

Michael Maher

Partner

San Francisco
Wine Country

Details

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Michael Maher has a broad practice focusing on business and real estate matters, with significant experience in the agriculture, food and beverage, and hospitality industries.

Michael advises clients on their ongoing general business and commercial matters, on acquisition, disposition, and merger transactions, in assessing, structuring, and negotiating real estate transactions, and in navigating complex regulatory operating environments. He acts as outside general counsel to a diverse group of businesses, advising on the wide range of issues that arise as businesses develop and grow.

Prior to joining Coblentz, Michael worked for more than a decade as in-house general counsel in the wine and hospitality industry. Michael began his legal career in the corporate group of the San Francisco office of Latham & Watkins LLP.

Michael is a former member of the Board of Directors of Wine Institute and of the Board of Directors of Family Winemakers of California.

Michael earned his J.D. from the University of California, Berkeley School of Law, Order of the Coif, in 2002. He earned his B.A. in Public Policy Studies from Duke University in 1997. He also holds a graduate degree in wine business management from Université Paris Nanterre.

Notable Representations

Representative matters include:

- Serving as outside general counsel to the Harlan family's Pacific Union Co., representing Harlan Estate, Bond, Promontory, and The Mascot wineries, Meadowood Napa Valley, The Napa Valley Reserve, and various other commercial real estate, hospitality, and wine interests.
- Advising Jackson Family Wines on acquisitions of Siduri, Copain, Penner-Ash, WillaKenzie, Brewer-Clifton, Field Stone, and Capture wineries.*
- Advising Sonoma Craft Holdings in its acquisition of Golden State Cider.
- Advising a global branded apparel and specialty food company in general commercial matters.
- Representing craft beverage producer in general commercial matters and realignment of its distribution network.
- Representing a multi-national company on its acquisition of Seven Stones Winery in Napa Valley.
- Representing seller of a luxury tequila brand with operations in the U.S. and Mexico in its sale to a Dutch public company.
- Representing a growing community grocer in acquisition of additional store location and in general commercial matters.
- Advising various wineries on acquisitions and leases of vineyard, vineyard development, and winery properties.

*Matters handled prior to joining Coblentz.

Professional Activities

Michael is a former member of the Board of Directors of Wine Institute and of the Board of Directors of Family Winemakers of California.

Education

- J.D., University of California, Berkeley, School of Law (2002)
- B.A., Duke University (1997)