

People



Jonathan S. Robbins

Chair, Cannabis Practice

Fort Lauderdale

T: +1 954 759 8947

jonathan.robbins@akerman.com

vCard

” Jonathan is extremely knowledgeable in the [cannabis] space.

- *Chambers USA*

Jonathan Robbins serves as chair of Akerman’s Cannabis Practice, counseling clients on the evolving, complex legal and business issues impacting companies with interests in the regulated substances industries. Ranked by *Chambers USA* as a top lawyer in Cannabis Law and recognized in 2018 by the *National Law Journal* as one of the country’s “Cannabis Law Trailblazers,” he has been published and quoted in national media outlets such as *U.S. News & World Report*, *The American Lawyer*, *Politico*, *Washington Post*, *Bloomberg News*, and *Law360*. He is a founding board member of the National Cannabis Bar Association and is also an active member of the National Cannabis Industry Association.

Jonathan brings deep experience representing public and private companies and individuals in complex regulatory and litigation matters in the regulated substances sectors. His experience encompasses investigations and administrative and enforcement proceedings brought by federal, state, and self-regulatory bodies, including the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), Florida Attorney General’s Office, Florida Department of Financial Services, and Florida Office of Insurance Regulation.

In addition to his growing cannabis practice, Jonathan also represents public and private companies and individuals in complex regulatory and litigation matters in the financial services and regulated substances sectors. His experience encompasses investigations and administrative and enforcement proceedings brought by federal, state, and self-regulatory bodies, including the

Areas of Experience

Cannabis
Litigation
Broker-Dealer
Commercial Disputes
Insurance Litigation
SEC Receiverships and Ponzi Schemes
Securities Litigation
White Collar Crime and Government Investigations
Financial Services
Franchise and Licensing
Consumer Protection Litigation

Education

J.D., University of Florida Levin College of Law, 1993
B.A., University of Michigan, 1990, with honors

Admissions

Bars

Florida

Courts

U.S. District Court, Middle District of Florida
U.S. District Court, Northern District of Florida
U.S. District Court, Southern District of Florida

Related Content

Jonathan Robbins to Speak at the 2025 Florida Marijuana Policy Conference
January 13, 2025

Cannabis Chair Jonathan Robbins Discusses Taxes, Enforcement, and President Trump with *Forbes*
November 19, 2024

Cannabis Reform Ballot Initiatives Take a Hit in 2024 Election
November 07, 2024

U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), Florida Attorney General's Office, Florida Department of Financial Services, and Florida Office of Insurance Regulation. He is a go-to resource for broker-dealers and registered persons in securities-related cases filed in both federal and state courts, as well as in FINRA arbitration proceedings addressing both customer and sector disputes.

Jonathan has represented numerous broker-dealers and clearing firms ranging in size from smaller, regional broker-dealer and investment advisory firms to major national wirehouses. He serves as an arbitrator in securities arbitrations between both customers and members and associated persons and members. He frequently represents clients adverse to the SEC while working with the enforcement agency as counsel for receivers appointed by U.S. District Courts.

Published Work and Lectures

- 2025 Florida Marijuana Policy Conference, Speaker, "Cannabis Banking, Legal, Finance & AI," January 13, 2025
- 2024 Eleventh Circuit Judicial Conference, Speaker, "Legalization of Marijuana," May 10, 2024
- Benzinga Cannabis Capital Conference, Speaker, "The Future of Cannabis: Integrating the Global Value Chain," April 11, 2023
- *Law360*, Co-Author, "3rd Time May Be The Charm For Florida Cannabis Legalization," September 16, 2022
- *Bloomberg Law*, Quoted, "Legal Cannabis Use Needs Workplace Protections, Some States Say," August 11, 2022
- *MJ Business Daily*, Quoted, "Las Vegas Cannabis Industry Preps for Launch of Consumption Lounges," August 5, 2022
- *Cannabis Times*, Quoted, "What Would Interstate Commerce Look Like Under the Cannabis Administration and Opportunity Act?" July 21, 2022
- Cannabis LAB, 6th Annual Canna Business & Wellness Conference and Expo, Speaker, "Meet the CEOs - What Does It Mean to Be an MMTC CEO," June 3, 2022
- *Law360*, Co-Author, "The Rise of Cannabis Mobile Commerce," April 18, 2022
- Cannabis Law Symposium, Speaker, "The Practice of Cannabis Law," March 19, 2022
- Mycannabis.com, Quoted, "Interview Series," March 13, 2022
- CREW Miami, Speaker, "Seeing Green - CBD Updates and Connection to Commercial Real Estate," March 9, 2022
- Cannabis LAB, Webinar, Speaker, "Truth or Dare: Delta-8 & Novelty Cannabinoids," January 27, 2022
- *New York Law Journal*, Quoted, "Law Firms See Promise in Psychedelic-Based Medicine as It Moves to the Market," November 29, 2021
- *Bloomberg News*, Quoted, "Cannabis Practices Sprout as Big Law Firms Follow the Money," September 21, 2021
- Florida Hemp Association's Virtual Hemp Conference, Speaker, "Rules and Regulations for the Hemp Industry," April 9, 2021
- *Reuters Legal*, Quoted, "Big Law's Cannabis Practices Eye N.Y. Expansion as State Revs Up for Recreational Sales," April 7, 2021
- 5th Annual Canna Business & Wellness Conference and Expo (Cannabis LAB), Moderator, "Meet the CEOs," February 6, 2021

