14, 2022

Super Bowl Shuffle? Why You Didn't See Cannabis Ads during the Big Game

Episode 10

Why can sports gambling sites, beer and alcohol brands and crypto companies advertise during the Super Bowl when cannabis companies cannot? Greenberg Glusker's Steve Stein, Alexa Steinberg and Priya Soporì, in this edition of "The Grass is Always Greenberg,"

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 Soporì, 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 Soporì and Steven Stein participated in the events...

September 27, 2021

Cannabis and Banking

Episode 5

For cannabis companies, banking is anything but business as usual. In this edition of The Grass is Always Greenberg podcast, special guests Stacy Litke and Paul Dunford of Green Check Verified join Greenberg Glusker's Alexa Steinberg, Priya Sopori and...

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...