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## American Beverage Licensees 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting Coming to Denver in 2016

*June conference will bring together leading beverage licensees and beverage alcohol industry representatives*

**Bethesda, MD – February 10, 2016** – American Beverage Licensees (ABL) announced today that it will hold its 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting in Denver, Colorado on June 12-14, 2016. The event will connect leading on-premise and off-premise beverage alcohol licensees for a program full of informative speakers, issue discussions, industry networking and hospitality events.

“With ongoing changes in all three tiers of our industry, it’s more important than ever for beer, wine and spirits retailers to come together to learn what is happening in our industry and explore how they can continue to operate responsible and profitable businesses,” said ABL President Warren Scheidt. “The ABL Annual Meeting is a great forum to discuss important issues facing bar, tavern and package store owners.”

Marking ABL’s 14<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the 2016 ABL Annual Meeting will look at the issues of the day for independent beverage licensees and explore what lies ahead in the evolving beverage alcohol marketplace. In looking to the possible future in other states, part of the meeting’s program will examine Colorado’s regulated recreational cannabis market, including its impact and implications on beverage licensees and the broader beverage alcohol industry.

“Bringing the Annual Meeting to Colorado really hits the trifecta for ABL,” said ABL Executive Director John Bodnovich. “We have a tremendous state affiliate in the Colorado Licensed Beverage Association; Colorado is home to many vibrant beverage alcohol businesses; and the state is a policy and regulatory laboratory for the recreational marijuana market.”

The event will take place June 12-14, 2016 at the [Grand Hyatt Denver](#) in Denver, Colorado.

Announced events include:

- Colorado Rockies/San Diego Padres baseball game hosted by MillerCoors
- Welcome Reception hosted by the National Association of Beverage Importers
- ABL Board of Directors Breakfast hosted by the Presidents’ Forum of the Distilled Spirits Industry
- Retailer of the Year Awards sponsored by Brown-Forman

The 2016 ABL Annual Meeting is open to ABL members and non-members who are interested in learning more about issues facing beverage alcohol licensees. Registration for the annual meeting is \$299 and will open in the coming weeks. Unless otherwise indicated, registration includes access to hospitality events and the general session program.

The ABL Annual Meeting’s host hotel is the Grand Hyatt Denver. ABL has secured a discounted hotel rate of \$219++ per night for conference attendees booking before May 13, on a first-come, first-served basis. Consider booking your room early as the room block is limited and may fill up prior to the deadline. Book your room by calling (888) 421-1442 and referencing “2016 ABL Meeting” to receive the discounted rate.

To stay up-to-date on the 2016 ABL Annual Meeting including speaker announcements and social events, attendees can visit [www.ablusa.org](http://www.ablusa.org) and follow the ABL Conference on Twitter at [@ABLUSA](https://twitter.com/ABLUSA) or on [Facebook](#).

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***American Beverage Licensees*** is the preeminent national trade association for beverage alcohol retailers. Direct retail beverage alcohol sales in the United States generate as many as 1.77 million well-paying jobs. ABL's thousands of on-premise and off-premise licensee members are independent and often family-owned establishments. The beverage retailing industry pays over \$19.3 billion in federal taxes and \$16.9 billion in state and local taxes. To learn more about ABL, visit [www.ablusa.org](http://www.ablusa.org).