



## → Christopher Van Gundy

### Partner

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Christopher Van Gundy is a partner in the Business Trial Practice Group in the firm's San Francisco office.

### Areas of Practice

Chris counsels and represents food companies in litigation matters involving Lanham Act and consumer false advertising claims, class actions and brand protection, as well as in regulatory matters involving supply chain liability, product labeling reviews, California's Proposition 65, food borne pathogens, and "organic," "natural," "healthy," and nutrient content claims, to name a few. Chris also counsel companies regarding federal, state, and local regulatory compliance, labeling issues, and supply chain liability in the CBD/cannabis space. Prior to joining Sheppard Mullin, Chris' in-house experience included representation of an affiliated group of food companies involving marquee brands of juice, bottled water, tree nuts and citrus.

Chris has extensive jury trial experience and success in prosecuting and defending false advertising litigation, distribution and trademark disputes, bodily injury, class actions, insurance coverage work, and general commercial arbitration and litigation matters. In his 25+ years of experience as both in-house and outside counsel, he has enjoyed extensive first chair case and trial responsibility in a wide variety of food and general commercial matters, in U.S. and foreign court and arbitral tribunals.

He is one of the founders of the California State Bar's Food Law Committee, promoting education, awareness and practice development of an emerging body of food law and regulation. Chris co-hosts an annual food law conference, and is a frequent speaker on a wide variety of food law issues.

### Honors

Leading Lawyer, Food & Beverages: Regulatory & Litigation, *Chambers USA*, 2022-2023

### Articles

- Implications of the USDA's New Organic Rule  
*Food Manufacturing*, 03.21.2023
- What We Learned From FDA's Public Hearing On Cannabis  
*Law360*, 06.04.2019

### FDA Law Blog Posts

- "Implications of the USDA's New Organic Rule," May 25, 2023
- "Comment Period for "Healthy" Regulations Extended; But Consumer Class Actions Targeting "Health Halos" May Continue," December 20, 2022
- "FDA Proposes Updated Rule for "Healthy" Foods," October 27, 2022

## Speaking Engagements

Speaker, "What's the Deal with CBD?" American Bar Association Business Law Basics Webinar, January 9, 2020

Speaker, "What is FDA's Role in the Regulation of CBD?" Food and Drug Law Institute Legal and Practical Issues in the Evolving World of Cannabis Regulation, November 18, 2019

Co-Chair, "CLE International's 4th Annual Food Law Seminar," UCLA Law Faculty Center, Los Angeles, CA, June 6-7, 2019

Panelist, "How Cannabis & Hemp Might Disrupt the Industry," Tobacco Manufacturers' Association 104th Annual Meeting & Conference, Falls Church, VA, April 8-10, 2019

Co-Chair, "CLE International's Food Law Seminar," Denver, CO, April 19-20, 2018

Co-Chair, "CLE International's Food Law Seminar," Austin, TX, May 11-12, 2017

Co-Chair, "CLE International's Food Law Seminar," Washington, D.C., March 17-18, 2016

Speaker at CLE International's Annual Food Law Conference since 2014

## Events

2023 FDLI Annual Conference  
May 17-18, 2023

Law Over Lunch - Roundtable on The Current State of Class Action Litigation for Food and Dietary Supplements  
10.27.2022

Food and Drug Law Institute: Food and Dietary Supplements Legislation, Regulation, and Litigation: Key Developments Over the Past Year  
September 28-29, 2022

Exploring Advanced Topics in Food and Drug Law  
06.14.2022

6th Annual Food Law Conference  
Current Trends & Perspectives Beyond the Beltway  
Virtual, 03.11.2022

Food Advertising, Labeling, and Litigation Conference: *For the Food and Dietary Supplement Industries*  
Virtual, 09.28.2021

At the Intersection of Diet, Nutrition, and Health: The Role of Law, Science, and the FDA  
FDLI Annual Conference: Exploring Advanced Topics in Food and Drug Law | Virtual Event  
05.20.2021

Supply Chain Management: A Study in Sustainability, Traceability, Economic, and Environmental Impacts  
5th Annual Advanced Summit on Food Law – Regulation, Compliance and Litigation  
05.12.2021

Food For Thought: Functional Foods, Dietary Supplements, and Personalized Nutrition  
FDLI Webinar  
01.13.2021

Product Labeling & Advertising Claims Check-Up  
Webinar, 10.14.2020

FDLI Annual Conference: Exploring Advanced Topics in Food and Drug Law  
05.07.2020

CLE International's 5th Annual Food Law Conference  
03.02.2020 and 03.03.2020

Webinar: Doing Business in China for Food Companies: An Insider's Update  
via GlobalMeet  
02.26.2020

Cannabis Webinar Wednesday: Getting Your CBD/Hemp Product To Market- Current Issues in Risk Management  
02.19.2020

Business Law Basics webinar - What's the Deal with CBD?  
American Bar Association  
01.09.2020

CLE International's 3rd Annual Food Law Conference  
Innovative Foods & Other Hot Topics  
April 19-20, 2018

CLE International's 2nd Annual Food Law Conference  
A Comprehensive Review of the Evolving Legal Landscape  
May 11-12, 2017

## Memberships

Chair, Food and Drug Law Institute, Food Ad Planning Committee

## Podcasts & Webinars

Product Labeling & Advertising Claims Check-Up Webinar  
10.14.2020

Cannabis Webinar Wednesday: Getting Your CBD/Hemp Product To Market- Current Issues in Risk Management  
02.19.2020

## Practices

Litigation  
Class Action Defense  
FDA Regulatory  
Proposition 65

## Industries

Cannabis  
Food and Beverage  
Wine

## Education

J.D., University of California at Berkeley, 1988  
A.B., Brown University, 1985, *magna cum laude*, *Phi Beta Kappa*

## Clerkships

Law Clerk to the Honorable Spencer Williams, U.S. District Court, San Jose.

## Admissions

California