

People



## Kristen F. Morris

Special Counsel, Real Estate  
Cannabis

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Kristen Morris provides advice to marijuana, hemp, and ancillary business clients in matters such as regulatory compliance, licensure and license defense, commercial contracts, intellectual property, and dispute resolution. Kristen advises clients in cannabis business ownership, investment, financing, purchase and sales, and product labeling, packaging and advertising. She commonly provides ongoing business advice on maintaining compliant business practices, corporate document drafting and contract review.

Kristen is a member of the firm’s Real Estate practice, assisting with negotiating and drafting commercial leases and subleases, purchase and sale agreements, and performing due diligence. Her background in regulatory law lends well to clients navigating complex federal, state and local laws. Prior to joining Akerman, Kristen gained experience in the areas of environmental, health and safety, commercial litigation, entertainment, and social media.

### Notable Work

**Cannabis Investment and Ownership:** Advises investors on the road to marijuana business ownership and investment, including financial and asset disclosure requirements, criminal history disclosures, and other legal matters.

**Cannabis Mergers & Acquisitions:** Assists with complex multijurisdictional business license, leasehold and real estate acquisitions.

**Intellectual Property:** Represented companies in protection of intellectual property, including developing licensing and branding agreements, and assisting with trademark research, filings, and infringement claims.

**Product Development:** Assisted clients in developing novel products containing THC, CBD and other active ingredients; advised international corporation on risks of e-cigarette and vape

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### Areas of Experience

Real Estate  
Cannabis  
Healthcare Real Estate  
PFAS Litigation and Regulatory Counseling

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### Education

LL.M., Georgetown University Law Center,  
Environmental Health Law, 2011  
J.D., Loyola University New Orleans College of Law,  
2010  
B.S., Indiana University, 2004

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### Admissions

#### Bars

Colorado  
Louisiana  
New York

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### Related Content

EPA’s Proposed Rules Would Severely Limit PFAS Levels Permissible in Drinking Water  
April 17, 2023

Jonathan Robbins, Kristen Morris to Speak on Cannabis Law  
March 19, 2022

State Privacy Law Patchwork Expands as Colorado Passes Comprehensive Privacy Law  
July 13, 2021

technology; advised numerous food and supplement makers on compliant manufacturing, ingredients, and label warnings and disclosures.

**Cannabis License Defense:** Successfully represented marijuana businesses before the State of Colorado in license violations and actions denying licensure.

**Real Estate Litigation:** Assisted with landlord-tenant case involving breach of lease by marijuana tenant, resulting in \$8.8 million judgment in favor of landlord.

**Healthcare Real Estate Transactions:** Assists corporations with acquisitions and leasing for the heavily regulated healthcare industry.

**Environmental Health and Safety:** Experience in class action suits involving environmental exposure and health outbreaks; served as outside defense counsel to multinational oil and gas company in defending workplace injury and chemical exposure cases; former experience in the enforcement division of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

## Related Professional Experience

- Judicial Intern to the Honorable Judge Ivan L.R. Lemelle, U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Louisiana, New Orleans, Louisiana, 2009

## Affiliations

- Colorado Bar Association, Member
- Denver Bar Association, Member
- Louisiana State Bar Association, Member

## Published Work and Lectures

- Colorado Bar Association Continuing Legal Education, Co-Author, First Edition, "Cannabis Law in Colorado," 2022
- Cannabis Law Symposium, Speaker, "Developments in Government Compliance and Regulations Impacting the Cannabis Sector," March 19, 2022