



STRADLEY
SRONON

Food & Beverage Industry

*Food &
Beverage Industry*

OVERVIEW

Our Food & Beverage Industry practice group touches on every aspect of the food and beverage industry, including:

- **national and local producers**
- **wholesalers**
- **distributors**
- **retailers**
- **restaurateurs**
- **mobile food vendors**
- **food transportation and delivery companies**
- **food packaging companies**
- **brewers**
- **pet food companies**

We advise these clients in all stages of their evolution, from business entity formation and expansion to merger and acquisition, on virtually all their legal needs to help them grow their businesses, protect innovation and protect their brands. With deep corporate, litigation and intellectual property experience, our Food & Beverage industry team synergizes across practice groups to develop solutions for the unique challenges facing our clients.



Our Experience

We provide a full slate of services, including corporate compliance, mergers and acquisitions, vendor agreements, intellectual property counseling, franchise and distribution matters, real estate, insurance coverage, and labor and employment issues. In addition to these corporate legal and counseling services, our litigators stand ready when a dispute arises. For more than 50 years, our litigators have been called on to represent food and beverage industry clients in cases involving franchise and distribution issues, vendor disputes, intellectual property and trade secrets protection, employment law issues, merger and acquisition disputes, unfair competition, and consumer claims.

Our Representative Matters

We have represented a wide range of food and beverage industry leaders, including:

- securing utility and design patents for consumer products and manufacturing technologies on behalf of a **nationally recognized pet food brand**
- representing **United Packaging**, a distributor of packaging, shipping, safety and janitorial supplies in its acquisition by Envoy Solutions, a distributor of packaging and foodservice supplies
- securing utility patents for award-winning innovation for consumer product, packaging, manufacturing, agriculture and clean technologies

on behalf of a nationally recognized **premium food production and distribution company**

- representing a **publicly traded bakery** in connection with its \$175 million sale to a national food producer, including the resolution of four class action/shareholder derivative lawsuits challenging the sale
- representing **Hughes Enterprises**, a packaging distribution company providing packaging supplies and equipment to various industries, including beverage, in its sale to Envoy Solutions
- defending a **producer of snack cakes and sweet baked goods** against class action claims brought by independent distributors of the producer alleging breach of contract and related claims
- defending a **national seller of vegetable, fruit and flower seeds** against a putative class action alleging that its website violated state wiretapping and privacy laws by purportedly collecting information about the users of its website
- defeating an unfair labor practice charge brought by a union and a union employee against a **national meat packaging company** following a two-week hearing before the National Labor Relations Board
- representing **Penn Jersey Paper Co.**, a distributor of cleaning products, foodservice disposables and janitorial supplies in its sale to Envoy Solutions
- resolving a putative class action lawsuit brought against a **restaurateur** alleging that it improperly charged beverage taxes to its customers

- representing a **mobile food vendor** in connection with the management and enforcement of its intellectual property portfolio
- representing a **U.S. Department of Agriculture organization** created and funded through a commodity checkoff program in its development, marketing and licensing of a new direct functional food additive for meat packers
- representing a **U.S.-based coffee roaster and retailer** in connection with its international expansion plans, including the development of a product delivery strategy to minimize tariffs to which its products will be subject
- representing a company that develops **restaurant automation technology** in connection with the procurement and enforcement of its intellectual property portfolio
- representing one of the **world's largest suppliers of fresh and prepared produce** in matters involving its intellectual property portfolio
- representing a **global leader in the manufacture, marketing and distribution of spices, herbs, seasonings and flavors** to the entire food industry:
 - in connection with multiple multimillion-dollar acquisitions
 - in a broad array of complex contractual matters to enable consolidation of its corporate offices into a new global headquarters
- serving as outside general counsel to a **national producer and distributor of frozen dessert products**, including a complex lawsuit involving a purchase option for the acquisition of intellectual property

- securing the dismissal of a putative class action brought on behalf of nearly **500 independent distributors** of a **publicly traded food production company** that alleged the company improperly charged them an administrative fee in connection with the collection of federal employment taxes and failed to remit the taxes to the IRS
- defending a **supplier of custom nutrient premixes and ingredients** in a patent infringement case based on allegations that it infringed on five separate patents
- serving as outside general counsel to a **bottled spring water producer**, including representation of the company in connection with its sale to a publicly traded international food company
- representing an **on-demand convenience delivery service** catering to snack food and convenience store products, handling a wide variety of matters, including real estate, employment, intellectual property, litigation and tax
- advising the **Buff family** with the restructuring of affiliated companies into a series of platform companies focused on using recycled material in the manufacture of food packaging products
- securing summary judgment in favor of a **food products importer** in a complex case alleging that the importer was responsible for damage to the products caused by insect infestation

For more information on our Food & Beverage Industry practice, visit
www.stradley.com/foodandbeverage.



CONTACTS

William T. Mandia
856.321.2417
wmandia@stradley.com

Philip J. Foret
484.323.1344
pforet@stradley.com

ABOUT STRADLEY RONON

For more than 95 years, Stradley Ronon has helped private and public companies – from small businesses to Fortune 500 corporations – achieve their goals. With nine offices and more than 200 attorneys, Stradley Ronon is proud to help companies manage their legal challenges and grow their businesses.

www.stradley.com

LOCATIONS

Pennsylvania
Washington, D.C.
New York
California
New Jersey
Illinois
Delaware



This communication is provided as a general informational service to clients and friends of Stradley Ronon Stevens & Young, LLP. It should not be construed as, and does not constitute, legal advice on any specific matter, nor does this message create an attorney-client relationship. The enclosed materials may have been abridged from other sources. They are provided for educational and informational purposes for the use of clients and others who may be interested in the subject matter. This material may be considered attorney advertising in some states. Please note that the prior results discussed in the material do not guarantee similar outcomes.

© 2024 Stradley Ronon Stevens & Young, LLP