- *Law360*, Quoted, “Fla. Pot Licensing Law Unconstitutional, State High Court Told,” June 29, 2020
- *Law360*, Quoted, “Product Liability Legislation And Regulation To Watch,” January 1, 2020
- 2019 Lex Mundi Healthcare and Life Sciences Industry Group Global Meeting, Speaker, “Medical Cannabis,” November 15, 2019
- *Law360*, Quoted, “4 Issues With Converting Warehouses to Cannabis Farms,” November 6, 2019
- *Law360*, Quoted, “4 Tips for Cannabis Companies Amid Lung Illness Outbreak,” November 1, 2019
- 4th Annual Cannabis Lab Conference and Expo (Cannabis LAB), Speaker, “Demystifying CBD & Hemp Regulations: What’s Really Legal,” October 29, 2019
- *Law360*, Quoted, “Top 5 Environmental Concerns for the Cannabis Industry,” October 29, 2019
- Lex Mundi, Regulatory Challenges for Investors, Webinar, Speaker, “The Business of Cannabis,” October 10, 2019
- *Law360*, Quoted, “Florida Powerhouse: Akerman,” September 3, 2019
- *Law.com* Interview, Quoted, “Akerman Q&A: Florida, Marijuana Litigation, and Credit Unions,” August 22, 2019
- *Florida Bar News*, Quoted, “Business Law Section Considers Creating a Cannabis Law Entity,” August 7, 2019
- *The American Lawyer*, Quoted, “Cannabis Has Big Law Seeing Green, But the Am Law 50 Are Skipping the Party,” July 28, 2019
- Legal Learning Series Cannabis LAB Seminar, Panelist, “Legislative Updates in Cannabis,” May 23, 2019
- *Daily Business Review*, Quoted, “Medical Marijuana Dispensaries Compete for Restricted Retail Space in South Florida,” April 15, 2019
- *Daily Business Review*, Quoted, “One State South of Georgia, Dispensaries Brace for Legal Impact of Smokable Medical Marijuana,” March 20, 2019
- Medical Marijuana Business Association of Florida, The Florida Medical Marijuana Policy Conference 2.0, Panelist, Acquisitions, Banking & Legal panel, March 12, 2019
- *Law360*, Quoted, “Will The FDA Bite On CBD Foods?” March 1, 2019
- National Business Institute CLE Seminar, Presenter, “Medical Marijuana Law in Florida,” February 19, 2019
- *Business Insider*, Quoted, “Meet the Top Lawyers Working on Some of the Biggest Deals in the Booming Marijuana Industry That’s Set to Skyrocket to \$194 Billion,” January 11, 2019
- HB Litigation Conferences, Co-Presenter, “Medical Marijuana in Florida: Law, Litigation & Practical Considerations” Webinar, December 13, 2018
- The Seminar Group, The Business of Marijuana in Florida, Program Chair and Speaker, “Status of Implementation of Amendment 2 in Florida,” and “Regulatory Issues for Medical Marijuana Treatment Centers, Physicians and Patients/Caregivers,” October 2-3, 2018
- *Law360*, Quoted, “Setbacks Shake Up Fla.’s Medical Marijuana Rollout,” August 17, 2018
- *Daily Business Review*, Quoted, “Ruling Rejects Limits on Medical Marijuana Businesses,” August 7, 2018

