



David Cahn

Principal

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Timonium, MD – 410.209.6483

David Cahn brings over 25 years of experience to his multifaceted national practice, concentrating on franchise law. David advises franchisors and franchisees on launching their brands and growing their businesses, and in protecting a wide variety of legal rights.

- **Franchising counsel**

David works with companies that want to grow to determine whether the business relationship they envision would be a franchise and, if possible, structure it to avoid coverage by franchise sales or relationship laws. If that is not feasible or the best path, over 35 companies have trusted David to prepare franchise disclosure documents and franchise agreements. Numerous other franchisors have hired David to improve their franchise offerings and/or help them to surmount regulatory roadblocks, particularly obtaining or maintaining Maryland franchise registration. David's franchisor clients have been in industries such as restaurants and food service, fitness, education, transportation, cosmetology, senior care, physical rehabilitation, boating, home services and improvements, and child enrichment including tutoring.

- **Contract writer and negotiator**

A skilled negotiator, David can represent both sides in an agreement negotiation. In addition to franchise agreements, agreements that David has prepared and negotiated include the sale or purchase of closely held businesses, LLC operating agreements and corporation shareholders agreement, product distribution, commercial real estate leases, and those involving licensing, purchase and sale of trademark rights.

- **Trademarks and Trade Secret Protection**

David advises clients on selecting business names and logos over which they can claim exclusive trademark rights and avoid infringing on others' trademarks. David's clients count on him to prosecute trademark registrations while protecting and enforcing their rights. David also writes and negotiates non-disclosure agreements and advises clients on other methods of protecting their confidential business information.

Services

- Business Law and Transactions
- Franchise Law
- Hospitality
- Antitrust

- **Franchise litigation and dispute resolution**

David began his career as a full-time litigation and trial attorney, and he continues to represent both franchisors and franchisees in disputes arising from the franchise relationship. He has particular experience with disputes concerning covenants not to compete and other restrictive covenants within and outside of franchising. David has served as an expert witness for hotel and restaurant franchise-related cases.

- **Industry Focus**

A significant portion of David's practice is his experience serving as an outside general counsel for various types of businesses. He has particular expertise in representing restaurants and food service businesses, as to franchising, trademarks, real estate leasing, employment, construction and governmental licensing issues. David also is outside general counsel to pharmacy group purchasing and administrative services organization.

- **Antitrust**

David has been an antitrust counselor to trade and professional associations and has experience advising small businesses on their rights under antitrust laws.

Education

- University of Pennsylvania Carey Law School (J.D.)
- Stanford University (B.A.)

State Bar Admissions

- Maryland
- District of Columbia

Professional Affiliations

- Maryland State Bar Association, Governor for 2026 – 2028, past Business Law Section Chair
- Maryland State Bar Association, Committee on Laws, Co-Chair
- Legal Clinic for Small Businesses in Maryland, a joint MSBA and Civil Justice, Inc. program, Founder and Co-Chair
- United Way of Central Maryland, Member
- Region United Network Advisory Board
- Baltimore Jewish Council, Member

Recognitions

- Leaders in Law, The Daily Record and Maryland State Bar Association, 2026
- Franchise Times, Legal Eagle, 2016–present
- Franchise Times, Legal Eagle Hall of Fame, 2022-present
- *The Best Lawyers in America*®, Corporate Law, Franchise Law, and Real Estate Law 2020–2026

- Maryland State Bar Association, President's 2024 Award for Outstanding Service as Chair of the Business Law Section

Publications & News

April 21, 2026

David L. Cahn Honored as 2026 Leader in Law by the Daily Record and Maryland State Bar Association

April 6, 2026

David Cahn Named 2026 Legal Eagle by Franchise Times

August 21, 2025

98 Offit Kurman Attorneys Recognized in Best Lawyers in America and Ones to Watch Lists

August 1, 2024

Offit Kurman Strengthens Business Law and Transactions Practice with Addition of Franchise Law Attorney David Cahn

June 7, 2023

David Cahn to Chair MSBA's Business Law Section Council

Blogs

May 18, 2026

Virginia Reshapes Franchising with Ban on Post-Term Non-Competes

Franchisors with Virginia locations should prepare to revise their franchise agreements and Virginia-specific disclosure materials. Beginning July 1, 2026, Virginia law will prohibit most post-termination non-compete provisions in covered franchise agreements and will require those agreements to be governed...

April 30, 2026

Maryland Franchise Reform Act Passes

The Maryland General Assembly has enacted, by overwhelming majorities, the Franchise Reform Act (Senate Bill 415 & House Bill 730), marking the first significant changes to the Maryland Franchise Registration & Disclosure Law (the "Maryland Franchise Law") since its...

December 3, 2025

The American Franchise Act Could Secure the Future of Franchising in the U.S.

A bill pending before the U.S. House of Representatives, if signed into law, would finally establish clarity on how and when employer responsibility is shared by franchisors and franchisees under the National Labor Relations Act and the Fair Labor...

June 18, 2025

SBA Franchise Directory Reinstated: Key 2025 Updates for Franchisors and Franchisees

The U.S. Small Business Administration reinstated the Small Business Administration (SBA) Franchise Directory on June 1, 2025, reversing the 2023 decision to sunset the

program. The Directory has long been the primary reference that SBA-certified lenders consult to determine...

February 14, 2025

Maryland Franchise Reform Act Introduced

On January 31, 2025, Delegate Marc Korman of Montgomery County introduced Maryland House of Delegates Bill 992, entitled the Franchise Reform Act, which would make the first significant changes to the Maryland Franchise Registration & Disclosure Law (the "Maryland...

January 31, 2025

Virginia Bill That Would Ban Franchise Non-Competes Advances in State Senate

Virginia Senate Bill 798, introduced by former in-home senior care franchisee Sen. Chris Head, was passed unanimously by the Virginia Senate on January 17, 2025. The bill would amend Virginia's Retail Franchising Law to require franchise agreements for a...

July 29, 2024

Franchise Sales Likely to Get New Level of Regulation Over Third-Party Sellers

A bill passed by the California Senate on May 22, 2024, Senate Bill No. 919 ("Bill 919"), will address a gap in the regulation of franchise sales – namely, a lack of transparency regarding the role and background of...

March 14, 2023

SBA Exiting Regulation of Franchise Relationships as Part of Effort to Increase Availability of Its Small Business Loan Programs

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) is amending various regulations governing SBA's 7(a) Loan Program and 504 Loan Program, including streamlining determinations of loan applicants' eligibility as small business owners. As part of the amended regulations, the SBA...

July 27, 2022

"Not So Fast" – Maryland Gas Station Operator Obtains Injunction Stopping Franchise Termination

On May 25, 2022, the U.S. District Court in Greenbelt, Maryland issued a preliminary injunction ordering PMIG 1025, LLC and Petroleum Marketing Group, Inc. ("PMG") to continue its franchise relationship with the operators of the "Airport Shell" retail gas...

Featured Works

- Presenter, Main Ballroom: What is a Franchise?, MSBA's Business Law Section - Advanced Business Law Institute, April 2025
- Presenter, Corporate Transparency Act, March 2024
- Presenter, U.S. Corporate Transparency Act Requirements for You and Your Clients, MSBA Legal Summit & Annual Meeting, June 2023
- Presenter, Ask Us Anything! Antitrust – What Associations Need to Know, December 2021
- Moderator, 10 Recruiting Approaches to Help Address your Labor Shortages, International Franchise Association (IFA) Franchise Business Network (FBN), September 2021

