HUSCH BLACKWELL



Steven N. Levine

PARTNER

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OVERVIEW

Leader of Husch Blackwell's Financial Services & Capital Markets industry group, Steve is a corporate M&A attorney focused on complex transactions and strategic growth initiatives. He advises companies across their lifecycle—from startups to mature enterprises—on acquisitions, financings, and other high-stakes matters that drive long-term value. He is based in

"Husch Blackwell has been our corporate counsel at Medicine Man for many years. Steve Levine is a now a good friend and trusted adviser to the leaders within our organization. Their firm has a wide range of legal expertise within their ranks and has been phenomenal in helping with our many and varied needs. Their cannabis industry knowledge is unparalleled by other law firms. We highly recommend Husch Blackwell to anyone in the cannabis industry."

— Andy Williams, Founder,
Medicine Man

Industry

Financial Services & Capital Markets

Services

Alcohol Beverage
Cannabis
Corporate
Corporate Transparency Act (CTA)
Emerging Companies & Venture Capital
Functional Foods & Beverages
Hemp Food & Beverage
Hospitality
Labor & Employment
Mergers & Acquisitions
Private Equity
Retail Real Estate
Securities & Corporate Governance
Special Purpose Acquisition Companies (SPACs)

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Carbondale, Colorado, and practices as part of the firm's virtual office, The Link.

Over his career, Steve has built a diverse practice spanning emerging and established industries, with a focus on guiding companies through evolving regulatory environments and structuring practical, business-oriented solutions to novel challenges.

Steve is nationally recognized for his work in the cannabis industry, advising multistate operators, investors, and entrepreneurs on regulatory compliance, M&A, corporate structuring, governance, and capital formation. He co-leads one of the largest and most experienced cannabis law teams in the country, representing many of the leading operators in the U.S. and Canada.

A trusted adviser to C-suite executives and boards, Steve often serves as outside general counsel, delivering practical, business-focused guidance that integrates legal strategy with commercial objectives across corporate, operational, and transactional matters.

His practice spans corporate transactions, M&A, and complex financing across a range of industries. He represents clients in the buying and selling of companies, secured lending arrangements, debt financings, and equity raises for both public and private companies. Drawing on his background in securities law, he also advises on Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) reporting and compliance, public and private offerings, and stock exchange listing requirements, helping leadership teams structure and execute growth strategies.

Clients value his strong legal judgment and industry insight, as well as his pragmatic, solutions-driven approach. He evaluates issues from multiple angles, distills complexity into clear guidance, and delivers actionable recommendations aligned with clients' objectives.

Featured Experience

Client Merger Results in Expanded Business

Founded in 2009, LivWell Holdings Inc. grew over its first 10 years into one of the most prominent marijuana businesses in Colorado and Michigan, with operations spanning cultivation, manufacturing, research and development, and retail. By 2021, they were ready for a closed sale to PharmaCann Inc., the largest privately held, vertically integrated cannabis company in the United States.

Prior to closing the merger, Steve advised LivWell on a variety of corporate and regulatory matters for several years. For the merger, Steve acted as lead deal counsel for LivWell, which resulted in a combined business that operates approximately 60 dispensaries and 11 cultivation and production facilities across eight states.

