

KHURSHID P. KHOJA
Sacramento, California
khurshid@greenbridgelaw.com

EDUCATION

The University of California at Berkeley School of Law (Boalt Hall), J.D., 2001

• *Activities & Honors:* 3L Class President, Boalt Hall Class of 2001; Executive Board, National South Asian Law Student Association, 2000-2001; Member, Berkeley Law Foundation Phoenix Fellowship Committee, 2000-2001; Chair, Boalt Hall Student Association (Student Government) Ad Hoc Committee on Diversity, Spring 2000; Co-Founder and President, Bay Area South Asian Law Students Alliance, 1999-2000; President, Boalt Hall South Asian Students Association, 1999-2000; Executive Board, Asian Law Journal, 1999-2000; Student Representative, Dean Search Committee, 1999-2000.

The University of Chicago, Committee on International Relations, M.A., 1998

Attended October 1995-July 1996 (G.P.A.: 3.2/4.0)

• *Honors:* Unendowed Scholarship.

DePaul University, Department of Political Science, B.A., with high honors, 1996

Attended September 1991-June 1995 (G.P.A.: 3.838/4.0)

• *Activities & Honors:* Most Distinguished Graduate (Class of 1995), Department of Political Science; Executive Coordinator, DePaul Political Science Association, 1993-95; Student Representative, Political Science Department, 1993-95; Director of Academics, Student Government Association, 1994-95; Annual Dean's Award for Scholastic Excellence, 1991-95; Dean's List, Fall 1991-Spring 1995; DePaul Honors Scholarship.

LEGAL & POLICY EXPERIENCE

Founder & CEO, Greenbridge Corporate Counsel, PC, Sacramento, CA

March 2012-Present

Manage boutique business law practice, advising start-ups, established businesses, non-profits and other enterprises operating within U.S. jurisdictions and foreign jurisdictions that have legalized production, distribution, purchase, sale and possession of cannabis, psychedelics, and/or other controlled substances for medicinal, therapeutic and/or adult use. Greenbridge serves enterprises based in California and beyond, representing clientele in corporate and transactional matters from across sectors in the legal cannabis and psychedelics industries: investor groups, non-profit advocacy organizations, nurseries, dispensaries and other medical marijuana retailers, consulting firms, publishing companies, consumer electronics manufacturers, concentrate and infused products producers, agricultural equipment manufacturers, technology and software companies, trade associations and others.

Director of Public Policy, Veterans Exploring Treatment Solutions, Inc. (VETS)

April 2023 – Present

Serve as Policy Director to 501(c)(3) veterans service organization that provides grants to veterans of the United States Special Operations Forces to seek psychedelic assisted therapy abroad for treatment of traumatic brain injuries, post traumatic stress disorder, and other mental health conditions arising from military service; advocate for state and federal policies that advance research into and public funding for access to psychedelic assisted therapies domestically.

General Counsel, California Cannabis Industry Association, Sacramento, CA

August 2014-August 2017

Participated in legislative drafting, stakeholder meetings, lobbying and executive agency outreach in connection with California Medical Cannabis Regulation and Safety Act (and amendments thereto) and amendments to the Medical Marijuana Program Act. Participated in initiative drafting in connection with the Adult Use of Marijuana Act (specifically the drafting of AUMA's pro-investor ownership provisions, and advocating the removal of MCRSA-style cross-licensing restrictions and mandatory third-party distribution, as also reflected later in the text of the Medical and Adult Use Cannabis Regulation and Safety Act. Represented CCIA on California State Treasurer John Chiang's Cannabis Banking Working Group, and worked to create collaboration among the cannabis industry, the banking industry, and state electeds and regulators to resolve banking access and public safety issues created by under federal banking and anti-money-laundering (AML) laws.

Co-Founder, General Counsel, Emerald Growers Association, Ukiah, CA

December 2011-December 2012

Co-founded a medical cannabis trade association of small farmers whose mission is to promote the benefits of sun-grown medical cannabis from California's Emerald Triangle Region by advocating for public policies that foster a sustainable medical cannabis industry.

Associate, Business & Finance Department, Reed Smith LLP, San Francisco, CA

November 2008-February 2012

Experience with mergers and acquisitions in the insurance, shipping, rail and biofuels industries, including preparation and negotiation of merger and asset purchase agreements, assignment agreements, and other ancillary documents; Experience with cleantech transactions in the renewable energy industries, representing leading equipment manufacturers and other clients

developing domestic and international projects utilizing diverse generation technologies including wind, solar and biomass; Assisting clients with a range of legal and commercial issues arising in subcontracting agreements, equipment supply, installation, and testing agreements, operation and maintenance agreements, and related project contracts; Representing and advising nonprofit corporations on privacy law, disclosure requirements, and corporate governance issues, including preparation and negotiation of internal formation documents; experience with drafting and negotiation of mutual fund broker-dealer selling agreements and networking agreements; General corporate and transactional matters.

