



## JAMA: Long-term cannabis smokers show no adverse pulmonary effects

By Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director

Exposure to moderate levels of cannabis smoke — even over the long-term — is not associated with adverse effects on pulmonary function, according to clinical trial data published in the January 2012 *Journal of the American Medical Assn.*

Investigators at UC San Francisco analyzed the association between marijuana exposure and pulmonary function over a 20-year period in a cohort of 5,115 men and women in four US cities.

The data “confirmed the expected reductions in FEV1 (forced expiratory volume in the first second of expiration) and

FVC (forced vital capacity)” in tobacco smokers, but “Marijuana use was associated with higher FEV1 and FVC at the low levels of exposure typical for most marijuana users. With up to 7 joint-years of lifetime exposure (e.g., 1 joint/d for 7 years or 1 joint/week for 49 years), we found no evidence that increasing exposure to marijuana adversely affects pulmonary function.”

They conclude, “Our findings suggest that occasional use of marijuana ... may not be associated with adverse consequences on pulmonary function.”

The results are consistent with other  
*Please turn to page 12*

## Marijuana legalization on Washington state ballot

### Legislature may adopt it first

By Alison Holcomb,

New Approach Washington Campaign Director

The Washington Secretary of State certified Initiative 502 on Jan. 27, 2012 after receiving 354,608 petition signatures — well above the required 241,153 — from the New Approach Washington PAC.

The ballot measure would legalize, tax, and regulate the purchase and possession of cannabis for adults 21 and over and decriminalize industrial hemp by redefining *marijuana* as cannabis with “a THC concentration greater than 0.3 percent on a dry weight basis.” It makes no changes to Washington’s Medical Use of Cannabis Act, except it affords patients new protections from arrest, search, and prosecution, and creates a new system of safe, regulated access to cannabis for all adults, regardless of their medical status.

State Rep. Mary Lou Dickerson, an I-502 sponsor, said, “Washington can be the first state in the country to do this, and I fully believe that other states will follow, and Congress will finally get the message.”

The Legislature held a Feb. 9 joint-committee work session on I-502. The Senate Govt. Operations, Tribal Relations and Elections Com. and House State Govt. and Tribal Affairs Com. heard supporting testimony from former US Attorney John McKay; former Special Agent in Charge of the FBI’s Seattle office Charles Mandigo; former Spokane Regional Health Director Kim Thorburn, MD, MPH; and Roger Roffman, DSW, cannabis dependence treatment professional and professor emeritus of social work at U of WA. McKay, Thorburn, and Roffman are sponsors of I-502, and Mandigo has endorsed it.

Legislators have until March 9 to take action on I-502. If they pass it, adult possession of up to one ounce of useable cannabis, 16 ounces of cannabis-infused product in solid form, 72 ounces of cannabis-infused product in liquid form, or any combination of these amounts will immediately be decriminalized and not subject to any civil penalty. This would be the most progressive decrim law in the US. Every other state that has decriminalized cannabis has replaced criminal penalties with civil infractions (that still permit police to stop people on suspicion of possession and levy a fine). The sole exception is Alaska, where possession of one ounce within the confines of one’s home is protected from  
*Please turn to page 13*

## Colorado set to vote on legalization this fall

By Allison Greenstein

Voters in Colorado will have a chance to vote this year on a November ballot initiative to end state marijuana prohibition.

The measure, which officially qualified on Feb. 27, 2012, would make it legal for adults 21 and up to possess a limited amount of cannabis, establish a system to regulate it similarly to alcohol, and allow cultivation of industrial hemp. Along with generating state and local sales tax revenue, it calls on the legislature to enact a wholesale excise tax, of which the first \$40 million annually is directed to the public-school construction fund.

“We will win because the voters understand that marijuana prohibition is a policy  
*Please turn to page 13*

# Cal High Court to rule on cannabis dispensaries

By William Dolphin, Americans for Safe Access

The California Supreme Court announced in January 2012 that it is reviewing four cases involving medical cannabis dispensaries, including two 2011 cases that led to the suspension of some local ordinances.

In one case, *Pack v City of Long Beach*, a lower court ruled that some dispensary regulations may be preempted by federal law. In *City of Riverside v Inland Empire Patient’s Health and Wellness Ctr.*, a lower court held that local governments could ban distribution. Those rulings have been vacated while the Court considers them. It may be two or more years before the Supreme Court rules on the cases.

“It’s no surprise these cases are being reviewed, as both flew in the face of established decisions,” said Americans for Safe Access (ASA) Chief Counsel Joe Elford, who filed a brief along with the ACLU, the Drug Policy Alliance and Santa Cruz County to request the review of *Pack*. “Most importantly, by vacating the rulings, the Court has stopped local governments from using them to deny patients access to medical cannabis.”

Several California cities and counties have cited the October 2011 *Pack* decision in suspending regulatory ordinances or banning local distribution entirely. The US  
*Please turn to page 6*

## Feds attack medi-marijuana, states respond

### Sustained, systematic use of virtually all federal resources

By Morgan Fox, Marijuana Policy Project

The last few months have seen a dramatic increase in federal suppression in medical marijuana states. The growing wave of federal actions that began last year in Montana has reform advocates wondering just what this election year is going to look like.

While US attorneys in California and Colorado continue their brutal assault on specific sectors of the medical marijuana industry, the federal prosecutor for Delaware recently gave similar warnings. In response to a query from state lawmakers, US Attorney Charles Oberly III issued a letter Feb. 9, 2012, reminding authorities that the federal government is ready and able to prosecute marijuana violations regardless of state law, including acts by state employees involved with licensing and regulating dispensaries.

In response, Gov. Jack Markell suspended Delaware’s fledgling medical use program, mirroring the actions of Rhode Island Gov. Lincoln Chafee when he halted implementation of his state’s new dispensary program. Both cited potential prosecution of state employees as a primary concern, as did the governors of Washington and Arizona. To date, no state employee has been arrested or charged with a crime for carrying out his or her job under state medical marijuana laws.

Despite the warnings that US attorneys could arrest and prosecute state employees, there is little indication that they intend to do so. The Dept. of Justice reiterated this point in its dismissal of Gov. Jan

Brewer’s lawsuit against the medical use law passed by Arizona voters in 2010. Arizona is now in the process of implementing its regulated dispensary system, as is the District of Columbia, set to open dispensaries this summer.

Neither they nor other places with state-licensed dispensary systems (Maine, CO and New Mexico) have had individual state employees threatened.

Aside from gubernatorial delays, the state-level response to the Feds has been one of perseverance. To their credit, the governors of RI, WA, Vermont, and CO have officially requested that the federal government reclassify cannabis as a Schedule II or III drug. This call was joined  
*Please turn to page 4*

## Cal medical cannabis initiative proposed

By Dale Gieringer, California NORML Director

A comprehensive initiative to revamp California’s medical marijuana laws, the Medical Marijuana Regulation, Control and Taxation Act, has been filed by a statewide coalition of reform advocates. Organizers include ASA, the United Food and Commercial Workers Local #5, Coalition for Cannabis Policy Reform, Cal. NORML, Emerald Growers Assn., DPA, Cal. Cannabis Assn., MPP and others.

The initiative is designed to address widespread public concern over the confusing and chaotic state of medical marijuana distribution laws in California. It would establish a new state agency, the Bureau of Medical Marijuana Enforcement, to regulate medical marijuana production, manufacture, distribution, testing and sale. The bureau would have broad power to develop regulations for the medical cannabis industry, pre-empting all local regulation except for zoning of dispensaries. The initiative requires that at least one dispensary per 50,000 residents must be permitted unless limited or banned by local voter initiative. Ambiguous provisions in existing law would be clarified to make clear that sales by state-registered collectives and other businesses were legal.

The initiative protects all existing rights of individual patients and caregivers accorded by Prop 215 and SB 420, and  
*Please turn to page 8*



Former New Mexico governor and Libertarian presidential candidate Gary Johnson (left) joined campaign co-director Mason Tvert to turn in Colorado’s ballot petitions.



## West Coasterdam Report

### California bill would have cannabis dispensaries register with state

California Assemblymember Tom Ammiano, (D - 13th Dist.) introduced AB 2312, Medical Marijuana Regulation and Control, Feb. 24, 2012. The bill creates a statewide Board of Medical Marijuana Enforcement within the California Dept. of Consumer Affairs to oversee the medical cannabis industry. It would maintain confidentiality relative to HIPPA and the CA Medical Information Privacy Act, establish mandatory registration for commercial ventures and authorize local governments to impose a reasonable excise tax.

### Voters get to decide on local ordinances in Kern and Lake Counties

Kern Citizens for Patient Rights helped to collect over 17,000 signatures to overturn a proposed ban. The Kern County Bd. of Supervisors rescinded its existing ordinance to ban collectives and instead put a restrictive ordinance on the June 5, 2012 primary ballot. The proposed ordinance would require medical marijuana cooperatives to be at least a mile from churches, schools and daycare centers, and from each other. If it passes, collectives that are not within the proper zones will have ten days to close or move.

The Lake County Green Farmers Assn. and Lake County Citizens for Responsible Regulations submitted enough signatures to force the Board of Supervisors to either adopt their referendum, *The Lake County Medical Marijuana Cultivation Act of 2012*, or place it on the June 5, 2012 ballot. The groups organized to gather signatures and block the overly restrictive zoning cultivation Ordinance 2960 that passed the BOS last October. [www.c4rr.org](http://www.c4rr.org).

### Medical use advocates launch initiative effort in Santa Ana, CA

In response to the recent actions of the city of Santa Ana to eradicate local collectives by citing code violations, a new PAC turned in wording for a voter initiative to the City Clerk Feb. 7, 2012. The Committee to Support Medical Marijuana Ballot Initiative was formed by several members of the local nonprofits Orange County (OC) NORML and OC Americans for Safe Access. The initiative would require that at least 20 collectives serve this city of more than 325,000 residents and add an additional 2% city tax to collective transactions. The Santa Ana Police Commander had several suggestions that were included as good neighbor policies, such as prohibiting smoking inside or around facilities, no loitering, standard hours of operation and that all under-aged patients must be escorted by a parent or guardian. The Committee needs fewer than 5,000 valid signatures to qualify for the November ballot. — **Kandice Hawes**, Orange County NORML Director

### Costa Mesa, CA officials eradicate safe access in collusion with Feds

Costa Mesa was the first Orange County city to ban cannabis collectives and now, five years later, it has closed every public location providing safe access. When Lake Forest closed its dispensaries Oct. 10, 2011 after contacting the US Attorneys, Costa Mesa sent a letter to the Feds Oct. 26. A few months later, the DEA raided two city collectives and their gardens, Otherside Farms and American Patients Collective. Agents held guns to the heads of small children and the wife of a collective director, but no charges were filed. The next day, the remaining 25 city collectives and their landlords received threatening letters from federal prosecutors to close within two weeks or face further actions. Local activists and patients attended the council meeting and held a protest. Patients and activists plan to join ongoing lawsuits and pursue a voter initiative to return safe access to the city. Only three cities in Orange County still have dispensaries, Anaheim, Garden Grove and Santa Ana, and they also have bans. — **Kandice Hawes**, Orange County NORML Director



Patients and advocates rally outside the Feb. 7, 2012 Costa Mesa City Council meeting to protest the dispensary raids and ban. Photo by Steve Baker

### Patient denied transplant

By William Dolphin, Americans for Safe Access

A California cancer patient has been denied a transplant liver for his use of the cannabis his oncologist recommended.

Norman Smith, 63, diagnosed with inoperable liver cancer in 2009 and put on the transplant list at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in LA in 2010, was tested for cannabis in February 2012, removed from the list and told he has to test clean for six months to be reconsidered. Research has found no adverse impact from cannabis on the survival rate of transplant recipients.

Oncologist Dr. Steven Miles at Cedars-Sinai approved Smith's medical use to treat the effects of chemotherapy and pain from an unrelated back surgery. Smith's cancer was in remission but has recently recurred, and he is beginning radiation treatments.

Americans for Safe Access sent a letter to the Cedars-Sinai Transplant Dept. in November, urging them to change their eligibility policy and re-list Smith.

"Denying organ transplants to medical cannabis patients is a brutal form of discrimination," said ASA Chief Counsel Joe Elford. "Cedars-Sinai would not be breaking any laws by allowing the transplant. It's certainly the ethical thing to do."

ASA has reports of patients cut from transplant lists in CA, HI, OR and WA.

### OR patients keep gun rights

By Doug McVay, Common Sense for Drug Policy

The US Supreme Court affirmed the right of Oregon medical cannabis patients Jan. 9, 2012 to obtain Concealed Handgun Licenses (CHL).

"Ultimately, the impact is that it repudiates the notion that 'implied pre-emption' results in the Supremacy clause trumping the state Medical Marijuana Act," according to attorney Leland Berger. "I am proud of the courageous patients who stood up for their rights to be free from discrimination based on their choice of medicine: Cynthia Willis, Paul Sansone, Steven Schwerdt and Lee Wallick."

