

ASHLEY CLOSE

JOB TITLE

Golden Alternative Medicine

CEO and Co-Founder

Verts Neighborhood Dispensary

CEO and Co-Founder

CONTACT

Phone:

Email:

WORK EXPERIENCE

Golden Alternative Medicine – CEO and Co-Founder

Golden, CO

2020 – current

Responsible for staffing, finances, budgeting, marketing, HR, payroll, licensing, compliance, community engagement, professional development of team members, among other items.

Verts Neighborhood Dispensary – CEO and Co-Founder

Fort Collins, CO

2013 – current

Responsible for staffing, finances, budgeting, marketing, HR, payroll, licensing, compliance, community engagement, professional development of team members, among other items.

Rocky Mountain Organic Medicine – CEO and Owner

2016 – 2020

Manage operations for a Medical Cannabis Dispensary in Golden, Colorado. Sold the business but stayed on with new ownership.

EDUCATION

Ohio State University

2006 - 2011 | Economics Degree

Hilliard Davidson High School

2002 - 2006 | Highschool Diploma

SKILLS

Extremely organized, decision making, problem solving, team leader, results oriented, optimistic, motivated, adaptable, conflict resolution.



Dispensaries. Investing. Management.

Profile

Alex Close is the chief executive officer of Verts Neighborhood Dispensaries, which is a chain of cannabis dispensaries located in Colorado, Michigan and Missouri. He is also the chief investment officer of Sugar Factory Cannabis Company, which is a cannabis cultivation located in Owosso, MI and President of Midwest Wellness, a CBD store located in Columbus, OH. Alex began his career in cannabis in 2014 in Colorado and has since expanded the company to seven locations. He is graduate of Ohio University in 2010 where he studied finance.

Education

Ohio University – Athens, Ohio
B.B.A – Major in Finance, Minor in Spanish (May '10)
Real Estate License (May '10)

Experience

Verts Neighborhood Dispensaries – Nationwide

Chief Executive Officer (August '19 - Current)

- Oversee diversified portfolio of dispensaries and perform management activities; includes building and developing a plan to open and operate a top tier dispensary.
- Prepared budget forecasts for dispensaries in both matured and new markets
- Experience handling and developing intuitive marketing strategies.

All Star Growers – Columbus, OH

Chief Financial Officer (August '20 – Current)

- Specialty in high-end real estate in the Columbus area and surrounding markets. Averaging \$5 million in sales per year.

HD5 Investments LLC – Columbus, Ohio

Portfolio Manager (September '11-Current)

- Building an investment property company that currently specializes in Class C and rentals. Currently managing 170 rental properties in the Columbus area

DANIEL ROWLAND

Uniquely qualified public policy and regulatory affairs professional, helping businesses, governments and communities thrive in emerging and rapidly changing industries.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2018 – PRESENT

PRESIDENT & PRINCIPAL CONSULTANT, CORDILLERA ADVISORY MANAGEMENT

- Secured important policy reforms and legislative and campaign victories while directing federal, state and local government relations for a vertically integrated, multi-state cannabis company.
- Represent clients in industry trade associations and state lobbying efforts.
- Help develop legislation, regulations and market analysis for state, provincial and local governments that are implementing cannabis legalization and commercialization.
- Successfully assisted in strategic planning, education, licensing and compliance for new businesses in the United States, Canada and United Kingdom.
- Orchestrated the application process on behalf of clients to successfully secure licenses in multiple jurisdictions, including in competitive processes where a limited number of permits were awarded.
- Helped with startup operations, secured approved locations and directed government relations for a Canadian retail brand and operator that has grown to 40 locations.

2020 – PRESENT

CHIEF REGULATORY OFFICER, PEREGRINE PRECISION SYSTEMS

- Direct federal, state and local government relations for a multinational developer of cannabis production technologies, hemp-derived ingredients, and synthetic cannabinoid production.
- Oversee all strategic, corporate, government, internal and external communications, including media, public and investor relations.
- Coordinate closely with COO on all marketing initiatives.
- Direct licensing strategy and process at federal, state/provincial and local levels; work closely with COO, Scientific Advisor and Legal team to oversee all testing, filings, product registrations, facility/equipment/process approvals, clinical trials, and applications for new foods, cosmetics, dietary ingredients and drugs.
- Advising on new product development and bringing those products to emerging markets across the globe.

