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“Industrial Hemp - New Life for an Ancient Crop?”



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Abstract: Hemp is generally considered to be one of the first crops domestically cultivated, but it has not been widely grown in the United States for nearly 70 years. Given the myriad of uses for this plant, from textiles and paper to food supplements and pharmaceuticals, it may be poised for a comeback. Legislation has been introduced in Congress that would advance industrial hemp production and permit it to be grown as an agricultural crop rather than classifying it as a controlled substance. Will industrial hemp be the next big thing?

Biography: Michael Bryan is a partner in the Charleston and Dallas offices of K&L Gates LLP, a fully integrated global law firm with lawyers across five continents. Mr. Bryan concentrates his practice in the areas of mergers and acquisitions and corporate law, with a focus on cross-border transactions and agricultural biotechnology. His clients are in a wide range of industries, including agriculture, manufacturing, chemicals and retail.

Mr. Bryan’s legal career includes practice at another national law firm and serving as Associate General Counsel at Monsanto Company. Mr. Bryan serves on the Chairman’s Circle and CEO Roundtable of South Carolina BIO and on the Southeastern Chapter Advisory Committee of the Society for Corporate Governance.