



25th ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM ON ALCOHOL BEVERAGE LAW & REGULATION

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Crystal Gateway Marriott | Arlington, VA

FACULTY

RICHARD M. BLAU

is a shareholder with the law firm of GrayRobinson, P.A. He is chairman of the law firm's Alcohol Beverage & Food Law Department, and heads up the firm's *Alcohol Beverage Team* focusing on the rules and regulations that govern the marketing, sale and consumption of distilled spirits, wine, beer, and other licensed beverages. Mr. Blau is "Band 1" rated for Alcohol Beverage Law by Chambers USA. He also is listed in Best Lawyers in America, and is "AV" rated by Martindale-Hubbell. A substantial portion of Mr. Blau's professional efforts are focused on trade regulations, litigation and dispute resolution involving the hospitality industry. He has alcohol industry-specific experience in the areas of administrative practice and regulatory compliance, advertising and promotional law, importation matters and supplier/distribution relations. An elected member of The American Law Institute, He also is a member of The Florida Bar, The New York Bar, The Bar Association of the District of Columbia, the American Bar Association and the Federal Bar Association. Additionally, he served for over eight years as the chairman of the American Bar Association's Committee on Beverage Alcohol Practice. Mr. Blau also lectures on Twenty First Amendment issues and writes extensively on alcohol-related legal matters. He received his B.A. from Brandeis University and his J.D. from the Georgetown University Law Center, where he served as the Associate Editor for Topics of the Georgetown Law Journal.

NICHOLAS "NICK" CAPEZZA

is a Policy and Research Analyst with the National Alcohol Beverage Control Association (NABCA). He is responsible for the research needs of the association. This includes organizing surveys and survey reports, writing white papers, and monitoring emerging alcohol policy topics. Throughout his career, he has worked in government relations and public policy in the association setting. He also served as a litigation consultant to Washington, DC area law firms and companies.

Nick holds a Juris Doctor degree from the Indiana University School of Law – Bloomington and a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from the University of Florida. He has served on community boards in Fairfax City and Fairfax County, Virginia where he currently resides.

BRANNON P. DENNING

is the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Professor at the Cumberland School of Law, Samford University, located in Birmingham, Alabama. He graduated with a B.A. in political science from the University of the South; a J.D. from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville; and an LL.M. from Yale University. He is the author of *Bittker on the Regulation of Interstate and Foreign Commerce*, second edition, among numerous other books and articles.

RODRIGO DIAZ

has been the chief counsel for the PLCB since February 2016. As such, he oversees a team of attorneys and staff that advises the PLCB on legal matters impacting the agency. By statute, the office is also authorized to issue advisory opinions to licensees regarding the Liquor Code and the Board's Regulations. Such advisory opinions act as a complete defense against any citations issued by the Pennsylvania State Police, Bureau of Liquor Control Enforcement.

Prior to becoming chief counsel, Rodrigo had served the PLCB in numerous capacities including assistant counsel, legislative counsel, deputy chief counsel and executive deputy chief counsel. He has represented the PLCB before numerous tribunals, including local courts, Commonwealth Court and the Pennsylvania Supreme Court. He has also drafted numerous proposed PLCB

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regulations and defended those proposed regulations before the Independent Regulatory Review Commission. Rod has also drafted numerous legislative proposals ultimately enacted into law and has provided testimony in legislative hearings.

Rod has served on the faculty of the Pennsylvania Bar Institute, where he taught liquor licensing matters, and he has also previously appeared in a panel at the National Alcohol Beverage Control Association (NABCA) Legal Symposium.

Rod is a cum laude graduate from the University of Pittsburgh School of Law and received a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science at Yale.

J. NEAL INSLEY

is Sr. VP, General Counsel for the National Alcohol Beverage Control Association (NABCA). Mr. Insley has worked in the area of beverage alcohol law, legislation and/or policy at the state, national and international level. In the private practice of law, Mr. Insley focused on hospitality and beverage alcohol law and policy, government affairs, administrative law and regulatory/policy issues. He also served as the Chairman of the Virginia Alcoholic Beverage Control Board (Va. ABC) and as Chairman of the National Alcohol Beverage Control Association (NABCA). Mr. Insley began his career in law enforcement and held the position of Special Agent with the Va. ABC while attending law school part-time at nights and weekends.

Within the beverage alcohol industry, Mr. Insley has served as a regulator, attorney, administrative law judge, and business leader.