Associate, Business & Finance Department, Thelen LLP, San Francisco, CA

December 2006-November 2008

Experience with transactions in the energy and infrastructure sector, representing equipment manufacturers and other clients developing domestic and international renewable energy projects utilizing diverse generation technologies including wind, solar and biomass; Assisting clients with a range of legal and commercial issues arising in subcontracting agreements, equipment supply, installation, and testing agreements, operation and maintenance agreements, and related project contracts; Representing insurers in complex mergers and acquisitions, other transactions requiring regulatory approvals, and general corporate matters; Representing and advising nonprofit corporations on privacy law, disclosure requirements, and corporate governance issues, including preparation and negotiation of internal formation documents.

Associate, Commercial Litigation Department, Thelen LLP, San Francisco, CA

October 2001-June 2002 (*Not admitted to practice), December 2004-December 2006

Experience with commercial litigation, intellectual property law, trade and insurance regulation, antitrust and Internet law, particularly with the substantive and procedural aspects of trade secret and trademark litigation; Researched and wrote memoranda, portions of legal briefs and general correspondence on state and federal intellectual property law, unfair competition law, antitrust law, jurisdiction, and related issues including constitutional law, contract law, criminal law and tort law; Drafted a variety of pre-trial motions and discovery documents, as well as responses to documents served by opposing counsel; Pro bono experience representing low-income clients in landlord-tenant matters, disciplinary proceedings within the Oakland Unified School District and asylum hearings.

REPRESENTATIVE PRESENTATIONS, PANELS AND PODCASTS

Co-host of NCIA's monthly *Policy Matters* podcast, interviewing leading U.S. cannabis regulators including Nicole Elliott, Director of the California Department of Cannabis Control; Amy Moore, Director of the Division of Cannabis Regulation at the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services; Brian Hanna, Executive Director of Michigan's Cannabis Regulatory Agency; John Hudak, Director of the Maine Office of Cannabis Policy; and Will Tilburg, Director of the Maryland Cannabis Administration & President of the Cannabis Regulators Association (CANNRA)

Panelist on "Cannabis rescheduling in the U.S. – What are the potential implications for states and licensees?" Plenary Session at *Cannabis Regulators Association (CANNRA) External Stakeholders Meeting*, Minneapolis, Minnesota, *forthcoming* June 4-5, 2024

Moderator, Panel on State Policies with Assembly Majority Leader Cecilia Aguiar-Curry, *National Cannabis Industry Association's California Stakeholder Summit*, Sacramento, California, February 22, 2024

Presenter, "The Continued Case for Drug War Reparations," *National Association of Black Cannabis Lawyers* webinar, February 21, 2024

Presenter, "Federal Law: What Rescheduling Will Mean," Cal NORML 2024 Legal Seminar, Oakland, California, January 2, 2024

Panelist on "Breaking Ground: The Potential Federal Rescheduling of Cannabis," *International Cannabis Bar Association Cannabis Law Sessions* at the 12th Annual MJBizCon, Las Vegas, NV, November 28, 2023

Panelist on "What HHS' Schedule III Recommendation Could Mean and What Comes Next," *International Cannabis Bar Association Emergency Webinar*, September 11, 2023

Panelist on "New Directions in Cannabis, Equity, and Social Justice," Plenary Session at CANNRA External Stakeholder Meeting, Annapolis, Maryland, June 26 & 27, 2023

Panelist on "U.S. Federal and State Policy Related to Cannabinoid Hemp Products: How to Put Consumer Safety First," Plenary Session at CANNRA External Stakeholder Meeting, Annapolis, Maryland, June 26 & 27, 2023

Presenter, "How Current Social Equity Efforts Fail Millions of Former Cannabis Prisoners: The Case for Drug War Reparations," 2022 NORML Key West Legal Seminar, Key West, Florida, December 1, 2022

Panelist on "Achieving Social and Economic Equity in the Industry: Where Are We Now and Where Do We Need to Be?" Plenary Session at CANNRA External Stakeholders Meeting, Seattle, Washington, June 6-7, 2022

Panelist on “Involuntarily Unbanked: How the Cannabis Industry Makes the Case for Crypto,” at Consensus 2022 by CoinDesk, Austin, TX, August 3, 2022

Moderator, “Harmonizing Federal and State Cannabis Policy,” NCIA Cannabis Business Summit & Expo, San Francisco, California, December 16, 2021

Other Cannabis Industry Presentations, 2012 to Present

Khurshid has been a featured presenter at numerous ArcView Investor Network conferences, the American Bar Association’s Business Law Section meeting, the National Marijuana Business Conference, the California NORML Conference, the Students for Sensible Drug Policy Western Regional Conference, numerous National Cannabis Industry Association conferences, among other professional conferences.

REPRESENTATIVE PUBLICATIONS

Khurshid Khoja, Program Chair, *Practicing Law Institute Course Handbook* for “Sex, Drugs and Crypto: Blockchain Lead Innovations in Public Policy,” forthcoming July 2024.

