

Legal Experts from Underrepresented Groups



Cannabis Industry

Bryna Dahlin advises cannabis companies of all sizes, from startups to stars in the industry. Her clients range from growers, distributors, product manufacturers and ancillary businesses to traditional companies who work with and are impacted by cannabis laws. Bryna's desire to play a small part in helping to correct the social injustices resulting from the war on drugs, combined with her significant branding, food and drug law experience, led her to form a legal practice catering to the cannabis industry in 2015. She serves as an adjunct professor at Chicago-Kent College of Law, where she taught Illinois' first law course on cannabis. Bryna is a partner at Benesch.

Commercial Litigation

Rodney Lewis counsels a wide variety of corporate clients in complex commercial litigation matters, with a concentration in litigating financial services and business disputes. Rodney has represented his clients in state and federal courts, including consumer class action defense under the Fair Credit Reporting Act, Telephone Consumer Protection Act, Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, various state consumer protection laws, construction litigation, False Claims Act defense, privacy and data security matters, and general commercial disputes. Rodney is a board member on the Chicago Committee, an organization that seeks to increase racial and ethnic diversity in the legal profession, and is a shareholder at Polsinelli.

Data Privacy and Security

Lisa Acevedo advises clients in the areas of federal health privacy laws and regulations, including HIPAA, FERPA and the Confidentiality of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Treatment Records (42 CFR Part 2), as well as state laws governing the confidentiality of health information, mental health records, and records containing other highly sensitive information. She also advises multinational health care companies with international data protection laws that impact their use and transfer of health data, including the EU Privacy Directive, the soon-to-be-effective General Data Protection Regulation, and Privacy Shield compliance. She is a former Chair of the Latina Lawyers Committee of the Hispanic Lawyers Association of Illinois. Lisa is a shareholder at Polsinelli, where she chairs the firm's health information privacy and security team.

Family Law

Marvin Mendez helps his clients navigate contentious and complex family law matters, including but not limited to, divorce, child custody, negotiation of parenting, litigation, settlement, valuation and distribution of assets. Much of Marvin's practice is devoted to analyzing the complex financial information that is often at the core of the most contentious separations. He also is a member of the board of directors for the North Shore Bar Association. Marvin is a partner at Dussias Wittenberg Koenigsberger.

Finance

Daryll Marshall represents private equity sponsors, public and private borrowers in connection with leveraged buyout financings for acquisitions, working capital facilities, recapitalizations and portfolio restructuring transactions across several different industries. He also has extensive experience representing debtors in loan workouts and in-court and out-of-court restructurings, including debtor-in-possession facilities and exit financings. Daryll chairs the corporate/private equity finance group at Benesch.

Health Care Regulations and Compliance

Tracey Klein provides strategic counsel to integrated health care delivery systems, hospitals and health systems, physician groups, individual health care professionals and tax-exempt organizations. She provides best practices for corporate governance matters, including the role of compensation, audit, and governance committees, as well as how approaches to hospital governance impact quality of care. She also advises on matters involving board structure, fiduciary duties, effective oversight, formation of joint operating entities, hospital affiliations and mergers, and the formation of physician group practices. Tracey is a shareholder at Polsinelli.

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Juan Morado Jr. advises hospitals, health systems, physician groups, consulting firms, pharmacies and other clients, helping them to ensure compliance with regulatory requirements and implement industry best practices. He has held numerous roles in government legal offices, beginning with the City of Chicago Corporation Counsel, as associate general counsel to the Illinois Governor's office under Pat Quinn and, more recently, as General Counsel and Ethics Officer to the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board (HFSRB). The HFSRB through the Certificate of Need process oversees the comprehensive health planning process of health care facilities and was recently expanded to cover outpatient surgery centers. Juan is of counsel at Benesch.

Kyle Vasquez advises health care clients in legal and compliance matters. He has a strong background in health law, and his prior experience as a health care consultant has helped him handle challenges that health care providers face. He focuses his practice on the 340B drug pricing program, hospitals and health systems, payor disputes, reimbursement and specialty pharmacies. Kyle is a shareholder at Polsinelli.

Health Care Industry Litigation

Mary Clare Bonaccorsi serves as outside general counsel and trusted business advisor to health care and life sciences companies including domestic and international medical equipment suppliers, specialty pharmacies, home health care providers, home infusion providers, hospice providers, pharmacy benefit managers, academic medical centers, hospitals and health systems, laboratories, ambulatory surgery centers, dialysis providers and pharmaceutical manufacturers. She is an adjunct professor at Loyola University Chicago School of Law, where she teaches health law and advocacy, and chairs the health care litigation and disputes practice at Polsinelli. Mary Clare is the managing partner of Polsinelli's Chicago office.

Intellectual Property

Caryn Borg-Breen represents both plaintiffs and defendants in patent litigation and consultation arising under the Hatch-Waxman Act. She has served as lead trial counsel in patent infringement litigation in the U.S. federal courts and argued appeals before the Federal Circuit. Caryn also has represented clients in *inter partes* review (IPR) and interference actions before the Patent Trial and Appeal Board (PTAB). Caryn advises biotechnology, chemical and pharmaceutical companies on freedom-to-operate, due diligence, licensing and prosecution issues regarding brand and generic medicines, biologics and biosimilars, medical devices and chemical products. Caryn holds a Ph.D. in chemistry and is a founding member of Green, Griffith & Borg-Breen.

Labor and Employment

Margo Wolf O'Donnell counsels clients on best practices for strategic training, drafting employment and separation agreements, managing individual and group discharges and conducting high-level internal investigations. She regularly serves as lead counsel in litigation relating to restrictive covenants and trade secrets. She also defends claims involving allegations of discrimination, harassment, wage and hour violations and breach of contract. Margo founded and currently leads B-Sharp, her firm's professional development program for women in-house attorneys. Margo serves as co-chair of the labor and employment group at Benesch.

Personal Injury

Margaret Battersby-Black advocates for victims of personal injury, medical malpractice and nursing home abuse and neglect cases, including cases involving falls, pressure sores and medication errors, and has secured several large and notable verdicts and settlements for her clients. She is also committed to the advancement of women in the legal profession and serves as a mentor to law students and younger lawyers. She is a founding member and was the inaugural chair of the Illinois Trial Lawyers Women's Caucus. Margaret is a partner at Levin & Perconti.

Product Liability

Nicole E. Wrigley has handled nine-figure business disputes, multibillion-dollar class actions and complex multi-district litigation proceedings. In one of her most high-profile cases, she represented a beef producer seeking over \$6 billion in damages in a defamation case against ABC News and secured a confidential settlement in the case. She has counseled both businesses and individuals on product liability, breach of contract, tortious interference, securities fraud, defamation and disparagement, negligence, professional liability and mass tort, and CERCLA. Nicole is the vice chair of the trial practice group at Benesch.

White Collar Criminal Defense

Patricia Brown Holmes is the first African American woman to lead and have her name on the door of a major law firm that is not women or minority owned. She previously served as an associate judge in the Circuit Court of Cook County, was an Assistant U.S. Attorney, an Assistant State's Attorney, and as the chief assistant corporate counsel for municipal prosecutions for the City of Chicago. In 2016, Patricia was appointed special prosecutor to investigate Chicago police officers involved with the highly charged 2014 fatal shooting of Laquan McDonald. She concentrates her practice on high-stakes commercial litigation, white collar crime and legal client counseling. She is a cofounder of the Black Women Lawyers' Association of Greater Chicago. Patricia is a managing partner at Riley Safer Holmes & Cancila.