The OR Supreme Court had held that, "The sheriffs in this case are not excused from their duty ... to issue CHLs to qualified applicants, without regard to the applicant's use of medical marijuana, on the ground that issuance of CHLs to medical marijuana users would violate a federal prohibition on making false statements about the lawfulness of transferring firearms to such persons," noting that, "[I]t is possible that the sheriffs in this case could themselves enforce the federal Gun Control Act against medical marijuana users who possess guns in violation of federal law ... [N]o state law prohibits the sheriffs from taking such enforcement actions."

**Safe and Appropriate**  
**MEDICAL CANNABIS Evaluations**

 **Frank H. Lucido MD\***  
**Maria Mangini PhD, FNP**

*\*Co-Author  
"Repeal Cannabis  
Prohibition Act of 2012"  
Register to Vote!*

**Primary Care / Family Practice**

*New patients welcome • Patient-centered care*

**In Berkeley, CA Since 1979**  
**For Appointment: 510-848-0958**

*Today's way to represent*

*www.psyclones.net*

**Your online store for apparel, glassware, and more!**  
*"Weed love to hear from you."*

Until now, if you wanted to show love for the cannabis plant you had to wear a giant leaf, tie dye or maybe some famous singer's face. Now it's time to dress for success when you represent medical marijuana. Your dispensary staff will look top-grade with bud tenders wearing high-quality Psychones® apparel.

*Don't get us wrong! Take a look — We've got your party shwag, too. Sincerely, Reggie with Psychones*

Check out our glass and clothing lines at **www.psyclones.net** and click online store, or call us at **661-526-9019**.

 **BOB BOYD**  
**ATTORNEY AT LAW**  
**707-468-0500**

Serving Mendocino & Lake Counties  
Lifetime member, NORML Legal Panel  
[mendocinolaw.com](http://mendocinolaw.com)

 **John L. Adams**  
Attorney at Law

**Criminal Defense • Family Law**  
Drug & DUI Cases • FREE Consultation  
Evening Hours, by Appointment

**405 Grand Ave., Ste. 209 • S. San Francisco, CA 94080**  
**(650) 877-8170**  
[jladamslaw@gmail.com](mailto:jladamslaw@gmail.com) • [www.jladamslaw.com](http://www.jladamslaw.com)

Jerome D Handley, Esq. Serving **Oaksterdam and Los Angeles**

**CONFIDENTIAL**  
\*All communications are protected by Attorney Client Privilege Laws of California.\*  
-@cannabizlaw

 blazin through  
**TAX SEASON**  
**TAX RETURNS**

[www.cannabizlaw.com](http://www.cannabizlaw.com) call: 1-800-517-5166  
\*Personal \*Not for Profit \*Corporate

**"NO ONE BELONGS IN JAIL FOR MARIJUANA!"**

 The Law Offices of  
**BRUCE M. MARGOLIN, ESQ.**  
THE NATION'S FOREMOST AUTHORITY  
ON DRUG AND MARIJUANA LAW

**Call 1-800-420-LAWS (5297)**  
Free initial consultation, office or phone.  
**www.1800420laws.com**  
**MARIJUANA CHARGES - DUI**  
**ALL CRIMINAL MATTERS**

8749 Holloway Drive  
West Hollywood CA 90069  
— At the SUNSET STRIP —  
**(310) 652-0991**  
Call for, or download your free copy of the official *Margolin Guide to Marijuana Laws.*





## Judge recuses himself in Grumbine/Byron case

By Cheri Sicard, CannabisCheri.com

"I've been convicted of 11 felonies but I'm still out of jail and that's a good thing," proclaimed a beaming Joe Grumbine after showing up for his Jan. 11, 2012 sentencing hearing only to have the judge recuse himself from the case. Grumbine had expected to be taken into custody that day, along with former business partner Joe Byron, after being found guilty of 11 counts of marijuana sales in a bizarre trial presided over by biased octogenarian Judge Charles Sheldon. Byron was also found guilty of tax fraud and electricity theft.

Sheldon's antics included making and sustaining his own objections, coaching the prosecuting attorney and witnesses, publicly castigating defense attorneys Allison Margolin and Christopher Glew, and allowing only evidence and points of law that aided the prosecution. This was well documented by the local press, including a scathing OC Weekly article entitled, "Long Beach's Kangaroo Court."

Judge Sheldon sang the praises of the prosecution and its case — while the trial was still in front of the jury.

Following the 18-day trial, Sheldon fawned over a jury that found both defendants guilty of all charges, praising their attention and professionalism (one juror had slept through much of the trial) and offering to write letters of commendation for them. The single shred of compassion he did show the defendants was to override prosecutor Jodi Castano's request to have the men immediately remanded into



Joe Grumbine joined the rally outside the Long Beach courthouse Jan. 11 with one of his youngest supporters, his grandchild Jojo. Photo by Cheri Sicard

custody, thus allowing them to spend Christmas with their families.

The defendants gathered outside LB Superior Court Jan. 11 with heavy hearts and a crowd of green ribbon-adorned court supporters from The Human Solution. Many supporters, who had witnessed the entire trial, had tears in their eyes, expecting Grumbine and Byron to be led from the court in shackles.

But in a twist nobody saw coming, Judge Sheldon recused himself, admitting that he had written a glowing letter to prosecutor Jodi Castano's boss, gushing over the outstanding job she did at trial. While Sheldon said he was completely fair and unbiased during the trial, he said it was a serious mistake to have sent the letter before the case was done. Hence, in order to avoid the appearance of bias, he announced to spontaneous cheers and enthusiastic applause from the packed courtroom that he was recusing himself.

The case now goes before Judge Joan Cassaret-Cassani, who has several options: sentence the men, call for a new trial due to Sheldon's bias and misconduct, or dismiss the case. Stay tuned.

## Sacramento patients may take their case to voters

By Kimberly Cargisle, csparc.org

Sacramento County activists are focusing on a ballot initiative to resolve their complaints, the Patients Access to Regulated Medical Cannabis Act of 2012 (PARMCA).

The measure would allow county voters to decide in November if medical-use collectives will be protected in the county.

Mickey Martin, Coalition for Safe Patient Access to Regulated Cannabis coordinator and author of *Medical Marijuana 101*, said, "Medical cannabis organizations provide a wealth of wellness services to the community, and are a great opportunity to provide much-needed income to a struggling county budget that can be used for public safety, education and healthcare." To qualify, 80,000 signatures must be gathered by June 1 with little funding.

Attorney John Fuery is also working on a class-action lawsuit against the county. "Patients have rights and I am here to defend their rights," said Fuery, a lawyer from the Bay Area. With the closure of about 90 collectives in the county over the last six months, hundreds of jobs have been lost, thousands of investment dollars wasted, and people's faith in elected officials shattered. "The people are ready to stand up," said one patient.

At their July 2011 meeting, the supervisors instructed staff to draft a permanent ordinance and promised a December vote. The process started with roundtable meetings on zoning regulations, operating procedures and cultivation. The planning department, community planning advisory council members and patient advocates all sat at the table to address these controversial and complex issues.

Patients believed progress was being made, but were confused by the ongoing

closure of collectives. The County used building code violations, zoning violations, fines, letters to landlords, liens against properties, medicine seizures and injunctions to force collectives to close. Under this financial and emotional devastation, few collectives remained standing by the December Board of Supervisors meeting.

Instead of the promised ordinance, staff returned with a code requiring all county businesses to follow both state and federal law, an indirect ban on collectives and cannabis cultivation. County staff used recent federal interference, raids, bank account seizures, landlord letters and the *Pack* decision to leverage their opinion.

## DEA looks at SF dispensaries

By Mickey Martin, TcompConsulting.com

The program for permitting medical cannabis dispensaries in San Francisco was stopped, started, stopped again, and then restarted again after a series of confusing messages and miscommunications.

City officials put the permitting process on hold in December 2011 after the *Pack* appellate court ruling put the legality of permitting or licensing dispensaries in question. Then the *Pack* decision was appealed to the Supreme Court, and in January messages from the City were that the program would resume, but permitting was then "put on hold indefinitely" on Jan. 25, 2012. Just three days later, that decision was also reversed and permitting resumed in San Francisco. On Feb. 16, the SF Planning Commission approved permits for three new applicants.

Still, all is not well in San Francisco, as it has come to light that DEA Special Agent David White of the financial investigative

Please turn to page 9

# Do it Yourself Nature Lovin' "Tree" Hugger?



NATURAL MEDICINE

## ORGANICANN

We carry a  
large selection  
of high quality  
cuttings, seeds  
and supplies.

**OrganiCann**  
301 East Todd Road, Santa Rosa

**Oakland Organics**  
705 Broadway, Oakland

**Gia Revelli**  
*Realtor*  
Lic# 01408839

INVESTORS  
REAL  
ESTATE  
&  
ASSOCIATES

"Serving Northern & Southern California"

Residential, Residential Income,  
Commercial, Commercial Lease,  
215 / MMPA Complaint Location Search

**Direct: (562) 572-4978**  
**(714) 504-3600**  
**Fax: (562) 684-4600**  
**giarevelli99@yahoo.com**



EZATM

The premier dispensary  
ATM provider!!!

- Free ATM Placement
- No Liability
- No Monthly Fees
- You Receive \$ Monthly
- Eliminate Credit Card Fees
- Nationwide Service

Call Now! (888) 884-4ATM  
(888) 884-4286

Visit us online @ [www.ezatms.com](http://www.ezatms.com)



## Discovery's 'Weed Wars' stirs a national discussion

By Samantha Campos

Steve DeAngelo co-founded Harborside Health Center (HHC) in 2006 to provide a safe, professional medical marijuana dispensary. It has since been lauded as a model dispensary — the largest of its kind in the country. DeAngelo never imagined that HHC would be the subject of a major television series, but that's exactly what recently happened.

In December 2012, a groundbreaking four-part documentary series, "Weed Wars," was broadcast nationally on the Discovery Channel. For nearly a year prior, a camera crew followed DeAngelo, his family and staff, focusing on the daily operations of HHC and its patients. He agreed to the filming as a way to bring more attention to the discussion of medical cannabis in America. "We wanted to demonstrate that cannabis could be distributed in a way that brings benefits to communities, rather than harms," said DeAngelo. Prior to this, he had been approached by various television producers before deciding on Braverman Productions, who he felt were truly committed to showing his family, facility and staff as truthfully as possible.

The "Weed Wars" title turned out to be prescient when, after filming ended, the Obama administration reversed its policy on medical cannabis and four US attorneys in California launched a massive crackdown on the industry. The show's timing

couldn't have been better. "I have always believed that the main challenge in winning the debate about cannabis is simply bringing the truth to the American people," said DeAngelo. "The veil will finally be lifted, and the nation will be able to see what the war on cannabis looks like from our side of the battlefield."

Discovery enlisted rap artist Snoop Dogg to write the show's title track, created a burning leaf "Weed Wars" logo, and oversaw final edits of each episode. After the show aired, HHC received hundreds of letters from deeply moved patients.

Some in non-compassionate-use states wrote of their serious medical conditions. A former nurse from New York wrote of her work with terminally ill patients: "I firmly believe if medical cannabis was used they may have had a pain-free, less doped-up way to say goodbye in their last hours." Others wrote of being tired of consuming synthetic drugs with harmful side effects, calling for a focus on "helping people with serious medical problems and not in making huge profits."

A retired cop in Ohio noted that 28 years earlier he "would not have looked kindly upon your facility," but he was now considering "alternative therapies." A California officer noted, "Many of my partners know firsthand that marijuana is the furthest thing from a criminal problem in our state. Please continue your efforts in changing the minds of the uninformed."

## States weigh their options in face of federal assault on laws

Continued from page 1

by 48 lawmakers in WA, but it is doubtful how much impact this will have on the Feds.

State lawmakers continue to advance marijuana reform legislation in the face of this federal interference. Legislators in 17 states in all areas of the country have introduced bills this year to protect patients from arrest, and several stand a good chance of passing during this session. Several states with existing medical use laws are considering new protections in their laws, such as regulated dispensary systems, in spite of the reticence of some state executives. Three states are considering bills that would recognize the medical uses of marijuana but would not protect patients from arrest.

Despite federal hinderance, states are still considering new marijuana laws. As more and more of them adopt reforms, the federal pariah will be increasingly marginalized by its policy of interfering with state laws.

## Harborside still fighting \$2.4m IRS tax bill

By Gaynell Rogers, 280ereform.org

"If the IRS is successful in denying all deductions, no dispensary will remain in business. Code 280E is a dagger pointed at the heart of medical cannabis. How much is it worth to have the right to use a medicine, if there is no way for patients to safely obtain it?" asks Steve DeAngelo.

Harborside Health Center was audited by the IRS for over 1½ years. The IRS accepted HHC's records as substantially accurate, but then hit the dispensary with a \$2.4 million dollar tax bill Sept. 23, 2011, invoking 280E to disallow all basic business deductions for expenses such as rent, electricity, insurance, etc., let alone the cost of cannabis HHC provided to patients.

DeAngelo, Harborside's executive director, and attorney Henry Wykowski filed a petition in tax court Dec. 22, 2011 protesting the whopping 'tax deficiency.'

