

FOOD AND BEVERAGE

Our Food and Beverage Industry Team represents food and beverage producers, processors, manufacturers, distributors, retailers, trade associations, wholesalers and investors. Our business clients range from multinational corporations to individuals and closely held businesses. We counsel food and beverage clients on building their businesses, growing their brands, and increasing their bottom lines with experienced representation in regulatory matters, product liability, brand development and protection, patent and trademarks, immigration, tax law, and labor and employment issues. We also handle real estate transaction matters for agribusiness ranging from row crop leases to the transfer of grape and timber interests.

Sheppard Mullin also advises clients on organic food and fiber law. As a member of the Organic Trade Association we have represented the Association in the preparation of its comments on the U.S. Department of Agriculture's proposed National Organic Program. The firm has represented numerous organic food and fiber companies on certification, financing and related business and commercial matters.

From growing to processing to retailing, food and beverage companies are in an extremely competitive environment where profit margins are typically so low that it is often challenging to maintain profitability. To insure your company maintains its competitive edge, you need a law firm that understands your business and can assist you in expanding into new markets and developing new business strategies that can capitalize on the global market. Our team assists companies in the following areas that affect the food and beverage industry:

- Advertising and Promotions
- Antitrust
- Corporate Finance and Secured Transactions
- Creditors' Rights & Bankruptcy
- E-Commerce
- Employee Benefits
- Factoring and Financing
- Franchise Protection
- Import, Export and Customs Matters
- Intellectual Property
- Joint Ventures and other Strategic Business Relationships, Transactions and Alliances
- Labor and Employment
- Litigation and Dispute Resolution
- Licensing and Distribution
- Merchandising
- Mergers and Acquisitions
- Real Estate Development and Leasing
- Stock and equity transactions
- Tax