2022 – PRESENT

PRINCIPAL, PRAIRIE GRASS CONSULTING

- Direct federal, state and local government relations for an independent company in an emerging market; secured important policy reforms and legislative victories.
- Successfully secured a license in a competitive process and helped with retail startup business planning and operations.

- Directing government relations, licensing, and fundraising for a startup analytical testing lab.
- Directing government relations, business planning, research and fundraising for a startup hemp processing facility.

2019 – PRESENT

CANNABIS & POLICY ADVISOR, GIBSON'S GOODOLOGY

- Helped with startup operations of a U.K.-based fast-moving consumer goods company that focuses on premium, CBD-infused beverages.
- Direct government relations and communications initiatives with industry stakeholders, government agencies and regulatory authorities.
- Oversaw Novel Food application process and secured inclusion on the U.K. register of approved CBD products.
- Vetting and sourcing supply chain vendors, manufacturing partners and analytical testing providers.
- Representing company in industry lobbying efforts and overseeing regulatory affairs to ensure new products are brought to market in strict compliance with emerging and changing regulations.

2020 – PRESENT

FACULTY MEMBER, OAKSTERDAM UNIVERSITY

- Teach courses on cannabis policy and economics of the cannabis industry.

2014 – 2018

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS, CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER

- Promoted to direct all communications, marketing, media relations and public affairs for the city's Office of Marijuana Policy and Department of Excise & Licenses.
- Critical member of Denver's marijuana policy team; coordinated messaging to and lobbying of local and state elected officials; represented Denver's interests at the state capitol and on state working groups and advisory boards; directed communications for the city's business licensing efforts and implementation of regulations for Colorado's burgeoning cannabis industry.
- Point of contact for and opened lines of communication with hundreds of cannabis companies that held more than 1,100 licenses in the city.
- Critical part of the city's effort to work with licensees on understanding and complying with a rapidly growing and evolving set of regulations being implemented for the industry.
- Coordinated the work of multiple public agencies responsible for the regulation of cannabis in Denver and Colorado, and frequently consulted on the implementation of legalized cannabis for governments and other public stakeholders around the world.
- Other accomplishments included development of a \$1.3 million youth marijuana education campaign, management of hundreds of media interviews and inquiries annually, and spearheading and coordinating intergovernmental and interagency communications.

2012 – 2014

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS, CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER

- Public affairs and media relations manager for Denver Arts & Venues, the city agency that oversees Denver's publicly owned venues such as Red Rocks Amphitheatre, the Denver Performing Arts Complex, Colorado Convention Center, Denver Coliseum and McNichols Civic Center Building.

2009 – 2012

PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER, BOULDER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE

- Directed marketing, communications and media relations for the Board of County Commissioners and several county departments, including Transportation.
- Duties included marketing county programs and events, acting as spokesperson for elected officials, and coordinating interviews, public events and both internal and external communications.
- Critical member of the county's Policy Team; developed and communicated policy position for state lobbying efforts and government relations activities at the state capitol.

2003 – 2009

MANAGER, MARKETING & PUBLIC RELATIONS, KROENKE SPORTS & ENTERTAINMENT

- Promoted to oversee multi-million-dollar marketing and communication function for National Hockey League's Colorado Avalanche.
- Duties included managing three employees, advertising creation, strategic marketing, team branding, media relations, promotions development, media buying and placement, and social networking.
- Supported local government relations initiatives to help secure stadium development.

2002 – 2003

SPORTS WRITER & EDITORIAL ASSISTANT, THE DENVER POST

- Youngest writer on staff, given a steadily increasing amount of responsibility and assignments, particularly for coverage of Denver Broncos, Denver Nuggets, human-interest stories, and local colleges and high schools.

EDUCATION

2013-2014

MASTER OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION, UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO DENVER

- Graduated from School of Public Affairs Executive MPA program with a 3.98 grade point average.
- Awarded Gates Family Foundation scholarship for Rocky Mountain Leadership Program.

1997-2001

BACHELOR OF ARTS, ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY

- Graduated Magna Cum Laude from Walter Cronkite School of Journalism & Mass Communication with a 3.65 grade point average.
- Awarded W.P. Rankin academic scholarship.
- Five-time Dean's List selection.