Section 280E was added to the federal tax code almost 40 years ago to stop international drug kingpins from claiming business expenses on illicit sales. Today 17 states allow the medical use and distribution of marijuana. Far from working in violent cartels, civic leaders, taxpayers and good neighbors are following state laws to operate legal businesses, yet are denied tax deductions for ordinary and essential operating expenses. Courts are left to deal with issues Congress has not yet addressed.

Leaders from 12 states in the medical cannabis community, collectives, health support groups and activists have formed a national coalition to stop the IRS attacks on legal medical cannabis businesses in California and other states. The 280E National Reform Defense Team is conducting a series of workshops across the country to educate and activate medical

cannabis businesses and tax professionals.

The 280E NRDT hopes to raise sufficient funding to effect legislative reform if people each contribute \$10 or more online.

For more information, see [www.280eReform.org](http://www.280eReform.org)

## Obama runs from the legalization question YouTube skips top-rated query

By Tom Angell, LEAP Media Relations Director

YouTube ignored the video question that won twice as many votes as any other for the White House's January 2012 'Your Interview with the President' competition. A number of similar questions were mysteriously deleted and labeled 'inappropriate.' The top question was from retired LAPD deputy police chief Stephen Downing, who advocates cannabis legalization. The site did, however, get President Obama on record about tough issues like tennis, dancing and late-night snacking.

Downing, a board member of Law Enforcement Against Prohibition (LEAP), scoffed that, "It's worse than silly that YouTube and Google wasted the time of the President and American people discussing midnight snacks and tennis when there is one truly pressing question on the minds of the people who took time to participate and vote on submissions. A majority of Americans support legalizing marijuana. We're tired of this serious public policy crisis being pushed aside or laughed off. The time to discuss this issue is now."

Many other top-ranked questions were about marijuana policy or the failed Drug War, as happens every time the White House invites citizens to submit and vote on questions via the Web.



**Crop and Collective / Co-op Certifications**  
Grower and Collective Compliance Consultations

[www.CleanGreenCert.com](http://www.CleanGreenCert.com)  
[cvanhook77@earthlink.net](mailto:cvanhook77@earthlink.net)  
**707-218-6979**

Chris Van Hook, California Attorney

**Marvins Gardens Herbal Cooperative**  
P.O. Box 1042, Guerneville, CA 95446

**New Patients Welcome**  
**14016 Armstrong Woods Rd.**  
**Guerneville, CA**  
Open Daily, noon - 7 PM  
**707-869-9687**

**Oldest Operating Dispensary in Sonoma County**  
Current Doctors Recommendation and CA ID Required

2590 Telegraph Ave @ Parker  
Berkeley, CA 94704  
510-540-7878  
[berkeleypatientscare.com](http://berkeleypatientscare.com)

**PCC**  
BERKELEY

**Series Two**  
NUMBER 11

**MK ULTRA**  
PATIENTS CARE COLLECTIVE  
BERKELEY CALIFORNIA

- safe access to high quality medical cannabis since 2001
- home of the **mk ultra**
- free gift for new & renewing patients
- online menu

**AGGRESSIVE CRIMINAL DEFENSE**  
Law Offices of Joe Rogoway, P.C.

**JOE ROGOWAY**  
Attorney at Law  
250 D Street, Ste 201  
Santa Rosa, CA 95404  
**707.526.0420**  
[rogowaylaw.com](http://rogowaylaw.com)  
[joe.rogoway@gmail.com](mailto:joe.rogoway@gmail.com)

**FREE CONSULTATION**

Co-Author, "Repeal Cannabis Prohibition Act of 2012"  
Former Public Defender in Mendocino and Sonoma Counties

**Robert E. Sullivan, M.D.**  
Medical Cannabis Evaluation  
Advice & Back-Up included  
• We return follow-up calls

24/7 Verification

4441 Auburn Blvd Ste. P **916-978-9777**  
**SACRAMENTO** CA 95841

**Green Style Consulting**  
**Mobile Potency Testing Lab**  
[www.GreenStyleConsulting.com](http://www.GreenStyleConsulting.com)  
916-471-9943

Affordable Reliable & Convenient  
Gas Chromatography FID Analysis

**Ferrari 420 Tours**  
Explore High-Class Bay Area  
Medical Marijuana Dispensaries  
with your Prop 215 Tour Guide  
**415 883-6925**

**Cannabis Friendly Professional Concierge, Travel & Tour Services**

**AIRPORT PICKUP**  
**MEDICATE**  
**LEGALLY**  
Let us be your Designated Driver





**MUSEUM TOUR —**  
A group of delegates from the Hemp Industries Association convention took a tour of the Oaksterdam Cannabis Museum, 1776 Broadway, Oakland CA, on Nov. 15, 2011. The museum is the only one of its kind in the US, with a live cannabis garden and regular visiting hours, daily from 10 am to 6 pm.  
Photo by Mikki Norris

**SB 420 author: Dispensaries can make profit**

By Robert A. Raich,\* robertraich.com

No California law prohibits cannabis-related businesses from making a profit.

Opponents of medical use, however, have been spreading disinformation since SB 420 became law in 2003. Their fiction has become so prevalent that it is affecting safe access to cannabis by qualified patients around the state and prompted retired state Sen. John Vasconcellos to issue a letter debunking the claim that profit is not permitted for medical cannabis providers under California law.

Vasconcellos co-chaired then-Attorney General Bill Lockyer’s Medical Marijuana Task Force that drafted the law, and stated in his February 2012 letter that he is “deeply concerned that in the nine years since we passed SB 420, certain people have evidently been advocating a marked misinterpretation ... with regard to whether ‘making a profit’ is somehow not permitted for medical cannabis providers under state law.”

The confusion stems from Health and Safety Code Sec. 11362.765(a) (concerning activity by individual patients and caregivers), which concludes, “[N]or shall anything in this section authorize any individual or group to cultivate or distribute marijuana for profit.” The section governing collectives, however, H&S Sec. 11362.775, contains no such language. Using the most direct terms possible, Vasconcellos’ letter states that the “language does not in any

respect purport to prohibit profit — if that had been the intent, the language would have so stated clearly. It obviously does no such thing.”

Although certain members of the Task Force did advocate for a prohibition on profit-making, that position was firmly rejected in favor of the compromise language used in the bill.

Prosecutors, unhappy with the scope of SB 420, have seized on that language to deprive patients of access to medicine. Some judges have been wrongly swayed, and this letter is an attempt to overcome that propaganda.

As with many aspects of the cannabis laws, there will be no definitive resolution of an issue until the California Supreme Court directly decides it. Many expect the Court to concur with Sen. Vasconcellos’ analysis if the question ever reaches it.

A few local cannabis ordinances do purport to prohibit profit or excessive profit by providers, but those provisions are of questionable legality under the state Constitution and, under any circumstance, they have no relevance to the statewide applicability of SB 420.

There may be many good reasons a cannabis provider may choose to operate on a not-for-profit basis, but adherence to California law is not one of them.

\* Raich is the attorney who took both medical cannabis cases to the US Supreme Court. He was chairman of the Caregiver Issues Subcommittee for the AG’s Medical Marijuana Task Force and sat on the SB 420 Drafting Subcommittee.

**Twelve apply for 4 Oakland dispensary permits**

By Mickey Martin, TcompConsulting.com

The City of Oakland opened up the RFPA process in September to accept applications for four new dispensary permits. After an expectation that there would be roughly 100 applicants for the permits, only a dozen groups came forward and applied. Applications were due Oct. 14, 2011, only 37 days after the application process was publicized, with severe limitations on locations and with the announcement of the big federal crackdown coming just a week before the deadline. A decision was set to be made Jan. 24, 2012, and permits issued to the chosen applicants by the City Administrator’s Office, but due to the complexity of the application process, compounded by complications at City Hall, that has been delayed until at least March.

Arturo Sanchez, who manages the application process, was hopeful he would have a decision in February, but now it appears to be pushed back to July. When asked if the *Pack* case or the federal crackdown were holding up the process, Sanchez said it was not; other “pressing matters” and “the amount of review” were responsible for the delay, “due to the budget and other issues going on around here,” and it was difficult to be sure of a firm date. Sanchez submitted recommendations to City Administrator Deanna Santana and expects to meet with her to make a final decision in March.

The list of applicants included many faces familiar to Oakland City Hall, as well as celebrity Montel Williams and other dispensary groups. Ten finalists moved on to Phase 2 for a public hearing and a more in-depth review of their plans, including a site visit with representatives from the Oakland City Administrator, Finance, and Fire Departments and an exam. Nine public hearings took place at City Hall Jan. 4-6, and one on Jan. 9. Some groups did a good job and had little opposition; others had major opposition.

The City has listed current scoring rankings on their Special Permits website,

but made it very clear that these scores do not predict who will get permits, as many other factors would be considered, including feedback from the hearings. One thing is for certain: There will be a shift in the status quo in Oakland and hopefully patients will benefit from increased competition and compassion.

**Riverside case forcing High Court to decide on collectives**

By Lanny Swerdlow, RN, LNC

Patients and medical marijuana collective operators scored a major victory Jan. 18 when the California Supreme Court accepted the appeal of the 4th Dist. Court’s *City of Riverside v Inland Empire Patients Health and Wellness Center* (IEPHWC) decision that cities can ban medical marijuana collectives under their zoning laws.

Attorney J. David Nick said this is arguably the most important medical marijuana case to come before the Court, as it is all about distribution. “A patient’s right to safe, reliable and local access is at the heart of this case — if patients don’t have access, it almost might as well be illegal.”

Although the court accepted three other medical marijuana cases on appeal, *Riverside* is the one that will decide whether or not a city has the authority to repeal a state law locally by banning its implementation using zoning ordinances.

The speed at which the court took up the case for review — fewer than 30 days when it could have taken 90 — shows it is well aware of the chaos created by the refusal of cities to license and regulate collectives. Mega-law firm Best, Best and Krieger has coordinated actions in more than 30 municipalities to thwart Prop 215.

The unusual 7-0 vote to take the appeal begins an estimated six-months to two-years process before the decision. Patients are encouraging cities to find a rational middle ground between unlicensed proliferation and outright bans to develop ordinances that permit collectives to operate.



# Growtronix

Advanced Garden Automation



Controllable Outlet • Door Sensor  
Co2 Sensor • Leak Detector  
Humidity Sensor • Level Sensor  
Temperature • Motion Detector  
Res. Temperature • Smoke Detector  
pH/TDS/Temp • Dosing Pump

888-872-0878  
www.Growtronix.com



## HUMBOLDT ANALYTICS, LLC

### Cannabis Testing for a Reliable Future



- SOIL • PLANT TISSUE
- POTENCY

**HUMBOLDTANALYTICS.COM**



## A Medical Marijuana Dispensary

### GREENREMEDY COLLECTIVE

Open 7 days a week from 11am-7pm  
2928 Unit C Hilltop Mall Rd, Richmond, CA 94806  
**510.758.7898 • www.green-remedy.org**

# YOUR FIGHT IS OUR FIGHT!



## WE HANDLE ALL CRIMINAL CASES

### Mattern & Mendoza, LLP

Marijuana Defense, Felonies, Misdemeanors,  
DUIs, Drug Crimes, Sex Crimes,  
Expungements, Juvenile.

## MARIJUANA DEFENSE

We welcome the opportunity to discuss your case with you...

Please call us at **888-420-8932**  
or **310-342-8254**  
Visit us on the web at **MatternMendozaLaw.com**



## LAW OFFICE OF WOLFGANG KOVACH

Forming Your Own Private Patient Collective  
Maintaining Compliance With California Law  
Defending Your Collective & It's Members

phone: 949-735-5273  
e-mail: wolfgang@kovachlaw.com  
website: www.kovachlaw.com

Compliance = Defense + Dismissal • Non-Compliance = Felony + Jail Time

To Any Police Officer: I hereby request that you allow me to leave immediately. Otherwise I choose to remain silent until I speak with attorney Wolfgang Kovach, 949-735-5273





## OMAR FIGUEROA

### ATTORNEY AT LAW

COMPLIMENTARY CASE CONSULTATION.

Years of experience defending growers, patients,  
caregivers and members of collectives / coops  
in CA & Fed courts. Graduate of Yale University,  
Stanford Law School  
and Trial Lawyers College.

**707-829-0215**  
**415-489-0420**

omar@stanfordalumni.org • omar@aya.yale.edu  
7770 Healdsburg Av. # A  
Sebastopol, CA 95472  
**www.omarfigueroa.com**



# Feds level bogus charges in medical cannabis crackdown

By Dale Gieringer, California NORML

In blatant violation of Obama's pledge to respect state medical marijuana laws, the federal Dept. of Justice is continuing its crackdown on medical cannabis, closing law-abiding facilities on bogus charges, quashing local regulations, and aggravating legal confusion and lawlessness.

The DoJ has forced hundreds of California dispensaries to close by sending their landlords letters threatening to seize their property for distribution of illegal drugs. Widespread closures have been reported in San Diego, Sacramento, and Orange counties, where hostile local officials invited federal intervention.