Khurshid Khoja and Geoffrey Lawrence (Reason Foundation), “Marijuana Social Equity Programs Should Be Redesigned To Directly Support People Harmed By Criminalization (Op-Ed),” *Marijuana Moment*, January 11, 2024.

Khurshid Khoja, Program Chair, *Practicing Law Institute Course Handbook* for “Using Blockchain to Build a Decentralized, Self-Regulating, and Equitable Cannabis Economy,” July 2023.

Khurshid Khoja, “Distributed Ownership of the U.S. Cannabis Industry,” Discussion Draft for CANNRA External Stakeholder Meeting, Annapolis, MD, June 25-27, 2023.

Khurshid Khoja, *Cannabis Cannibalism: How Federal Rescheduling Could Consume the State-Licensed Industry Without Safe Harbors Under the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act*, 2nd. Ed., Parabola Center for Law and Policy, 2023.

Khurshid Khoja, “Rescheduling Won’t End The War On Cannabis, But Could Open A New Battlefield If We’re Not Careful,” *Marijuana Moment*, September 3, 2023.

Khurshid Khoja, “How To Save Marijuana Social Equity Programs From The Supreme Court’s Affirmative Action Ruling,” *Marijuana Moment*, June 30, 2023.

Khurshid Khoja, “D.C. Marijuana Bill’s Approach To Drug War Reparations Isn’t Perfect, But It’s A Start,” *Marijuana Moment*, February 2, 2023.

Khurshid Khoja, “Crypto, Cannabis and SAFE Banking,” *Consensus Magazine*, CoinDesk.com, April 27, 2022.

Khurshid Khoja, “Why the Marijuana Industry Needs Crypto,” *Consensus Magazine*, CoinDesk.com, December 15, 2021.

Khurshid Khoja, “Does California State Law Authorize Local Jurisdictions to Ban Retail Delivery of Legal Cannabis?” Initially published on *Marijuana Law Hub* on CEB.com by Continuing Education for the Bar on August 13, 2018.

Khurshid Khoja, “What Lawful California Cannabis Businesses Can Expect with Passage of the Adult Use of Marijuana Act” Initially published on *Marijuana Law Hub* on CEB.com by Continuing Education for the Bar on October 13, 2016.

INDUSTRY AND PROFESSIONAL HONORS

National Cannabis Industry Association

Steve Fox Excellence in Advocacy Award, 2023

The National Law Journal

Profiled in *The National Law Journal’s* first ever *Cannabis Law Trailblazers* issue in October 2018 as a pioneer in the cannabis industry.

Arcview Investor Network

Outstanding Member Award, 2018

The American Bar Foundation

Admitted as an ABF Fellow in November 2017.

Students for Sensible Drug Policy

Unsung Hero Award, 2016

Unsung Hero Award, 2020

Northern California SuperLawyers

Rising Star, 2010

Rising Star, 2011

Rising Star, 2013

Asian Law Caucus

Earned recognition for Reed Smith LLP as Pro Bono Honoree at ALC's 39th Anniversary Dinner through my pro bono service to the National Security and Civil Rights Program

Asian American Bar Association of the Greater Bay Area

Earned Public Service Award for Reed Smith LLP at the 2011 AABA Installation Dinner through my service on the Board of Directors of AABA

Bar Association of San Francisco Minority Bar Coalition

Recipient, 2007 Unity Award, presented by the Bay Area Association of Muslim Lawyers, for outstanding service to the legal community

UC Berkeley Foundation

Young Bear Award 2001

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS & COMMUNITY SERVICE

National Cannabis Industry Association

Executive Committee (2018 to Present) Chair, Board of Directors (2020-2022); Member, Board of Directors (2015-Present); Co-chair, Policy Council (2019-Present); Federal Policy Council Member (2016-2019)

Minority Cannabis Business Association

Board of Directors (2017-2020); Co-chair, Policy Committee (2019-2020)

California Growers Association

Legal Advisor (2017-2018)

California State Treasurer's Cannabis Banking Working Group

Member (2016-2017)

Students for Sensible Drug Policy

Member, Advisory Council (2015-2019)

California Cannabis Industry Association

Chair, Diversity and Inclusion Committee (2017); Founding Member, Board of Directors (2014-2017); Chair, Legislative Committee (2017); General Counsel (2014-2017)

Asian Americans Advancing Justice-Asian Law Caucus

Leadership Council (2014-present); Member, Board of Directors (2008-2014)

ArcView Investor Network

General Counsel (2011-2012); Selection Committee Member (2011-2019); Alternate Chief Mentor (2017-2019)

Asian American Bar Association of the Greater Bay Area

Member, Board of Directors (2010-2013)

North American South Asian Bar Association (NASABA) Foundation

Member, Board of Trustees (2009-2013)

South Asian Bar Association of Northern California ("SABA-NC")

President (2008-2009); Civil Rights Committee Co-chair (2006-2007); Endorsements Committee Chair (2006-2007); Member, Board of Directors (2006-2009)

Bar Association of San Francisco Marriage Fairness Taskforce

Outreach Committee Co-Chair (2008)