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Experience

- Served as counsel to KEY Investment Partners and its affiliates in the acquisition of Dixie Elixirs and Mary's Medicinals brands and related assets out of receivership.
- Served as Colorado regulatory counsel for Columbia Care in connection with the acquisition of The Green Solution in Colorado. We assisted with transactional documents as well as obtaining regulatory approval at state and local jurisdictions. At close, Columbia Care became the largest cannabis operator in Colorado, the second largest cannabis market in the world.
- Advised Medicine Man on the sale of the business to Columbia Care.
- Represents startup clients and new market entrants in the alternative farming space, assisting with corporate structuring and capital formation.
- Represented cannabis cultivator Los Sueños Farms as seller's counsel in its recent $67 million sale to Curaleaf, one of the world's largest cannabis companies. The transaction involved a combination of stock and cash consideration.
- Advised LivWell Holdings Inc., in its sale to PharmaCann Inc., the largest privately held, vertically integrated cannabis company in the United States.
- Assisted The Health Center in the sale of the company to a publicly traded special purpose acquisition company (SPAC).
- Representing Nutritional High International in a $10 million acquisition of a dispensary and cultivation facility in California.
- Assisting a family office in entering the state-regulated marijuana space with their initial investment into the space with additional investments to follow.
- Helped three separate entities navigate and negotiate a settlement with the Marijuana Enforcement Division related to regulatory issues in 2019.
- Represented Green Thumb Industries in the closing of its acquisition of Fiorello Pharmaceuticals, as well as providing counsel on New York medical cannabis license regulatory issues.

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Experience

- Serves as outside general counsel to large cannabis company on a variety of matters including cannabis regulatory as well as corporate and securities, vendor contracts, employment law, corporate governance, real estate, intellectual property, customs, sweepstakes, litigation and tax.
- Negotiated successful purchase of various recreational and medical establishment licenses and businesses in Colorado since 2010.
- Represented clients in development of commercial greenhouses used by cannabis tenants in Colorado and California.
- Negotiated warehouse leases for numerous landlords and tenants in Colorado and California since 2010.
- Developed and licensed proprietary technology and trademarks for technology and intellectual property holding companies in the marijuana and industrial hemp industries operating in the United States.
- Represented Canadian public companies with cannabis operations in the United States.
- Represented clients expanding cannabis operations into Canada.
- Handled corporate formation, financings and commercial contracts for emerging growth cannabis technology and business solution companies.
- Worldwide market leader and expert in providing data-driven solutions for recall services for durable goods - Assisted large recreational center in obtaining one of the first retail licenses in Aurora, Colorado, in 2014.
- Obtained medical infused-products license for an infused-products manufacturer in Colorado in 2015.
- Advised medical and adult-use stores, marijuana-infused-products manufacturers and marijuana testing facilities on licensing issues at local and state levels in Colorado and California.

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Experience

- Represented cannabis operators in Colorado in administrative show cause orders, negotiation of remediation plans and stipulated settlement agreements with state and local agencies.
- Advised one of the largest cannabis testing facilities on its reverse merger into a publicly reporting company in 2014.
- Represented one of the largest cannabis security companies in its reverse merger into a publicly reporting company in 2015.
- Assisted Lightshade Labs in the acquisition of Frosted Leaf, a dispensary in Denver, out of receivership for $3.5 million.
- Represented Nutritional Elements in the sale of the company to a publicly trade special purpose acquisition company (SPAC).
- Helped keep the Colorado cannabis industry open during the COVID-19 pandemic by writing and reviewing proposed legislation regarding essential business status for cannabis companies.

Recognition

- *Chambers USA*, Cannabis Law: Western United States, Nationwide, 2019-2026
- Colorado Super Lawyers, Securities & Corporate Finance, 2021, 2025 and 2026
- *The Legal 500 United States*
    - Cannabis, Leading partner, 2021-2026
- *5280 Magazine*, Denver Top Lawyer
    - Marijuana Law, 2016-2026
- *National Law Journal* Trailblazers: Cannabis Law, 2018
- BL Rankings' *The Best Lawyers in America®*
    - Cannabis Law, 2027
    - Corporate Law, 2016-2027

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Education

- J.D., University of Denver Sturm College of Law
- B.A., University of Oregon

Admissions

- Colorado
- New York
- California

Community Leadership

- National Jewish Health, Development Board Member, 2016-present
- Legal Aid Foundation of Colorado, Board Member, 2015-2020

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*Steve works remotely and is licensed in Colorado, practicing in Carbondale, CO. Contact Steve via email or phone for in-person/virtual meetings. Use the Denver office address for mail/deliveries only.



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