The Feds have targeted dispensaries with strong community support that were fully compliant with local regulations in cities such as San Francisco, Oakland, and Sacramento and the state of Colorado.

DOJ officials have cited the federal Drug-Free School Zone Act, which prescribes enhanced penalties for trafficking drugs within 1,000 feet of schools or playgrounds. Advocates say that is a phony pretext for federal meddling in matters which are properly the jurisdiction of local government. California has a law banning dispensaries within 600 feet of schools (but not playgrounds), the same as for liquor stores. In practice, all dispensaries require medical IDs for entry and exclude minors.

The DOJ has targeted dispensaries that pose no discernible threat to kids. In San Francisco, DOJ targeted the Divinity Tree, complaining that it was within 1,000 feet of a playground in the city's Tenderloin District, a notorious skid-row hangout. In fact, the Divinity Tree was located two blocks away and around the corner, completely out of sight of the playground. In between are several bars, liquor and tobacco stores, and directly across from the playground an adult theater blatantly advertises erotic shows.

Similarly, the DOJ forced the closure of the Marin Alliance for Medical Marijuana, which operated without problems for 15 years under regulation by the city of Fairfax. The DOJ complained that MAMM was located near a Little League field. This had never been a problem with the city, as

it had been MAMM's policy to close during Little League games.

"This is nuts," said Greg Anton, attorney for MAMM's director, Lynnette Shaw. "There's a dispensary near where I live that sells guns, narcotics, alcohol and tobacco, and it's full of children. It's called Walmart, and it's safe. So is Lynnette's place. She's proven that over 15 years."

The DoJ has actively sabotaged local efforts to regulate the medical marijuana market by threatening officials with lawsuits or arrest for violating federal law. In Washington, Rhode Island, Delaware and Vermont, it blackmailed governors to quash proposed state-licensed dispensary provisions. DoJ forced Mendocino County to abandon its ordinance to regulate outdoor cultivation, which had raised \$663,230 for the Sheriff's Department.

"It's clear that the federal government on several fronts has been going after any above-ground method of cultivating or dispensing medical marijuana," commented Mendo Supervisor John McCowen, sponsor of the ordinance, "almost as if there was a conscious effort to drive it all back underground. That's going to further endanger public safety and the environment."

## Dispensaries on the docket

Continued from page 1

DoJ even cited *Pack* in an effort to pressure local officials not to regulate distribution.

Other appellate court rulings contradict *Pack*, among them the November 2011 *Riverside* ruling, also under review, holding that, while medical cannabis distribution is not preempted by federal law, cities can lawfully ban it as a type of regulation.

"Now that these bad rulings are set aside, it's important that local officials help their communities by establishing sound dispensary regulations," said ASA Executive Director Steph Sherer. "Dispensaries provide safe access for those with the most serious medical conditions who have few other options."

The other two medical cannabis dispensary cases granted review by the California Supreme Court are *Traudt v City of Dana Point* and *People v G3 Holistic*.



**CAL LEGALIZATION INITIATIVES LOOKING FOR AN ANGEL FUNDER** — Three distinct ballot measures to legalize cannabis were presented by panelists in Mill Valley Feb. 21, 2012. From left to right, Steve Collett said that the Regulate Marijuana Like Wine initiative has a signature lead and a poll showing that up to 62% of voters support its approach. Buddy Duzy said that the California Cannabis Hemp and Health Initiative takes on the legalization of the whole plant, i.e., its industrial, horticultural, medical and personal uses. Dale Gieringer presented the Medical Marijuana Regulation, Control and Taxation Act, which would not legalize non-medical use but would reduce some penalties. Attorney Bill Panzer said that the Repeal Cannabis Prohibition Act was written in legal form to strike down current laws and give the state legislature a limited amount of time to create a regulated market. Each of the three legalization initiatives is in the situation of needing a major donor to underwrite professional signature gathering to meet their petition deadlines.

After the event, the groups released a statement that they had agreed to unify behind any of the three that gets funding. Also presented at the panel was an initiative to reduce penalties and to ensure medical access. For more info see [cannabislaw.us](http://cannabislaw.us). Photo by Sam Sabzehzar.

# LA dispensaries threatened with still another ban

## Prosecutor politics play a role

By Jessica Gelay, [drugpolicy.org](http://drugpolicy.org)

After fumbling the regulatory process for years, some Los Angeles city officials now seek to ban all medical marijuana dispensaries. Those behind the scheme call it a "gentle ban," but the proposal is brutal. The plan would outlaw all monetary transactions for medical marijuana and require all dispensaries to close.

As President of the Greater LA Caregivers Alliance Yamileth Bolanos said in February 2012, "I never thought that after six years of begging for regulations we would be in this situation. Banning is the most irresponsible thing the city could do. It would leave patients without access and let criminals and gangs take advantage of the situation. Those who suggest it are out of touch with reality and the needs of local patients."

The ban would force patients to travel outside city limits to obtain medicine, or to grow it themselves. However, growing one's own medicine is difficult and impractical, if not impossible, for most sick people, as is having to travel 100 miles or more. Most patients will be forced either to go without medicine or to buy it on the street.

Banning dispensaries would harm thousands of the most vulnerable people in LA, patients who need cannabis.

The City Attorney and Councilman Jose Huizar have been working together to convince the City Council that banning dispensaries is the only choice the city has. Their argument relies on *Pack*, the decision that has been suspended while it awaits review by the CA Supreme Court. Lawyers and advocates are lobbying for a workable regulatory solution that can be implemented, whichever way the *Pack* case is eventually decided.

Politicians looking to further their own interests are using confusion in the courts to rationalize trampling patients' rights. LA City Attorney Carmen Trutanich, who announced his bid for district attorney, is actively seeking law enforcement backing.

The motion to ban is awaiting a vote from the full council. LA residents who want to protect cannabis dispensaries are encouraged to call their councilmembers and express their support. Find your city councilmember on the City's homepage, [lacity.org](http://lacity.org), by entering your address in the "Neighborhood Resources" box. Talking points can be found on ASA's website, [safeaccessnow.org/StopTheBanLA](http://safeaccessnow.org/StopTheBanLA).

**Henry C. Levy**  
CPA/ABV/CFF

Serving the  
medical marijuana  
community since 1997

**OAKLAND**

5940 College Avenue  
Oakland, CA 94618  
**510.652.1000**

[hank@levybarrgroup.com](mailto:hank@levybarrgroup.com)  
[www.levybarrgroup.com](http://www.levybarrgroup.com)

**L B G**

Levy Barr Group, LLP  
Certified Public Accountants

**doobtubes®**

The Innovative Leader in Airtight Packaging

Air Tight • Odor Free • Water Proof  
Keeps Odors In, Keeps Moisture Out!

**\$300 for 1000 Tubes!**

**KEEPS YOUR TOBACCO OR HERBS FRESH AS THE DAY YOU ROLLED IT!**

[www.doobtubes.com](http://www.doobtubes.com)  
**510.677.6063**  
[customerservice@doobtubes.com](mailto:customerservice@doobtubes.com)

**MEDICAL MARIJUANA**

**Medical Cannabis Legal Help**

- ✓ Collective Set Up
- ✓ Compliance
- ✓ Land Use-Zoning

**ROBERTS & ELLIOTT**  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

**(408) 275-9800** [www.robertsellott.com](http://www.robertsellott.com)

**"I FIGHT THE LAW & WIN"**

Marijuana Business Formation and Representation

**ERIC D. SHEVIN**  
ATTORNEY AT LAW

**818-784-2700**  
**877-420-ATTY**  
[SHEVINLAW.COM](http://SHEVINLAW.COM)

Criminal Defense, Medical Marijuana Expertise,  
Lifetime Member NORML Legal Committee,  
ASA's Defender of Justice Award recipient

**The Law Offices of J. DAVID NICK, APC**

PROTECTING YOUR RIGHTS UNDER PROP 215 AND SB 420 SINCE 1996  
STATE AND FEDERAL CRIMINAL DEFENSE

**415.552.4444**

CALIFORNIA'S MOST DEDICATED 420 LITIGATION ATTORNEY  
NOW IN DOWNTOWN LA WITH OFFICES ALSO IN  
THE INLAND EMPIRE AND SAN FRANCISCO



# Getting the new crop off to a solid start

By Samuel Janovici

## Inside Out

Everything has to start somewhere and cannabis begins with a seed or a clone.

For purists, the seed is the Holy Grail, but seeds do not offer stock surety. They genetically drift, so growers have adopted the technology used by apple, peach and avocado growers — asexual reproduction. Horticulturists make cuttings from the most viable and supple branches, stimulate them with root hormones and plant them into a growth medium.

For those who demand a consistent gene pool, cutting clones delivers the same stock time and again, guaranteeing an exact copy of the plant every time. Today's tech uses a cellular disrupter, like Dip and Grow, that forces the clone to root quickly — usually in 11 to 14 days. When done right, clones are the best way to convey a plant's genetic phenotype into the future. Seeds make no such promise.

Cloning mediums vary, too. Some are made of rock wool for a sterile environment devoid of pathogens that may wreak havoc on a crop, but cuttings need time to adjust to the medium itself. Coco or sphagnum cubes are a more organic way to get the same cleanliness and they give the cuttings a quicker start, with little or no adjustment time needed. Fluorescent lights work, and so will LEDs. Nutrients must be diluted and the NPK ratio has to be evenly loaded and balanced, as does the pH. In the earliest stage a grower might try using Eagle-20, an anti-fungal spray that kills powdery mildew.

Even clones come with risks. Remember that new clones from outside the garden may come with hidden problems. Use good nursery practices, isolate the new pups and inspect them over a period of a few weeks for pests and diseases before mixing them into a garden. Try to catch that errant spider mite long before it reproduces during the flowering cycle.

With all the new breeds, a grower need not be locked into last year's crop or cling to a variety that doesn't suit their exact needs. Dispensaries may offer some tempting choices. Harborside HC, in Oakland, offers a great selection of top quality clones. Its expert staff makes sure the stock is pest free. Your local dispensary may offer some great strains, too.

Experiment with new cultivars but be aware that not all breeds are created equal. Remember that indica and sativa have different bloom cycles and hybrids can baffle a novice. Research and experimentation are required for a grower to feel comfortable with new stock, but it is a worthwhile pursuit and an evolutionary process every grower can practice.

Be safe out there.

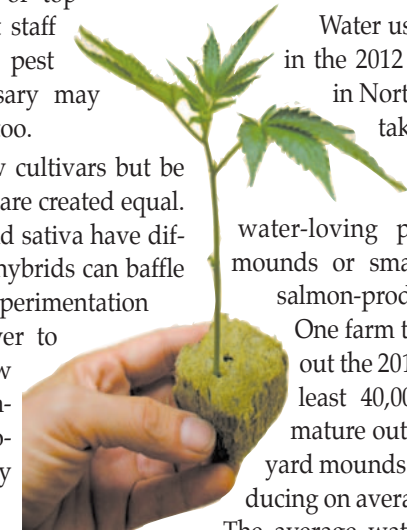


Photo by Chris Conrad

## High tunnel gardening has the benefits of outdoors, greenhouse

By Kerry King, GrowersSupply.com

High tunnel growing is an easy and cost-effective way to establish control over outdoor growing environments, improve production and extend the growing season. A multitude of brands, types and sizes exist, from field-scale to hobbyist.

High tunnels are hoop houses covered with greenhouse film or woven polyethylene fabric, rather like a step between field growing and greenhouse growing. Growers in warmer climates experience great success producing year round in high tunnels, whereas those in harsher climates tend to use the structures for season extension and protecting crops from unpredictable weather patterns.

They can keep wind off of crops, reducing stress on stems and roots, or block out driving rain to better control soil moisture levels. Less weeding is necessary because plants are inside, and fewer pests and ani-

By Chris Van Hook, cleangreencert.com

## From the Field...

The federal government's recent actions against state-legal medical cannabis have been most harmful to growers and patients wishing to work in a legal framework, while boosting those working outside of state law.

Water usage will be a major issue in the 2012 outdoor growing season in Northern Cal, and it is time to take a close look at how its impact can be minimized. Growing a water-loving plant above ground in mounds or smart pots takes a toll on salmon-producing streams and rivers.

One farm that was studied throughout the 2011 growing season used at least 40,000 gals of water for 25 mature outdoor plants in two-cubic-yard mounds and wire containers, producing on average five pounds per plant. The average water use was 1600 gallons per plant, so 1000 plants would use

1,600,000 gallons during a season. The heaviest water use is in late summer, when river flows are at their lowest and weakest. This amount of water could drop the level of a small river flowing into the ocean. With many thousands of cannabis plants growing throughout the North Coast, water usage can easily have a huge impact.

