

# Darren P. Grady

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**PARTNER**

## Overview

Darren is a talented litigator, defending clients in all types of matters ranging from personal injury and wrongful death to defamation and discrimination. He serves his clients through open and candid communication and zealous advocacy in and out of the courtroom.

Darren serves as co-chair of the firm's Cannabis, CBD & Hemp Service Group. He works with dispensaries, infusers, cultivators, manufacturers, distributors, and entities with connections and business relationships in this exciting and emerging industry with a specialty in CBD. He provides counsel on litigation, corporate, regulatory and employment issues.

An experienced trial attorney, Darren has consistently earned beneficial results for his clients. Darren recently earned a dismissal of 7 of a plaintiff's 8 causes of action in a case where the plaintiff sought damages over \$1M, and later helped to earn a not-guilty verdict on the remaining cause of action. Darren has also successfully taken matters to arbitration and earned dismissals for his clients on multiple occasions via dispositive motion practice, most recently for a nightclub after the plaintiff injured her knee while drinking and dancing. He also earned summary judgment on behalf of a national corporation in a premises liability case in which the plaintiff was demanding nearly \$1M.

Darren works within a variety of industries, representing banks, insurance companies, manufacturing companies, individuals and businesses in the cannabis industry, and restaurants.

Darren also provides legal consulting to a local company that he helped to apply for, and obtain, a license from the DEA for the research of Schedule I drugs Psilocybin and Bufotenine. The client intends to partner with domestic and international collaborators to research these controlled substances for their potential use in treating serious psychological and psychiatric conditions. Darren continues to help this client navigate the regulatory aspects of their pursuits, including licensure and compliance in production, research, manufacturing,

## SERVICES

Cannabis, CBD & Hemp  
Entertainment & Media  
General Liability  
Hospitality, Leisure & Tourism

## EDUCATION

Washington University in St. Louis School of Law, J.D., 2006

University of Illinois, B.A., 2003, Phi Beta Kappa

## ADMISSIONS

Illinois

shipping, and export of these substances.

When he is not working he is golfing, listening to music, supporting Chicago's sports teams and spending time with his wife and kids.

## Experience

Obtained Defense Verdict In a Defamation and False Arrest Lawsuit

Obtained Summary Judgment for a National Beverage Corporation in a Trip & Fall Case

Successfully Transferred Cases for a Global Services Provider from Cook County to Venues Where the Injury Occurred or Where the Plaintiff's Reside

Successfully Defended a Building Management Company Against a Personal Injury Claim Following a Slip and Fall Incident

Received a Dismissal on Behalf of a Client Involved in a Motor Vehicle Accident

Defended an International Feed Distribution Company for a Products Liability Claim

Represented Clients in New Retail Cannabis Licenses in Illinois When Adult Use Recreational Cannabis Became Legal

Defended a National Restaurant Franchisor in a Discrimination Lawsuit

Successfully Defended an Insurance Company in an Underinsured Motorist Lawsuit

Defense Verdict in a Four-Day Retrial of a Gender Discrimination Case

Successfully Dismissed a Case after an Individual Accused a Corporate Executive of Rear-ending Him on a Business Trip

Represented a Driver Alleged to Have Been Negligent During a Lane Change

Represented a National Janitorial Service Provider in a Personal Injury Suit Involving Water Infiltration at a Suburban Office Building

Represented a Property Owner in a Premises Liability and Landlord / Tenant Action

Granted Summary Judgement for a Nightclub After a Plaintiff Patron Injured Her Knee

Commercial Litigation Counsel to a National RV & Outdoor Retailer

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## Membership & Involvement

- Member: Illinois Cannabis Bar Association; Defense Research Institute; Illinois Association of Defense Trial Counsel; American Bar Association; and Chicago Bar Association; Psychedelic Bar Association (Prospective Member)

## In the Media

Darren Grady is Quoted in *Law360's* Article, "3 Ways Attys Are Preparing For Illinois Cannabis Sales"

Darren Grady Interviewed by *ASweatLife* on the Cannabis Regulation and Taxation Act

Darren Grady Cited in *The Washington Post*

Darren Grady Quoted in *Law360* on the Cannabis Regulation and Tax Act

## Alerts

Hip with Hemp: Illinois Governor Signs Bill Lifting Restrictions on Industrial Hemp Production

In Commercial Litigation, Home-Field Advantage Can Help You Win

## Speaking Engagements

Cannabis Law in Illinois: The Basics & Beyond  
Illinois Institute of Continuing Legal Education, Webcast, October 21, 2021

Illinois Marijuana Business Law 2021 – Section III: Business Financing & Product Packaging  
National Business Institute, Webcast, July 28, 2021

