

Food and Beverage

Every segment along the food supply chain faces an increasingly complex economic and regulatory landscape. Almost daily announcements of food recalls as well as the implementation of the Food Safety and Modernization Act have wide-ranging effects on entities and individuals involved in the food and beverage industry, impacting suppliers, producers, consumers and insurers. An interdisciplinary group of White and Williams lawyers, consisting of transactional, intellectual property and litigation attorneys, partner with their clients along the food and beverage supply chain, as well as their insurers, to find effective business and legal solutions for labeling, food and beverage safety and recall issues, and to preempt problems before they arise. Consequently, our lawyers have experience counseling and advising companies of various sizes on a wide variety of issues, including supply contract, crisis management, recalls, labeling and regulatory compliance issues.

White and Williams' lawyers recognize the importance of moving quickly to recall and, as appropriate, destroy the contaminated, adulterated or misbranded food or beverage products. Our team of experienced lawyers works closely with claims professionals, insureds and forensic experts to analyze and minimize the costs involved in an insured's recall efforts. More importantly, our lawyers work with our insurance and food and beverage industry clients to maximize the recovery of direct and subrogation claims against the responsible suppliers, vendors or other parties. In conjunction with the pursuit of the responsible parties, our lawyers negotiate and, where appropriate, litigate indemnity claims. As part of our representation of insurers with respect to food and beverage recall issues, we counsel insurers on complex insurance coverage issues, including the applicability and limitations of sistership/recall and your product exclusions, to contamination/recall and business interruption claims.

REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS

Handled claim by purchaser of client's fruit product that contained listeria and exceeded the allowable pesticide level to be labeled "organic"

Represented GoodWest Industries and Palladium Equity Partners in connection with the acquisition of Skinny Mixes LLC, the provider of the Jordan's Skinny Mixes brand of low-calorie beverage syrups and flavorings

RELATED PRACTICES

- Commercial Litigation
- Insurance Coverage and Bad Faith
- Intellectual Property
- International
- Labor and Employment
- Litigation
- Product Liability

Secured a seven-figure settlement related to damages arising from food containing an allergen unknowingly derived from a spice ingredient and not disclosed on the packaged food label

Represented both an insurer and a major food manufacturer with a large self-insured retention limit, and secured a six-figure recovery, in a claim against an ingredient supplier alleging that contaminants in the supplier's ingredient entered the food manufacturer's finished product, which resulted in damage to the finished product and a business income loss.

Represented fruit distributor in matter alleging contamination of fruit with foreign matter

Represented food manufacturer and distributor in various transactions including acquisition and financing of manufacturing facilities, acquisition and licensing of significant brands, distribution rights for various products and sale of a major yogurt brand to private equity fund

Investigated and resolved a food recall case involving, among other claims, dental damage due to stones associated with improper processing of vegetables during the farming process

On behalf of an insurer, investigated the disintegration of a water filter used in the food preparation process resulting in the potential contamination of processed food

Pursued a contribution action against an ingredient supplier who provided contaminated ingredients to the client's insured, a food manufacturing company, which were then incorporated into a filling mixture

Represented a liability insurer in evaluating scope of coverage, if any, available to insured which was sued by major food company for allegedly contaminating food product with metal particles

Defended liability insurer against suit brought by its insured seeking to recover what insured paid to settle recall and other claims based on allegedly defective glue used in beer packaging

Represented large distributor of specialty honey in connection with labeling and labeling claims

Represented beverage distributors in matters relating to operations and sales of their businesses

Counseled large chocolate company in connection with intellectual property matters

Counseled pet food company in connection with corporate, labeling and intellectual property matters

Counseled grower and distributor of fruits in intellectual property matters

Served as counsel to a New Jersey based brewery in recapitalization transaction

Represented major manufacturer of food packaging equipment in several patent reexamination proceedings before the USPTO resulting in successful invalidation of the patents asserted against our client

Counseled and sought patent protection for several food and beverage companies, including performing prior art reviews of patent landscape and drafting patent applications covering food formulations and methods of manufacture

Represented a company that distributes a product used in livestock production and processing primarily in the poultry segment

Took an aquatic farming and distribution company public on the NYSE and advised on the distribution of aquatic products and processed packaged meals

Advised a client on the development of a food processing and storage facility in cooperation with a global food company

CASES & DEALS

White and Williams Leads Successful Effort to Thwart Speculative Warehouse Development
2.17.20

Appeal Secures Seven-Figure Settlement for Philadelphia-Based Food Manufacturer
5.31.18

PUBLICATIONS

Next, Please: The Fast Food Industry Is Hit With the Latest PFAS Suit
Insurance Coverage and Bad Faith Alert, 3.29.22