At this time of year, bulk-product storage can be a concern for the grower. An alternative to nitrogen (N) packaging are the readily available oxygen (O<sub>2</sub>) and moisture absorbers commonly used in the food processing industry. Look up 'oxygen absorbers' or 'moisture absorbers' to learn how these inexpensive packets work, and be sure to purchase 'food grade.' They can be used in glass jars, sealable plastic buckets or vacuum-seal bags. Studies suggest they can reduce the O<sub>2</sub> to near 0% in about six hours when properly sized to the storage container. Air is already 80% N, so they need only eliminate 20% of O<sub>2</sub>. Moisture absorbing packets help keep the contents dry. Product should be dried to 10% or less moisture to combat mold and bacteria growth. Both types of absorbers are cheap, easy to use and common in the food industry. Initial reports show that they improve retention of color and smell. Shelf life is longer, and containers can easily be opened and resealed, an advantage if the product needs to be inspected.

Spider mites are a problem both indoors and out, often brought onto a farm on cuttings from nurseries or other suppliers. This is a concern for collectives that sell cuttings. Grean Bicycles research lab has been adapting a method used in the strawberry industry for cannabis, with some promising results. Strawberries infested with a spider mite were held in a sealed container for 24 hours at 95% to 100% CO<sub>2</sub>, and the mites were eliminated. Cannabis

Please turn to page 8

**Steep Hill Lab** The First and Most Trusted Cannabis Analysis Laboratory

Collectively we are all working towards a **future** where cannabis is **free** to be used for the **wellness** of **all**.

Our community is made up of **scientists, activists, patients, growers, dispensaries, extract artists, and edible makers** taking the cannabis movement to the next level.

**Together we can change the way the world looks at cannabis.**

[steephilllab.com](http://steephilllab.com) (510) 562-7400

**The Inland Empire's No. 1 "420 Lawyer"**

• Collective Incorporation Services • SB 420 Legal Advice  
• Zoning Issues • Criminal Defense  
• Felonies and Misdemeanors • All State Courts

**Allen Bartleman, Attorney at Law**

32 Years in Practice • Defending Your Rights Since 1980  
Cal NORML-listed Lawyer • Member of California Attorneys for Criminal Justice

505 N. Arrowhead Ave. Suite #509, San Bernardino, CA

**(909)-885-8388**

**"IF YOU DON'T KNOW THE LAW, KNOW YOUR LAWYER"**

Call for Consultation Appointment

**DIVISION OF FarmTek**

**Growers supply**

**FLEXIBLE FINANCE SOLUTIONS ON GREENHOUSES & FABRIC STRUCTURES**  
TERMS UP TO **7 YEARS** RATES AS LOW AS **4.99%**  
AS LITTLE AS **10% DOWN** \*Subject to credit approval.

**High Tunnels • Cold Frames • Greenhouse Systems**  
**Irrigation Systems • Hydroponic Systems**  
**Shade Cloth • Blackout Fabric • Grow Lights**  
**Growing Media...and more!**

Call 1.800.476.9715 for your free catalog or shop online at [www.GrowersSupply.com/ADWCL](http://www.GrowersSupply.com/ADWCL).



## Cannabis for pain can reduce prescription drug deaths

By Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director

Physicians who prescribe opioid drugs to patients with neuropathy (nerve pain) should consider recommending cannabis as a therapy, according to a peer-reviewed paper published online in the January 2012 *Harm Reduction Journal*.\*

“There is sufficient evidence of safety and efficacy for the use of [cannabis/cannabinoids] in the treatment of nerve pain relative to opioids,” it notes. “In States where medicinal cannabis is legal, physicians who treat neuropathic pain with opioids should evaluate their patients for a trial of cannabis and prescribe it when appropriate prior to using opioids. ... Prescribing cannabis in place of opioids for neuropathic pain may reduce the morbidity and mortality rates associated with prescription pain medications and may be an effective harm reduction strategy.”

From 1999 to 2006, “approximately 65,000 people died from opioid analgesic overdose,” the author notes, and, by contrast, “[N]o one has ever died from an overdose of cannabis.”

Inhaled cannabis has consistently been shown to reduce neuropathic pain of diverse causes in subjects unresponsive to standard pain therapies during clinical trials. A 2010 study by researchers at McGill U in Montreal, Canada, found that smoked cannabis significantly improved measures of pain, sleep quality and anxiety in participants with refractory pain where other therapies had failed.

California’s Center for Medicinal Cannabis Research published results in 2007 and 2008 of four placebo-controlled, double-blind randomized clinical trials — involving an estimated 150 subjects. They all concluded that smoked cannabis was well-tolerated and effective as a painkiller.

\* “Prescribing cannabis for harm reduction,” *harmreduction-journal.com/content/pdf/1477-7517-9-1.pdf*

## Cal medical reform initiative

Continued from page 1

expands them to include civil rights not recognized by the courts under Prop. 215. Patients and caregivers would be free to cultivate their own medicine at home. However, anyone seeking to commercially produce, sell, distribute, process or transport would be required to register with the Bureau as of July, 2013. Facilities that are already recognized by local governments would be automatically grandfathered for the first three years. Registered facilities would be liable only for civil instead of criminal penalties.

The initiative would assess a 2.5% supplemental sales tax on sales of medical cannabis. Funds would be allocated to medical cannabis research, patient education, low-income assistance, emergency room health services and research on best cultivation practices. Local governments could assess additional taxes of no more than 2.5%.

The initiative also reduces penalties for certain offenses that are now mandatory felonies to “wobblers,” or alternative misdemeanors, to reduce enforcement costs in minor cases. These include cultivation, possession for sale, transportation, distribution and sales. Felony penalties for possession of hashish or concentrated cannabis would be abolished.

The Legislative Analyst’s office estimates savings of “several tens of millions per dollars per year” in reduced law enforcement costs from the initiative.

A poll by EMC Research found that 77% of California voters support uniform state rules for regulating medical marijuana, well above the 60% threshold that is considered necessary for a successful initiative. Proponents need to raise \$2 million for a petition drive to qualify for the November ballot.

The deadline for signature turn-in is April 20.

More MMRCTA info at [regulatemedicalmarijuana.org](http://regulatemedicalmarijuana.org).

## Legal medical marijuana may reduce adolescent use

By Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director

State laws that allow legal use of cannabis by qualified patients have little to no causal effect on broader marijuana use, according to data published online in February 2012 by the journal *Annals of Epidemiology*.\*

Investigators at McGill University in Montreal, Canada, obtained state-level estimates of cannabis use from the 2002 – 2009 *US National Survey on Drug Use and Health*. Researchers used difference-in-differences regression models to estimate the causal effect of medical use laws on overall use, and simulations to account for measurement error. “Difference-in-differences estimates suggested that passing (medical use laws) decreased past-month use among adolescents ... and had no discernible effect on the perceived riskiness of monthly use. ... [These] estimates suggest that reported adolescent marijuana use may actually decrease following the passing of medical marijuana laws.”

Previous investigations by research teams at Brown University in 2011 and

Texas A&M in 2007 made similar determinations, concluding, “[C]onsistent with other studies of the liberalization of cannabis laws, medical cannabis laws do not appear to increase use of the drug.”

\* “Do Medical Marijuana Laws Increase Marijuana Use?” [web.me.com/samharper/Site/data\\_software\\_files/harper-wall-replication-wp.pdf](http://web.me.com/samharper/Site/data_software_files/harper-wall-replication-wp.pdf)

## Marijuana use not associated with senior cognitive decline

By Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director

Cannabis use does not appear to have residual adverse effects on cognition or memory, according to trial data published Jan. 2012 in the *American Journal of Epidemiology*. Researchers at the London, England, Kings College School of Medicine investigated the prospective association between self-reported illicit drug use and cognitive functioning during mid-adult years. A total of 8,992 participants who had been surveyed at 42 years of age in the National Child Development Study (1999-2000) were included in the study when the participants were age 50 (2008-2009).

Authors analyzed data on three cognitive-functioning measures — memory index, executive functioning index, and overall cognitive index. Multivariable regression analyses were used to estimate the association between different illicit drug use measures at age 42 and cognitive functioning at 50. Subjects who had used illegal drugs, primarily cannabis, as recently as in their 40s performed as well or slightly better on tests than did their peers who had never used illicit substances.

The scientists noted that, “The lack of association between current illegal drug use and cognitive functioning also appears to be congruent with previous evidence showing the absence of a long-term residual effect of illicit drug use on cognition.”

\* “Is illicit drug use harmful to cognitive functioning in the mid-adult years? A cohort-based investigation,” *American Journal of Epidemiology*, January 2012.

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

The Law Offices of  
**E.D. Lerman & Rebecca Medribil**

- ★ Trial Experience winning large Medical Cannabis Cases
- ★ Pioneers in medical cannabis defense
- ★ We will tell you what you need to know before you grow!
- ★ Individual and Collective Consultations Available

1-800-450-5210 ★ or visit us on the web at:  
[www.cannabisdefense.com](http://www.cannabisdefense.com)

PROTECT YOUR FREEDOM

**TCOMP**  
CONSULTING SERVICE

Contact Us Today  
**888-824-6863**  
**510-377-1990**  
[mickey@tcompconsulting.com](mailto:mickey@tcompconsulting.com)  
[www.tcompconsulting.com](http://www.tcompconsulting.com)

  
Proposal Development  
Application Processing  
Business Planning  
Training Services

**SOLUTIONS FOR THE EMERGING INDUSTRY OF CANNABIS MEDICINES**



**Clean...Green... IT WORKS!**

**WWW.GROBOTS.COM “THE GREEN LAMP”**  
Clean Conscience • Clean Environment  
**1-800-547-6268**

Outperforms Any Artificial Light Source!

Utilizes the Free Power of the Sun!

Comes Assembled 100% Out of the Box!

Basic Package covers up to 12'x18' Usable Space!

See [www.icecold.org](http://www.icecold.org) for Universal Products

• mobile • modular • automatic • 100% off-grid

**1-800-547-6268**

**DON'T BE A VICTIM OF DRUG TESTING!**



**Protect your human rights!**

**— Clear Test —**

**1.800.248.5655**

[cleartest.com](http://cleartest.com)

**Get Involved / Take Action**

Visit [westcoastleaf.com](http://westcoastleaf.com) to read longer versions of many articles, and click on “Community Resources” for a list of meetings by major and local reform organizations who are doing the work and need your help.

**WestCoastLeaf.com**

**Become a WestCoastLeaf sponsor; make your donation online by PayPal.**



# On-site testing system revolutionizing industry

By Gaynell Rogers

One of the nation's leading medical cannabis dispensaries, Harborside Health Center in Oakland, CA, in January 2012 became the first in its region to launch and utilize the new on-site cannabis testing system, QuantaCann technology, working in collaboration with Steep Hill Labs.

QuantaCann is an innovative scientific software and instrumentation system that can be used onsite at dispensaries and collectives to

test and provide instant analysis. In minutes, QuantaCann can analyze the strain, providing THC and CBD potency levels, moisture content, and many other characteristics of the plant. In addition to tracking critical strain-specific data, the system catalogs symptoms and medical conditions



Wilson Linker of Steep Hill Lab demonstrates the QuantaCann technology at the opening of lab's new office near Oakland airport. Photo by Mikki Norris

for which the strains are being utilized, in order to provide a valuable database of information for research.

The QuantaCann uses near-infrared reflective (NIR) spectroscopy to compare the material to thousands of samples from Steep Hill's vast database, enabling the machine to deliver test results in seconds. It quickly identifies strains rich in cannabidi-

ol (CBD), the component known to lessen the effects of inflammation, pain, anxiety and spasms without the psychoactive THC effect. Since CBD-rich cannabis has many benefits, but is also extremely rare, this aspect alone makes QuantaCann a valuable analytical tool to dispensaries.

The use of lab-tested and certified 'clean green' medicine is a trend that has grown exponentially over the past few years. The availability of the QuantaCann system to the industry can revolutionize safety controls and purchasing by adding consistency and immediate results for patient-farmers and providers.

Five years ago, Executive Director Steve DeAngelo was looking for a lab to test Harborside's cannabis, its strains, potency and chemistry in order to ensure that HHC would provide the highest quality medical cannabis.

He collaborated with engineers David Lampach and Addison DeMoura and Steep Hill, and the nation's first medical cannabis testing facility was founded in 2008. After testing over 2100 strains of cannabis, nine rare strains were found with solid CBD content. Harborside has already discovered five new CBD strains since utilizing the new system.

## A cookbook for the cause

*The Cannabis Gourmet Cookbook*  
2012, Z-Dog Media, ISBN: 978-0-9839888-0-9  
By Cheri Sicard

By Mitch Mandell, zdogmedia.com

A new cannabis cookbook gives readers instructions for cooking with marijuana in more than 120 delicious medicated recipes and it also helps the cause of reform. Author Cheri Sicard is making *The Cannabis Gourmet Cookbook* available to worthy cannabis organizations at below-wholesale rates to help raise funds.

Sicard, a professional writer and recipe developer long before she became a cannabis patient and legalization advocate, is excited that her newest book makes cannabis cooking accessible to beginners, yet sophisticated enough for connoisseurs. "The fact that I can pursue my love of food and cooking and help patients and organizations working to reform our ridiculous marijuana laws at the same time is the best of all possible worlds," said Sicard.

The book debuted in February at the High Times Medical Cannabis Cup in LA. Human Solution founder Joe Grumbine said, "This book is going to help us raise a lot of money for our legal defense funds."

