Food Law

GrayRobinson's Food Law Team focuses on the federal, state and local laws that regulate members of America's food and beverage industry. The firm's attorneys and professionals, who include former federal and state regulators, address legal issues pertaining to food producers, importers, processors, wholesaler distributors, and retailers. Our experience encompasses representing clients in the food and beverage industries both domestically and internationally, as well as consulting with public bodies and NGOs on food law and nutrition issues.

We assist our clients in all of the following areas: Marketing and e-commerce, regulatory compliance and governmental affairs, litigation and alternative dispute resolution, and taxation issues.

Marketing and Commerce

We have helped new and existing members of the food industry with a variety of marketing and e-commerce issues. Our experience encompasses:

- E-commerce and Internet marketing;
- Advertising, marketing, and discounting;
- Financial and transactional matters;
- Interstate and international trade arrangements;
- Shipping and transportation agreements;
- Protection of intellectual property rights;
- Bankruptcy and creditor's rights concerns.

Regulatory Compliance and Governmental Affairs

Our Food Law Team works efficiently and cost effectively to help public and private clients achieve their objectives within the framework of an expanding, often inter-connected network of local, state, federal, and even international rules governing this heavily regulated area. Our experience encompasses:

- Drafting legislation, advising government bodies such as the New York State Assembly and the Florida House and Senate, and preparing public comments on proposed federal and state regulations;
- Representation before governmental agencies such as the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA), US Department of Agriculture (USDA), the US Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade bureau (TTB), and the US Food Safety Inspection Service (FSIS);
- Nutritional labeling and claims;
- Registration, licensing and permitting at the federal, state and local levels;
- Consultation and representation in administrative product recall and voluntary product withdrawal campaigns;
- Defense against administrative or enforcement actions.
Litigation and Alternative Dispute Resolution

Every member of the food industry will face potential or actual litigation at some point. GrayRobinson's Food Law Team works with our clients to avoid litigation whenever it is practical and in the clients best interest. In those instances when litigation is inevitable, our law firm endeavors to protect the clients interests with seasoned professionals who have years of experience prosecuting and defending legal challenges to regulation in state and federal courts, on both the trial and appellate level. Our experience includes product liability, food safety, APA, and commercial cases.

However, because the courtroom trial represents only one method of dispute resolution, our law firm works with clients to resolve contested disputes in a variety of ways, including mediation, arbitration, and other alternative dispute resolution mechanisms.

Taxation

Taxation is a critical component of any government regulated business. Whether at the federal or state level, GrayRobinson's lawyers and professionals have experience in taxation law, including:

- Lobbying before federal and state legislatures and agencies;
- Tax compliance;
- Tax planning to reduce and minimize future ongoing tax obligations;
- Transaction structuring to facilitate tax avoidance.