USLAW Network Virtual Worldwide Retreat: 2021 and Beyond  
USLAW Network, Webcast, September 30, 2020 - October 9, 2020

"Up in Smoke!" A Briefing for Employers on Legalizing Adult-Use Cannabis and How it Can Impact the Workplace  
Grain & Feed Association of Illinois; Webinar, December 3, 2019

Legal Strategies to Serve the Cannabis Industry  
BankersWeb, Webcast, July 18, 2019

CBD - The Future of Food and Convenience Services  
NAMA Webinar, June 25, 2019

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Accident Scenario for WC and Liability  
The Claims Association of Greater Chicago Spring Seminar; Oakbrook, IL, April 26, 2018

### Published Works

The Historic Cannabis Administration and Opportunity Act Could Finally End Federal Cannabis Prohibition  
*USLAW Magazine*, January 4, 2022

FDA Softening Stance On CBD? What Is In Store For Vending Employers?  
*VendingMarketWatch.com*, May 8, 2019

Sowing the Seeds of Change? Three New Federal Cannabis Bills Already Filed in 2019  
*DRI's The Voice Newsletter*, January 30, 2019

### Blog Posts

Historic Cannabis Rescheduling on the Horizon? It's Up to the DEA Now  
*Cannabis Business Legal News*, August 31, 2023

FDA Issues First Ever Guidance for Research of Psychedelics  
*Cannabis Business Legal News*, August 3, 2023

Movement on the SAFE Banking Act? The Senate is Talking the Talk, but Not Ready to Walk the Walk  
*Cannabis Business Legal News*, May 19, 2023

The Federal Government & CBD – What the FDA is Happening?  
*Cannabis Business Legal News*, January 26, 2023

Illinois Lawmaker Introduces Legislation to Legalize Psychedelic Therapy Programs  
*Cannabis Business Legal News*, January 24, 2023

Illinois Set to Roll out New Cannabis Retail License Applications and Lottery in Early 2023  
*Cannabis Business Legal News*, January 19, 2023

No April Fool's Joke: The MORE Act was Just Passed by the House  
*Cannabis Business Legal News*, April 1, 2022

Significant Increase in Production of Cannabis and Psychedelics for Research Proposed by the DEA for 2022 – What You Need to Know Now  
*Cannabis Business Legal News*, October 21, 2021

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Protecting Your Cannabis Business from the Trappings of the Telephone  
Consumer Protection Act  
*Cannabis Business Legal News*, August 18, 2021

The Historic Cannabis Administration and Opportunity Act Could Finally End  
Federal Cannabis Prohibition  
*Cannabis Business Legal News*, July 16, 2021

Illinois Cannabis Market Poised to Take Off With New Dispensary Lottery Bill and  
Issuance of New Licenses for Craft Growers, Infusers, and Transporters  
*Cannabis Business Legal News*, July 15, 2021

Federal Cannabis Reform Gaining Momentum: New Legalization Bill Introduced  
by Republican Congressmen  
*Cannabis Business Legal News*, May 13, 2021

Is the US on the Brink of Cannabis Legalization? Not Quite, but the House *has*  
Voted to Remove Cannabis from the Controlled Substances Act  
*Cannabis Business Legal News*, December 4, 2020

MORE Movement on Federal Legalization of Cannabis?  
*Cannabis Business Legal News*, November 22, 2019

Cannabis News Quick Hitters, August 2019 – IL Expands and Makes Permanent  
Medical Use; ABA Supports Cannabis Law Reform  
*Cannabis Business Legal News*, August 15, 2019

Illinois Approves the Cannabis Regulation and Tax Act: What that Means & What  
Happens Next  
*Cannabis Business Legal News*, June 3, 2019

Is Illinois About to Legalize It? Cannabis Bill Could be Introduced by Week's End  
*Cannabis Business Legal News*, May 1, 2019

FDA Softening Stance on CBD? TBD (Public Hearing on 5/31/19)  
*Cannabis Business Legal News*, April 3, 2019

Illinois Cannabis Update – Adult-Use Recreational Cannabis Bill Filed on 1/25/19  
*Cannabis Business Legal News*, February 15, 2019

Sowing the Seeds of Change? Three New Federal Cannabis Bills Already Filed in  
2019  
*Cannabis Business Legal News*, January 24, 2019

Pritzker's Win is a Big Win for Legal Cannabis in Illinois  
*Cannabis Business Legal News*, November 7, 2018

First FDA Approved Cannabis-Based Medication Clears DEA Hurdle  
*Cannabis Business Legal News*, September 28, 2018

Small Step or Giant Leap? FDA Approves Cannabis-Derived Drug for the First  
Time

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*Cannabis Business Legal News, June 27, 2018*

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