- National Business Institute CLE Seminar, Co-Presenter, “[Marijuana Businesses Law in Florida](#),” June 25, 2018
- *Law360*, Co-Author, “[DEA Hemp Rule Is Safe For Now, But That May Change](#),” June 15, 2018
- *Law360*, Quoted, “[A Primer on Insurance for the Legal Cannabis Biz](#),” May 3, 2018
- *Law360*, Quoted, “[Lawyers Needed to Cut through the Weeds of Pot M&A](#),” March 2, 2018
- South Palm Beach County Bar Association, Civil Committee’s Cannabis Law CLE Seminar, Speaker, February 27, 2018
- Alliance 2018 Winter Conference: Fueling Growth, Redefining Potential, Co-Presenter, “[Legal Considerations in Cannabis Industry Investments](#),” January 18, 2018
- *Law360*, Co-Author, “[America’s Shifting Views on Marijuana Post-Cole Memo](#),” January 16, 2018
- *Washington Post*, Quoted, “[’Is This Stuff Legal?’ Federal Position on Pot Makes Situation Foggy, Draws Pushback](#),” January 5, 2018
- Rocket Matter CLE Presentation, Speaker, “[A Florida Lawyer’s Guide to the Medical Cannabis Program](#),” December 6, 2017
- National Business Institute CLE Seminar, Panelist, “[Medical Marijuana Law in Florida](#),” December 4, 2017
- PilotLegis Annual Member Conference, Panelist, “[Starting a Marijuana Law Practice? The Regulatory and Ethical Issues to Consider](#),” October 30, 2017
- Cannabis Law Institute, Speaker, “[The Laws and Regulatory Systems of the East](#),” July 28, 2017
- The Seminar Group Marijuana in Florida Conference, Speaker, “[Amendment 2 Rules Update](#),” June 29, 2017
- Legal Learning Series Cannabis LAB Seminar, Speaker, “[Critical Legal Issues in the Emerging, Legal Florida Cannabis Market](#),” May 25, 2017
- Canna Holdings South Florida Medical Marijuana Symposium, Speaker, “[Amendment 2](#),” March 11, 2017
- *Law360*, Quoted, “[Smoke Point: How BigLaw Finally Learned to Try Pot](#),” December 19, 2016
- *Law360*, Co-Author, “[Marijuana Tipping Point: California and Florida Lead The Way](#),” November 10, 2016
- *Politico*, Quoted, “[California Voters Vote to Legalize Recreational Marijuana in Nation’s Largest Market](#),” November 9, 2016
- Legal Learning Series CannaLaw Conference, Speaker, “[Rules for Ganjapreneurs](#),” November 4, 2016
- *Law360*, Quoted, “[Fla. Medical Marijuana Measure May Boost Business for Firms](#),” October 25, 2016
- *Tampa Bay Business Journal*, Quoted, “[Why Major Law Firms See Potential for Medical Marijuana in Florida](#),” October 21, 2016
- *South Florida Legal Guide*, Quoted, “[Medical Marijuana: What Lies Ahead for the Sunshine State?](#),” October 11, 2016
- Legal Learning Series Critical Issues in Marijuana Law Seminar, Speaker, “[Marijuana Law 101: Entering the Marijuana/Cannabis Legal Field](#),” July 11, 2016

Affiliations

- Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Approved Arbitrator
- National Cannabis Bar Association, Founding Board Member, Ethics Committee Co-Chair

- National Cannabis Industry Association, Member; State Regulations Committee (SRC)
- International Cannabis Bar Association, Advisory Board, Member
- American Bar Association, Member
- Broward Bar Association, Business Litigation Committee, Member
- Dade County Bar Association, Securities Litigation Committee, Member
- The Florida Bar, Member
- Palm Beach County Bar Association, Securities Litigation Committee, Member
- Madison's Who's Who of Professionals, Member
- Phi Alpha Delta, Member

Honors and Distinctions

- *Benchmark Litigation* 2014-2025, Listed in Florida as a "Local Litigation Star" for General Commercial, Securities, Cannabis
- *Global Top 200 Cannabis Lawyers*, 2021-2022
- *Chambers USA* 2019-2024, Ranked in Top Tier Eastern United States: Nationwide for Cannabis Law
- *The National Law Journal*, Named in the Cannabis Law Trailblazers List, 2018-2019