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## Mandelbaum Barrett Adds New Cannabis, Psychedelics Head

By **Jake Maher**

Law360 (October 3, 2023, 4:34 PM EDT) -- Mandelbaum Barrett PC announced Tuesday it is expanding the firm's cannabis practice group to encompass psychedelic drugs, and it has brought on an industry expert from Ansell Grimm & Aaron PC to take charge of the revamped group.

Joshua Bauchner, formerly an Ansell Grimm partner, has joined Mandelbaum Barrett as a partner in the firm's litigation department, and will lead the growth of the cannabis and psychedelics team. He will be based in the firm's Roseland, New Jersey, office and will also work out of New York.

"A large part of any cannabis-psychedelics practice involves corporate and transactional work, as well as regulatory work, and Mandelbaum Barrett has robust departments in both spheres," Bauchner said in an interview with Law360 Pulse regarding his decision to make the move.



Joshua S. Bauchner

Bauchner has been at the forefront of the legal side of New Jersey's growing cannabis industry for years. He co-hosted New Jersey's first-ever cannabis symposium about six years ago, a landmark event that "really launched the practice" of cannabis law in New Jersey, he said.

He also sits on the cannabis law committees for both the New Jersey and New York state bar associations, and on the legal and amicus committees of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws.

Beyond just cannabis, Bauchner said psychedelics are a new frontier only recently being studied after being wrongly suppressed for decades.

"The science on it is newly developing, but remarkable," Bauchner said, noting the wide-ranging potential applications of psychedelics, like treating post-traumatic stress disorder.

"We have all these veterans coming back from serving abroad with a lot of trauma from the experience, and they are now finally being afforded medicine, psychedelics, which we know can help them in ways that Western medicine hasn't," he said.

Mandelbaum Barrett's cannabis and psychedelics practice group will offer services related to licensing, municipal ordinances, compliance, corporate formation and governance, commercial real estate, regulatory compliance, financing and investment strategies and more, Mandelbaum Barrett said.

It consists of four partners, including Bauchner, and one associate.

Outside of cannabis law, Bauchner brings wide-ranging experience in complex commercial litigation, securities litigation, class actions and bankruptcy, he said. He previously co-chaired Ansell Grimm's litigation department and led its controlled substances and regulatory law department.

Bauchner said he moved to Mandelbaum Barrett after a lengthy period of looking at other firms because the firm offered a strong platform for his clients and because of the culture among the

employees there.

"It's tremendous to have that level of support," he said.

Earlier in his career, Bauchner worked as deputy director of the New York City Department of Consumer Affairs' legal division and as a counsel at Meiselman Denlea Packman Carton & Eberz PC. He holds a law degree from Brooklyn Law School and an undergraduate degree from Wheaton College in Massachusetts.

Bauchner "brings a wealth of experience and a genuine commitment to supporting and advancing the complex controlled substance industry which is quickly evolving and promises tremendous business growth," said William S. Barrett, CEO of Mandelbaum Barrett, in a statement. "His reputation in this space precedes him, and I know our clients will be well represented with his addition to the practice."

--Editing by Scott Russell.

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