Groups who want to participate should contact Mandell (mitch@zdogmedia.com) for details.

### New book:

#### Medical Marijuana 101

*Medical Marijuana 101*  
Mickey Martin, Ed Rosenthal, Gregory T. Carter, M.D.  
ISBN: 9780932551931. 120 pp Quick American Pub. \$14.95

*Medical Marijuana 101* contains the most up-to-date information that medical marijuana users need to know, from the latest research on how the body processes marijuana to findings on CBD, a component that works for pain management without making a patient "high." It answers the burning questions: What conditions can be treated with medical marijuana? What is the science behind medical marijuana? Are there side effects? How do I talk to my doctor about getting an approval for medical marijuana? What are the different ways to take medical marijuana? Where can I obtain medical marijuana?


Author and cannabis industry consultant Mickey Martin, along with cannabis experts, 'cultivation guru' Ed Rosenthal and medical researcher Gregory Carter, M.D. provide a great introductory resource for new patients, and a quick reference for the more experienced user.

### DEA inspecting records of San Francisco dispensaries

Continued from page 3

team requested licenses, ownership information and yearly inspection reports for five of the City's permitted dispensaries in December, and 12 more between Jan. 18 - 31. Only six SF dispensaries have not yet had their files requested by the DEA.

The first five requests resulted in letters being sent to the landlords of the property threatening forfeiture of the property, resulting in the closing of some of the City's best and most compassionate operators, such as Divinity Tree.



**Medical Cannabis Collective Consultations**


**William McPike**  
Attorney at Law  
California

**1-888-420-BUDS**  
**1-888-420-2837**  
**McPIKE@NETPTC.NET**

• patients can purchase up to 99 plants

• up to 40 Strains of Clones & 100 Seeds available everyday

cultivate




wellness

Available on the App Store

Browse the full menu on our mobile app.

1840 Embarcadero, Oakland, CA 94606 • (510) 533-0146  
2106 Ringwood Ave, San Jose, CA 95131 • (408) 321-8424  
harborsidehealthcenter.com • 7 days/wk • 10AM - 8PM

Harborside's Retail Boutique  
**NOW OPEN!**  
Showcasing the versatility of cannabis with the finest artisanal accessories.





## Italian researchers: Use CBD to stop colon cancer

By Jahan Marcu

A research study by members of the Endocannabinoid Research Group in Italy showed in animal and petri-dish experiments that cannabidiol (CBD) may prevent colon cancer (Aviello et al., 2012).

### The Lab Bench

The research team induced colon cancers in mice with the chemical agent azoxymethane. The formation of aberrant crypts, polyps, and tumors were reduced in the colons of mice administered as little as 1mg/kg CBD compared to mice without the drug. The research may have identified CBD's antitumor mechanism in the gut. It appears that the effects of CBD can be countered by blocking CB1, TRPV1 or PPARγ receptors. CBD may act through multiple mechanisms or pathways, but they converge in the phosphorylation or activation of AKT, a protein important for cell growth and maintenance.

The authors also discuss the mounting evidence from thousands of patients in over 20 countries involved in clinical trials of the benefits of the pharmaceutical cannabis-extract Sativex. There are virtually no adverse reports from patients.

Most patients appear to tolerate the drug well with little to no adverse side effects, except for the chance that a patient

may experience "a feeling of general happiness" after administration and symptom relief, according to the Sativex fact sheet from Bayer, Inc. Since there is substantial evidence that CBD is non-toxic and well tolerated in humans, the authors suggest that it could be safely consumed by people to prevent colon cancers.

The cannabis plant is the stuff pharmaceutical companies dream about, but it is not the only plant to contain cannabinoids. Botanists have uncovered almost half a dozen other plants that make them. THC has not been found on many plants but scientists have found cannabigerol (CBG) in other plants. These new cannabinoid sources include *Voacanga Africana*, *Rhodenderon Anthpogonoides*, *Radula Marginata*, and *Helichrysum Umbraculigerum* (Appendino et al., 2011; Iwata and Kitanaka, 2011).

Unfortunately, patients now are prey to a scourge of expensive and untested synthetic cannabinoids, while these alternate plants are neglected pharmaceutical treasure troves. The cannabis plant has provided the world with many important discoveries and potential therapies. It would seem it is only a matter of time before other plants are introduced into modern medicine for their unique cannabinoid profiles.

## ASA takes DEA back to court over rescheduling

By William Dolphin, Americans for Safe Access

An Oakland-based medical cannabis advocacy group hit the federal government with another court challenge over its refusal to recognize cannabis as having medical use. Americans for Safe Access (ASA) asked a federal appeals court to compel the DEA to move cannabis from Schedule I to allow doctors to prescribe it.

The appeal was filed Jan. 26, 2012 in response to the DEA's recent denial of the rescheduling petition filed by the Coalition for Rescheduling Cannabis (CRC), of which ASA and Patients Out of Time are members. It was filed in 2002 but acted on by the government only when the CRC sued for unreasonable delay.

"After stalling for nearly a decade, the government is finally going to have to answer in court for its refusal to acknowledge the medical uses of cannabis," said ASA Chief Counsel Joe Elford. Since 1970, two other rescheduling petitions have sought to restore cannabis to the list of recognized medicines, but the medical record has been reviewed only once by the courts.

The ASA appeal argues that the federal government acted arbitrarily and capriciously in ignoring medical research and practice. It says the DEA was only able to deny the therapeutic value of cannabis by

applying different evaluative criteria to it than to other drugs, misrepresenting research, and relying on unsubstantiated assumptions. It asks the court to "require the DEA to analyze the scientific data evenhandedly," and order "a hearing and findings based on the scientific record."

In the decade since the CRC petition was originally filed, considerably more peer-reviewed research has been published showing the benefits of cannabis for treating a variety of serious conditions. ASA wants this additional scientific evidence to be recognized and considered. Cannabis' therapeutic value is also more widely recognized, including by the National Cancer Institute, part of the Dept. of Health and Human Services, which added cannabis to its list of Complementary Alternative Medicines, noting that it has been used therapeutically for millennia.

The evidence is insurmountable. Thousands of peer-reviewed scientific articles have described historic, current and potential medical uses for cannabis as well as for the cannabinoid compounds that the plant contains.

### Researcher sues DEA for blocking medical research

By Stephen Morseman, MAPS

Professor Lyle Craker of the U of Massachusetts-Amherst filed the opening brief of his lawsuit against the federal DEA Dec. 15, 2011 with the First Circuit US Court of Appeals. The suit aims to overturn an earlier decision by the DEA that rejected Craker's application to obtain a license to grow marijuana for privately funded FDA-approved research and open the door to research that may substantiate many veterans' claims of therapeutic benefits from marijuana to treat PTSD.

Craker aims to refute the conclusions the DEA reached in rejecting his application. He hopes to show that marijuana is within the definition of a medicine according to the Controlled Substance Act, that having an additional cultivator of marijuana is consistent with the legal regulatory framework provided for by the *Single Convention Treaty on Narcotics*, and that there is a lack of adequate competitive conditions with the federal marijuana supply.

According to the Federal Office of Veterans' Affairs, an estimated 6-11% of veterans returning from Afghanistan and upwards of 12-20% from Iraq suffer from PTSD. While there are many conventional treatments for the condition, few are effective. Growing anecdotal evidence of cannabis' value to treat PTSD has come from states with medical use programs.

Very little scientific research on the subject has been done due to the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) monopoly on the research supply and its redundant review process that exists only for cannabis, not for any other drug. Dr. Sue Sisley's U of Arizona study of cannabis to treat Afghanistan and Iraq veterans who suffer from PTSD was rejected by NIDA, despite passing the FDA approval process, so she was unable to obtain authorized marijuana for her study.

Professor Craker is supported in his efforts by the ACLU, MAPS and the Washington, DC-based law firm Covington & Burling, LLP.

# Canna Law Group



## Protecting your business through compliance with State medical cannabis laws

### WORKING FOR COOPERATIVES, LABORATORIES, TESTING FACILITIES, VENDORS, AND GROWERS

#### Services include:

- Incorporation of non-profit cooperative
- Set-up of collective garden business model
- Forms and contracts to operate your cooperative and to manage your patients and medicine
- Compliance audits
- Administrative hearings and litigation

- Education on local regulations, permits, and zoning
- Trademark registration of your brand/strain
- Commercial lease landlord/tenant issues
- Education on cooperative best practices

Free  
INITIAL  
CONSULTATION

Call us: (206)826-9371  
www.cannabislawseattle.com



WEST COAST LEAF

Place your ad today!

westcoastleaf.com

510-275-9311



## National and International Reports

### Majority of Canadians support decrim or legalizing, especially in BC

A poll released Jan 17, 2012 shows that 66% of Canadians favor legalizing or decriminalizing cannabis, while 20% like the current laws. The Toronto-based Forum Research, Inc., conducted a poll Dec. 13, 2011 with British Columbia residents voicing the strongest support for reform, with 73% of respondents indicating laws should be changed. Quebec had the least support, where a 61% majority of respondents support changing the laws. Baby boomers were the most likely to back reform, at 73% of respondents aged 55 - 64 supporting it. Meanwhile the Liberal Party of Canada approved a new party policy Jan. 15, 2012 calling for the legalization and regulation of cannabis.

### Sweden approves oral medical marijuana for MS patients

Swedish officials announced the approval Feb. 12, 2012 of a marijuana-based prescription medicine for multiple sclerosis patients who get no relief from standard drugs. The sublingual spray used for stiffness and muscle cramps will be closely monitored in this prohibitionist country. Spain, Germany, Denmark and the UK also have approved the spray.

### Malay couple gets life for marijuana plant and less than two ounces

A Malay court in Kuching, Sarawak Province, on Jan. 31, 2012 sentenced a married couple to life in prison for having a small amount of marijuana and a plant in their home on Jan. 12, 2009. The husband was also sentenced to nine lashes of the cane. The judge imposed sentence on Tajol Ashikin Tambi, 39, and Rozaimah Mat, 37. Each was convicted of two offenses under Malaysia's Dangerous Drug Act of 1952 and sentenced to three years for sharing 53.51 grams of marijuana (less than an ounce each) plus life in prison for cultivation. The judge hit the couple with a very harsh penalty for claiming their child had planted the marijuana, but he suspended the caning. — *Phil Smith*, stopthedrugwar.org

### NBA stops drug testing its players for cannabis during the off-season

The National Basketball Assn.'s new labor agreement signed Nov. 25, 2011, ends drug testing of players for marijuana during the off-season, but will continue to test for performance-enhancing drugs like steroids and human growth hormones. Researchers wrote in the November *American Journal of Sports Medicine* that cannabis may help athletes by reducing fear, anxiety, depression and tension, and helping with sleep and recovery as its analgesic effects treat pain and injuries. Some self-report that it helps them focus better and enhances their creativity, decision making and self-confidence.

### Rhode Island legislature tilts in favor of decriminalizing marijuana

Rhode Island will likely decriminalize marijuana possession this year. HB7092 was introduced by Rep. John Edwards on Jan. 11, 2012 and referred to the House Judiciary Committee. This bill would reduce the penalty for adult possession of up to an ounce of cannabis from a misdemeanor to a civil offense punishable by a \$150 fine. The House bill has 41 sponsors (including the minority leader) out of 75 members, and the Senate bill has

## Dutch coffeeshop rules causing confusion, anger

By Derrick Bergman, GONZO Media, VOC \*

Will 2012 be the last year that Dutch coffeeshops can welcome foreign customers? The rules officially changed on the first of January, but it remains unclear whether policies of the shaky right-wing government will prevail.

In typical Dutch fashion, the new scheme is extremely complicated and hard to explain. The goal is to turn all coffeeshops into private clubs, with memberships limited to 2,000 each. Only residents of the Netherlands can obtain a membership. The physical 'weed pass' that Minister of Justice and Security Opstelten had announced is no longer mandatory, a ministry spokesperson declared recently.

Opposition to the new rules is growing steadily, not only among shop owners and their visitors, but also from local governments and ordinary citizens, who antici-

pate that widespread, large-scale street dealing will emerge to fill the gap if the new rules are enforced.

Meanwhile, the Dutch parliament still hasn't debated the issue. The national government's debate on drug policy has been

tabled since March 2008, leaving the Ministry to dictate policies — and the activists to stew in skepticism and anger.

Two events are planned in Amsterdam to protest the ongoing wave of repression. A '420 Weed Pass Smoke Out' has been organized by coffeeshop-news.nl moderator Peter Lunk for April 20, and VOC (Society

for the Abolition of Cannabis Prohibition) will hold its annual free Cannabis Liberation Day festival June 17.

\* voc-nederland.org / www.coffeeshopnews.nl



23 sponsors (including the majority leader and some Republicans) out of 38 members. According to a January 2012 survey by Public Policy Polling, 65% of Rhode Islanders support cannabis decriminalization and 52% support taxing and regulating cannabis like alcohol. — *Jesse Stout* For more info, see tinyurl.com/87kp6nj.

