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# Michelle Mabugat

Partner

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Michelle Mabugat has a broad-based corporate and transactional practice that focuses on advising entrepreneurs and high-growth companies on matters that span the business lifecycle, from start-up through exit.

Often acting as outside general counsel, she assists clients with their general corporate and day-to-day transactional needs as well as their most critical transactions, including early- and growth-stage equity and debt financings, joint ventures and strategic alliances, licensing deals, and mergers and acquisitions (M&A) in both distressed and non-distressed situations. She also provides strategic advice to boards, management teams and investors on sensitive issues related to corporate governance, shareholder disputes, regulatory compliance and risk management.

She has earned significant accolades in her field, including being listed in *Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch® in America* in 2024 and 2025 and *Southern California Super Lawyers Rising Stars* from 2021 through 2025.

## Professional Affiliations

- Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee, Association for Corporate Growth, Los Angeles Chapter (2021 - Present)
- Executive Committee, Primerus Cannabis Practice Group
- Cannabis Editorial Advisory Board, Law360 (2022 & 2023)
- Former Member of Legislative Advocacy Committee, Los Angeles Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce
- Provisors, Century City 7

## Awards

- Los Angeles County Bar Association (LACBA) LGBTQ Pride Month Honoree, 2025
- *L.A. Times B2B Publishing*, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Accessibility Visionary List,

## Services

- Cannabis
- Corporate
- Corporate Structuring & Operations
- Licensing
- Mergers & Acquisitions
- IP Transactions: Licensing, Acquisitions & Dispositions
- Crisis Management

2024

- *Los Angeles Business Journal*, "Women of Influence: Attorneys" List, 2024
- *Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch® in America*, 2024–2025
- Southern California *Super Lawyers* Rising Stars, 2021 - 2025
- "Top Cannabis Lawyers," *Los Angeles and San Francisco Daily Journal*, 2022
- "Cannabis Law Trailblazers," *National Law Journal*, 2022
- "Lawyer of the Year," California Cannabis Awards, Nominee
- Shortlisted on "250 Cannabis Law Leaders in the United States," Databird

## Bar Admissions

- California

## Court Admissions

- United States District Court, Central District of California
- United States Supreme Court

## Education

- University of Southern California Gould School of Law (J.D., 2011)
- University of California, Los Angeles (B.A., 2007)
  - History/Political Science

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# Publications

November 13, 2023

## **Roundup of New Cannabis Laws in California**

August 14, 2023

## **Michelle Mabus and Alexa Steinberg Discuss the Business of Cannabis in L.A. Times B2B Publishing**

August 4, 2023

## **Calif. Policymakers Should Aid Crashing Cannabis Market**

*Law360*

June 16, 2023

## **California's Debt Bubble Threatens the Viability of Cannabis Retailers**

April 20, 2023

## **Cannabis Companies Can Save Millions With One Tax Code Section**

*Bloomberg Tax*

January 10, 2023

## **Five Years of Legal Recreational Cannabis in California: Are Smoother Roads**

## **Ahead?**

December 29, 2022

**Pro Bono Corporate and Regulatory Work for Cannabis Social Equity Applicants**

November 30, 2022

**(C)CRE: An Intro To Cannabis Commercial Real Estate**

November 9, 2022

**Have Employer Drug Tests Gone Up in Smoke?**

October 6, 2022

**A Changed Legal Landscape? Analyzing California's New Cannabis Laws**

August 30, 2022

**The Impact of the Wrigley Lawsuit on Cannabis IP Rights**

July 22, 2022

**Lower Taxes, More Problems? Unpacking the Impact of AB195 on California's Cannabis Industry**

June 15, 2022

**Proposition 65 – Changes That Will Impact the Cannabis Sector**

June 8, 2022

**A Path Toward Legalizing Interstate Cannabis Sales? Analyzing California Senate Bill 1326**

April 20, 2022

**Four Takeaways for 4/20**