



# CANNABIS BANKING CONFERENCE

Wednesday, May 13, 2026 • 8:15 am - 2:00 pm  
Events Center, 20 Commerce Drive, 1st Floor, Cranford, NJ

## AGENDA

*2 CPE, 2 CLE, 4.5 CAFP, CRCM, CERP Credits Apply*

**8:15 am – 9:00 am**

**Registration and Networking**  
*(Continental Breakfast served)*

**9:00 am – 9:05 am**

**Welcome**

*Richard Drennen, Business Development Officer, Shield Compliance*

**Panel: The Current State of Cannabis in NJ/NY and at the Federal and State Level**

**Moderator:** *Tony Repanich, President and CEO, Shield Compliance*

**Panelists:** *Ryan Magee, Esq., Partner, McCarter & English*  
*Saphira Galoob, CEO, United States Cannabis Roundtable;*  
*Principal and CEO, The Liaison Group*

*The Trump administration's directive to reschedule cannabis to Schedule III marks the most significant shift in federal cannabis policy in decades. While the change would not eliminate regulatory requirements, it could reduce tax burdens for cannabis operators and open the door for financial institutions to re-evaluate cannabis banking and lending. This session will explore the current state of Cannabis in NJ/NY and federally.*

**Panel: Cannabis Banking: Real World Perspectives**

**Moderated by:** *Tauhid Chappell, Executive Director, Cannabis Training Academy, NJ Dept. of State's NJ Business Action Center*

**Panelists:** *Jill Scher, Managing Director, Tax & Business Services, CBIZ*  
*Suzan Nickelson, Owner, Holistic Solutions*  
*John Kulin, DO, FCUCM, Chief Operating Officer, High Grass Farms*

*A panel of bankers and industry experts share first-hand insights into the cannabis banking opportunity and how cannabis banking has affected their institutions as it pertains to deposits, lending, and as a business.*

**10:55 am – 11:10 am**

**Networking Break**

**Continued on Reverse**

## **Understanding and Mitigating Risk in Cannabis Banking**

*Ryne Cornacchia, Senior Consultant, Regulatory, Compliance Services Group, Wolf & Company, P.C.*

*Effective monitoring and compliance programs are critical to managing the reputational and regulatory risks associated with cannabis banking. Varying state requirements and an evolving federal landscape add complexity, making strong controls and consistent oversight essential. This session will explore the challenges financial institutions face when serving cannabis-related businesses and highlight practical strategies to mitigate risk, including the role of systems, data, and standardized processes in building compliant and scalable programs.*

### **Cannabis Banker Roundtable: Market Realities, Risk, and Opportunity**

**Moderated by:** *Tony Repanich, President and CEO, Shield Compliance*

**Panelists:** *Ryan Blake, EVP/COO, BCB Bank*

*Caroline Colone, SVP/Head of Specialty Banking Services, Valley Bank*

*Christina Fuentes, EVP - Community and Business Development, New Jersey Economic Development Authority*

*As New Jersey's cannabis market matures, financial institutions are gaining a clearer understanding of what it takes to build and sustain a successful cannabis banking program. This session brings together experienced bankers to explore the operational and market realities shaping the industry, from operator financial health and credit risk to deposit strategy and lending considerations. Panelists will share practical insights on serving licensed cannabis businesses, managing risk in a dynamic market, meeting regulatory expectations, and delivering a strong customer experience. The discussion will also highlight emerging opportunities to strengthen programs and drive revenue and growth.*

**1:00 pm – 2:00 pm**

**Adjournment and Networking Lunch**