### Undercover NYPD narc kills unarmed teen after he flushes marijuana

An undercover New York City NYPD narcotics officer shot and killed an unarmed Bronx 18-year-old on Feb. 2, 2012 as he was allegedly trying to flush his stash down a toilet in his own home. Ramarley Graham became the eighth person to die in 2012 US drug law enforcement operations, apparently over small amounts of marijuana. Narcs had already arrested two men for selling drugs when they approached Graham, who ran to his nearby home, pursued by police, and into a second-floor bathroom. An unidentified officer confronted him, and in the ensuing struggle the officer shot Graham in the chest. He was pronounced dead at a local hospital. A small amount of cannabis was allegedly found floating in the toilet bowl. "The cops told me they were chasing him. He had weed, and that's it," said his mother. — *Phil Smith*, stopthedrugwar.org

## No More Taxation Without Legalization

### Oaksterdam:

Home of Measure Z.

Cannabis for adults by adults.

[oaksterdam.com](http://oaksterdam.com)

For Info: Call the  
Measure Z Hotline  
(510)355-6041

The Measure Z  
Oversight Committee  
meets every 3rd  
Thursday of  
the Month at  
Oakland City Hall



## OAKSTERDAM UNIVERSITY

Quality Training For The Cannabis Industry



- Fast Track semesters, Basic and Advanced weekend seminars.
- Indoor and Outdoor horticulture semester programs.
- 30,000 square foot Oakland campus.
- America's first and most prestigious cannabis college
- Instruction by the biggest names in the cannabis industry
- Learn to grow your own cannabis, train to work in a collective, or open your own!

To Enroll: (510)251-1544 [oaksterdam.com](http://oaksterdam.com)  
1600 Broadway, Oakland, California 94612



## Harm reduction, human rights in Argentine drug policies

By Michael Bifari, Argentine correspondent

When Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner began her second term as Argentina's president Dec. 10, 2011, after winning more than 53% of votes cast in the last election, nobody expected her to make swift and significant changes in her cabinet. Yet, just two days later she removed Jose Granero as the *sedronar* (DEA liaison). Granero had battled with Minister Anibal Fernandez, who favors the pursuit of human rights- and harm reduction-based policies.

Fernandez had made a strong campaign about the failures of Drug War policy, and worked hard to forge a strong political base to advocate for changes in Argentine and international law.

Argentina and Uruguay have agreed to work together to defend this new paradigm before the UN. This is an affirmation of what began three years ago when the

Argentine Supreme Court ruled that possession of small amounts of drugs for obviously personal use could no longer be treated as a crime.

There are now six initiatives attempting to change the nation's drug laws. All of them are positive — considering that the current law sets 4 – 15 years in prison for growing cannabis. In the meantime, few have been going to prison lately. Argentina had an average of 15,000 arrests for small amounts of cannabis in the last year, but only three trials went forward; the rest were dismissed.

Meanwhile, lawyers and justice employees still often steal evidence, making for illicit arrangements with corrupt police and bureaucrats.

The already strong and growing Argentine cannabis movement is watching carefully as the new policies go into effect.

## Ohio readies its own medical marijuana ballot measure

By Mary Jane Borden, [www.omca2012.org](http://www.omca2012.org)

The Ohio attorney general certified in January the Medical Cannabis Amendment of 2012 (OMCA) as eligible to gather the 385,000+ signatures necessary to place the measure on the ballot for the fall election. While the OMCA counts itself among a number of ballot initiatives slated for 2012, it stands out as unique and special.

After decades of criminal penalties, a new twist has patients suffering civil sanctions such as the loss of jobs, housing, education or children. A small group of organizers turned to the Ohio Constitution. Its *Article 1: Bill of Rights* spoke volumes: "All [people] are, by nature, free and independent, and have certain inalienable rights, among which are those of enjoying and defending life and liberty, acquiring, possessing, and protecting property, and seeking and obtaining happiness and safety."

The OMCA is crafted as a constitutional amendment that sets forth eight rights for Ohio residents, who would be eligible to use cannabis as medicine for a diagnosed debilitating medical condition, and it establishes a Commission of Cannabis Control to regulate medical use and to support, uphold and defend those rights.

First and foremost, the proposal protects medical cannabis patients. Immediately upon its passage, the right to use cannabis would serve both as an affirmative defense to criminal prosecution and as a bar against civil discrimination.

The OMCA is patient-focused and speaks directly to privacy and confidentiality rights. As with other medications, patients would have the right to possess cannabis in amounts sufficient to meet

their individual medical needs. Patients and their caregivers could grow their own or acquire sufficient amounts from state-licensed providers.

The short, well thought-out OMCA ballot language will allow Ohio's sick, dying and disabled finally to live free of constraints imposed by cannabis prohibition.

## Pulmonary function study

*Continued from page 1*

reports finding no significant decrease in pulmonary function associated with moderate cannabis smoke exposure. A 2007 literature review by researchers at the Yale U School of Medicine and published in the *Archives of Internal Medicine* found that cannabis smoke is not associated with airflow obstruction (emphysema), as measured by airway hyperactivity, forced expiratory volume, or other measures.

The largest case-controlled study ever to investigate the respiratory effects of marijuana smoking reported in 2006 that cannabis use was not associated with lung-related cancers, even among subjects who reported smoking more than 22,000 joints over their lifetime. "We hypothesized that there would be a positive association between marijuana use and lung cancer, and that the association would be more positive with heavier use," stated its lead researcher, Dr. Donald Tashkin of California's UCLA. "What we found instead was no association at all, and even a suggestion of some protective effect," in that marijuana smokers had lower incidences of lung cancer than non-users.

\* "Association between marijuana exposure and pulmonary function over 20 years," *JAMA*, January 2012.

## NJ Court: 5 years in prison for MS patient

By Ken Wolski, RN, MPA, [cmmnj.org](http://cmmnj.org)

Multiple sclerosis (MS) patient John Ray Wilson sits in a New Jersey cell serving a five-year prison sentence for his medical use of marijuana after the state Supreme Court refused in January, 2012 to hear his appeal.

Wilson was arrested in August 2008 and charged with "manufacturing" the 17 cannabis plants he used to treat his MS. He faced 20 years in state prison. At trial, Superior Court Judge Robert Reed would not let the jury hear the reason Wilson was growing the plants, stripping him of his only defense. Many in the community felt this was an injustice and protested outside the Somerville court house. Wilson was acquitted of the most serious charge, but convicted of second degree manufacturing in December 2009, and sentenced to five years in prison in March 2010.

On July 26, 2011, an appellate court, agreeing with the trial judge that there is no "personal use" exemption to the charge of manufacturing over 10 plants, affirmed Wilson's conviction and sentencing. It did not matter that he was using the marijuana to treat his MS, the Appellate Court ruled, and it held that five years in prison was an appropriate sentence.

MS is a qualifying condition for marijuana therapy in New Jersey according to the two-year-old Compassionate Use Act, but the state's Medicinal Marijuana Program is not operational yet.

Wilson's attorney, William Buckman, called the appellate court decision "wrong-headed and a vicious travesty."

Governor Chris Christie has not responded to appeals for a pardon or sentence commutation for Wilson from State Senators Nicholas Scutari (D - Linden) and Raymond Lesniak (D - Union). Sen. Lesniak noted, "Mr. Wilson was not selling drugs on our streets. He was merely trying to alleviate the symptoms of a dreadfully painful disease. It is unconscionable that he [is now] behind bars."

The National MS Society confirmed in an Expert Opinion Paper in 2008 that standard therapies often provide inadequate relief for the symptoms of MS and that marijuana helps with MS symptoms such as pain and spasticity. Moreover, the experts said that cannabis is neuroprotective and could actually limit progression of this incurable disease. An estimated 15% of MS patients already use it for symptom relief, according to the MS Society.

The Coalition for Medical Marijuana, New Jersey, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit educational

organization that is holding a series of events to support Wilson.

For information, see [cmmnj.org](http://cmmnj.org) and Wilson's Facebook page, 'Support John Ray Wilson - New Jersey MS Patient.'

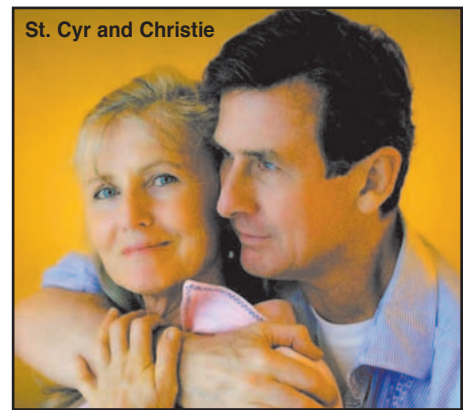


Photo by Walczuk

## Christie, still in custody, weds and prepares for trial

By Sharon Letts, Secret Garden Productions

Hawai'i's licensed Marijuana Minister Roger Christie and co-defendant Share St. Cyr were wed Jan. 6, 2012 at the Federal Detention Center in Honolulu. Christie has been held without bail since July 8, 2010 for distribution to his followers of the THC Ministry's holy sacrament, cannabis. A court date is set for Aug. 8, 2012.

Christie's Hilo-based storefront ministry was first raided in March 2010, when Christie was arrested and released with its "Green 14" ministry members. The raid hit a farm and residences where members were growing sacrament for the ministry in quantities well above state standards for medical use. Christie said the church was never a dispensary; it was a true and legal religion operating under the First Amendment to the US Constitution.

The couple rejected a plea bargain on Jan. 18, 2012 that would have given Christie a federally imposed mandatory five-year prison sentence, less time served, with a two- to three-year sentence for Share, less 18 months of time served.

The couple were wed at the detention center, in an intimate ceremony that included a kiss but lacked some basics, such as a hemp prayer shawl and cannabis-infused Holy Anointing Oil, mandated from a recipe found in *The Bible* (Exodus 30). Christie is quietly preparing a motion to dismiss. *Amicus* briefs are still needed.

The ministry's Green 14 are working round the clock to raise \$600 a month to cover the cost of preparing from the center.

**Should Workers Be Judged By What's In Their Urine?**

**Just Say NO! [www.CanORML.org/drugtesting](http://www.CanORML.org/drugtesting)**

**Your donation to one group will help 130 other orgs**

For more than fifteen years, DrugSense has helped both organizations and individuals speak truth to power.

We are the 501(c)(3) non-profit hub for cannabis reform, hosting over 130 websites for like-minded organizations and transforming dedicated volunteers into skilled activists.

Those who have paved the way to safe and legal access deserve our continued support. Your tax-deductible donation to DrugSense amplifies the reform message, while empowering reform organizations and individuals.

Contribute where it counts. Donate to DrugSense today.

**DrugSense** MAP INC.

[www.DrugSense.org](http://www.DrugSense.org) [www.MAPinc.org](http://www.MAPinc.org)

Visit <http://drugsense.org/donate/> or send a check payable to DrugSense to:  
14252 Culver Drive #328 • Irvine, CA 92604-0326 • (800) 266-5759  
Moving the debate on cannabis from Insanity to Humanity

**See a living marijuana garden!**

**Come to the OAKSTERDAM Cannabis MUSEUM**

**& Visitor Information Center.**

**SCIENCE! HISTORY! HEMP! INDUSTRY!**

**Now Open Daily, 10 - 6**

1776 Broadway, Downtown Oakland, CA 94612  
[www.OaksterdamCannabisMuseum.com](http://www.OaksterdamCannabisMuseum.com)

The Museum is seeking donors to add to the collection and sponsors for exhibits and window displays.



## Colo initiative set for the November ballot

*Continued from page 1*

long overdue for repeal,” said Mason Tvert, co-director of the Campaign to Regulate Marijuana Like Alcohol.

“Polls show more Coloradans consistently support making marijuana legal than oppose it, and we are confident they will pass this measure and make history this November.”

In January, proponents submitted more than 163,000 signatures in support of the measure but fell about 2,400 valid signa-

tures short of the 86,105 needed to qualify for the ballot. They were allotted a 15-day period to collect more signatures for the petition, and submitted 14,000 additional signatures in February, guaranteeing the measure will appear on the November 2012 ballot.

At its second signature turn-in, the campaign was joined by former Republican two-term New Mexico governor Gary Johnson, who formally endorsed the initiative and discussed its significance.

“Coloradans have the chance to end marijuana prohibition for the entire country,” Johnson told KUSA NBC 9 News in Denver. “There has to be a first state, and Colorado has that opportunity.”

## Washington state ballot

*Continued from page 1*

government interference under the state constitution as a matter of privacy.

The measure also tasks Liquor Control Board with developing and adopting rules for licensing and regulating cannabis producers, processors, and retailers by Dec. 1, 2013. It specifies that cannabis growing, processing and selling in compliance with I-502 and rules adopted to implement it “shall not constitute criminal or civil offenses under Washington state law.”

If the legislature fails to take action, it will go onto the November 2012 general election ballot. A SurveyUSA poll conducted in November 2011 found that 57% of Washington voters supported “a proposal to legalize possession of up to one ounce of marijuana ... and subject the purchase of marijuana to a 25% tax.”

## Richard Branson joins DPA board

Virgin Group founder and social entrepreneur Richard Branson has joined the Honorary Board of the Drug Policy Alliance (DPA), the leading organization in the fight for alternatives to current prohibitionist drug policies. Its Honorary Board includes prominent leaders from across the political spectrum who are renowned in the fields of law, health, business, media and politics — from Harry Belafonte, Russell Simmons, Arianna Huffington and Sting to a former US secretary of state, secretary of defense, surgeon general, attorney general, and chairman of the Federal Reserve. — **Jag Davies**, Drug Policy Alliance

## Chronic pain patients suffer attack in Hawai'i

**By Matt Rifkin**

When the Hawai'i state legislature opened in January 2012, several bills favorable to patients were introduced in the Senate to include PTSD as a qualifying condition, clarify some language in the law, allow for the transfer of seeds, clones and medicine among patients, add cannabis as an option in the patients' pain bill of rights and even create a pilot dispensary program.

Unfortunately, one bill introduced into each chamber was written by the administrator of the medical use program, the Dept. of Public Safety's Narcotics Enforcement Division, to drastically reduce the number of patients and put fear into those who remain in the program.

The bills, HB 1963 and SB 2026 seek to remove chronic pain as a stand-alone qualifying condition, increase penalties for “fraudulent misrepresentation” to a class C felony, suspend patients from the program for up to three years for violating its “conditions of use” and capping at three the number of ‘blue cards’ for a single grow location.

“This is an outrageous attempt by law enforcement to force patients away from a safe medicine, cannabis, and make them use dangerous opioids or NSAIDs,” said Andrea Tischler, co-chair of the Big Island chapter of Americans for Safe Access. “The overwhelming majority of patients will suffer due to the actions of a minority who may have abused the program.”

Law enforcement has been making presentations at Rotary Clubs and community meetings, making no secret of its allegations of abuse in the program and stressing that 97% of patients qualify by chronic pain. HB 1963 seeks to close this ‘loophole’ by eliminating chronic pain as a qualifying condition unless it is the direct result of another medical condition.

There are only 7,500 patients statewide, less than 1% of the total population, so how widespread is this ‘abuse’? Police do not release specific data, they just cite a few patients being arrested with substantially more than their legal limit — and not necessarily more than they need.

The House Health and Public Safety Committees passed HB 1963 with amendments on Feb. 2. The bill must pass two more committees before going to the full House, then to the Senate.

There is still hope that some of the good bills may get hearings and move forward, but clearly patients are in a fight just to keep HB 1963 from progressing.

“It’s still early in the session and just about anything can happen. However, the amended version has confirmed our worst fears, that chronic pain has been removed as a qualifying condition. It is now our top priority to stop this bill. It is essential that patients submit testimony in strong opposition to HB 1963. We must raise our voices,” said Tischler.

## DoJ threats hit Colo medical cannabis providers

**By Aaron Smith**, NCIA

The US Attorney's office sent 23 letters to medical marijuana centers (MMCs) in Colorado on Jan. 13, 2012, threatening the owners and landlords with asset forfeiture and prosecution under federal drug laws that do not recognize state medical cannabis laws. Medical use has been legal in the state since 2000.

The letters are similar to actions in California last year. Colorado is unique, however, in that its medical marijuana industry is tightly regulated by the state through the Medical Marijuana Enforcement Division. This round of threatening letters, penned by Obama appointee John Walsh, specifically targets MMCs operating within 1,000 feet of a school. Medical cannabis providers within these ‘Drug Free Zones’ could face enhanced penalties if prosecuted under federal law.

Colorado's state law already prohibits MMCs from locating within 1,000 feet of a school, except for those operating under a ‘grandfather’ clause.

Cannabis advocates are perplexed by the move. In Congressional testimony just weeks before the threats arrived in Colorado mailboxes, US Attorney General Eric Holder said the Dept. of Justice would not use its limited resources to pursue

cases against cannabis providers acting in compliance with state laws.

“That’s what’s kind of maddening to any advocates like myself,” Denver attorney and medical cannabis advocate Brian Vicente told the *Denver Post* in response to the letters. “None of these dispensaries [is] in violation of state law.” He is working with a coalition of state and national groups to push back against this latest challenge to state law.

Outraged by the duplicity on the part of the Federal DoJ, advocates across the state staged a day of action Jan. 25. Hundreds of calls from voters urging representatives to stand up for state law and for the patients who rely on cannabis poured into the offices of Colorado's congressional delegation. The National Cannabis Industries Assn. and other national advocacy and industry groups are upping the pressure on Congress and the White House to harmonize federal law with the medical use laws of states like Colorado.

The federal prosecutor's office has stated that this is just the first round in a series of letters that will target Colorado MMCs within close proximity to “sensitive” uses, but at press time we unaware of any other than the initial 23.

More information at theCannabisIndustry.org

### WHAT SHOULD I GROW NEXT?

CannCast.com is a closed social network for Medical Cannabis Dispensaries and Providers. We help providers with a certain strain find a dispensary that is requesting it, and vice versa.



#### DISCREET

No IP Tracking. Our system only collects the data that you need to facilitate a meeting in an efficient, effective manner.



#### SECURE

CannCast uses 256-bit SSL encryption throughout the website.



#### POWERFUL

Connect with dispensaries, form mutually beneficial relationships and build a reputation.



#### SMART

Stay in touch with demand trends so that you don't find yourself growing a strain that no one needs.



#### EFFICIENT

Interested parties only. No more excessive traveling and waiting in lines, only to be told that your medicine isn't needed.



#### FREE

Basic version is 100% free to use. Upgrade to Premium at any time.



### Steve H. Spiegelman

Attorney & Counselor at Law



**Criminal Defense  
Collectives • Consultations**

MarijuanaLaw@gmail.com

**707-575-1103**

**703 Second St. Suite 401, Santa Rosa CA 95404**



### JAMES ANTHONY

Attorney at Law

**Dispensary & Collective Cultivation Permits**

www.MCDLawyer.com

**(510) 842-3553**

### The Cannabis Papers

*A citizen's guide to cannabinoids*

By Publius

**Available now on  
www.thecannabispapers.com**

**James J. Clark Law Offices P.C.**

**James J. Clark**

Lawyer

*"I exclusively handle criminal cases involving cannabis and medical cannabis issues. Available for consultation on cases throughout California."*



**7770 Healdsburg Ave. Ste A, Sebastopol, CA 95472**

**Oakland 510-420-8484**

**james.clark@colorado.edu**

**Sonoma 707-823-4209**

**Fax 707-861-9187**

### The Lentz Law Firm

Expert Legal Representation • Criminal Defense  
Counsel For Medical Marijuana Collectives

1055 Wilshire Blvd, Suite 1996

Los Angeles, CA 90017

**Jacek W. Lentz**

**Tel. (213) 250 - 9200**

Fax (213) 250 - 9161

**lentzlawfirm.com**





## Michigan eyes statewide, local Detroit initiatives

By Michael Whitty, Advisory Board MINORML

Michigan activists are fighting back against the actions of the anti-marijuana state attorney general, the recent closures of many dispensaries, and bills proposed by state legislators which would restrict the use of medical marijuana.

Michigan reformers need to collect 322,609 valid petition signatures by July 9, 2012 for a proposed constitutional amendment on the November ballot to legalize use for all adults. A survey of 600 likely voters conducted in January by EPIC-MRA of Lansing found that 45% of likely voters support legalizing possession and use, 50% oppose it, with 5% undecided. Less than a year before the election, there is serious work to do, but it may be winnable.

The tough side of the initiative battle is the need for high numbers of volunteer petitioners, along with limited funding and a likely hard-hitting counterattack by the state's Republican AG, who happens to be Mitt Romney's state campaign manager.

The bright side of the ballot effort is a strong mobilization among the Michigan cannabis community, which should strengthen the movement for years to come, making the state cannabis movement a factor in future elections and forcing politicians to wake up to grassroots demands to treat cannabis like wine.

The medical marijuana referendum passed in all 83 counties in 2008, with a statewide average of 63% approval.

The Michigan Court of Appeals ruled Feb. 10, 2012 to allow a vote by Detroiters in August or November that could legalize the use of less than an ounce of marijuana by city adults. Led by Tim Beck, a 2010 petition drive gathered enough signatures, but the Detroit Election Commission

would not add the measure to the ballot. Under state law anyone who is not a medical user could still be prosecuted by the state even if Detroit voters adopt the plan.

The lower court pointed to that discrepancy when it refused to place the measure on the ballot, but the appeals court said, "It was outside the authority of [city officials] to consider the substance and effect of the initiative, and defendants have a clear legal duty to place the matter on the ballot."

The Detroit Law Department said the city plans to file an appeal with the state Supreme Court, likely delaying the measure past the August ballot.

## VA rejects cannabis reforms

By Lennice Werth, Virginians Against Drug Violence

Two marijuana reforms were set aside by Virginia legislators in this year's session. House Joint Resolution HJ-139 would have required the Governor to send a letter to the federal DEA requesting it to reschedule cannabis to 'Schedule 2.' HJ-140 would have had the Crime Commission study the profitability of selling cannabis in state Alcohol Beverage Control stores.

Both were introduced by Northern VA House Delegate David Englin (D - Dist. 45), also a champion of women's rights.

The Rules Committee took testimony from disabled veteran Michael Krawitz, Virginians Against Drug Violence Legislative Analyst Roy Scherer and cancer survivor Elizabeth Richardson Jan. 24, 2012 and tabled the bill for the session.

Before leaving the committee hearing, Englin told supporters he would "keep this going," and indicated that he is willing to reintroduce the resolutions again next year.

## Legalization debate roils throughout Americas

By Daniel Robelo, Drug Policy Alliance

Amidst terrifying levels of criminal violence, a growing number of leaders across the Hemisphere are pointing to the failure of drug prohibition and proposing legalization as a possible solution.

At least 50,000 people have been killed in Mexico in the past five years because of the drug war. These are prohibition-related homicides, perpetrated by cartels that exist because of, and profit from, drug prohibition. Although officially labeled "deaths due to presumed criminal rivalry," many had no connection to the drug trade.

To this death toll must be added the thousands of people disappeared, the hundreds of thousands displaced, and the thousands of children left orphaned during this same five-year period.

But Mexico is not alone. Organized crime and violence are sweeping down the isthmus of Central America as well. Honduras has the highest homicide rate in the world. The UN now considers it, and its neighbors Guatemala and El Salvador, the most dangerous places in the world not in active war zones.

What is the region getting in return for this unbearable price? Not much. Cartels show no signs of weakening, while drugs remain as widely consumed and available in the US as ever before. However, the region's leaders may not accept the status quo much longer. An increasing number believe that security can be improved — not by hitting the cartels harder, but by being smarter about global drug policy.

Guatemala's newly inaugurated president, Otto Perez Molina — a conservative former military general — recently pro-

posed that Central America legalize drugs to curtail organized crime.


"I want to bring this discussion to the table," said Perez. "It wouldn't be a crime to transport, to move drugs. It would all have to be regulated." When the US Embassy in Guatemala predictably criticized his statement, Perez shot back, accusing the US of trying to "cut off the issue from entering the debate," and asserting, "We are not doing what the US says, we are doing what we have to do."

His remarks come on the heels of similar statements made by current and former presidents of at least 10 other Latin American countries. Last December, Mexico, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Chile and all the nations of Central America issued a joint declaration urging the US to rein in its demand for drugs or, if it cannot, to explore "regulatory or market oriented options." Presidents Felipe Calderon of Mexico and Juan Manuel Santos of Colombia, and ex-presidents of Mexico, Colombia and Brazil, all have voiced support for discussing or pursuing regulatory alternatives — especially, but not exclusively, for marijuana.

The US public is ready as well, now that 50% of Americans favor legalizing marijuana. That modest step could deprive cartels of their leading revenue source, thus diminishing their ability to terrorize people throughout the region.

As US citizens wait impatiently for their government to join the rest of the American hemisphere in rethinking the failed Drug War, our neighbors to the south cannot afford to wait any longer.





We are patients. We are advocates. We are activists.

## medi+cone

### {MMRCT 2012}


**A**fter several extremely difficult months of uncertainty and restructuring, MEDI-CONE is taking the first steps towards answering the call from our loyal collective members, to once again provide the California Medical Marijuana community with the finest, all natural pre-rolled medicine available.

The Federal crack-down has come at great cost to many. We at MEDI-CONE have lost several valuable members of our team. But we have been able to re-hire a small, core group of hard-working, tax paying, UFCW5 Union backed professionals, dedicated to their work.

Our collective struggle continues and may intensify. We owe it to each other to unite under the newly proposed statewide ballot initiative, MMRCT- the Medical Marijuana Regulate, Control, Tax Act 2012 - to see this on the November ballot, and to pass reasonable legislation which will at once protect patients rights and rid our industry of those whose design is simply to divert medicine and to profit from the sick and vulnerable in our community.

As Medical Marijuana activists, patients and providers it is our responsibility to self-police. We must actively guard our image and understand how our opponents view and portray our industry. Blatantly sexist and thuggish advertising fuels the opposition and the argument that we are simply, "for profit" drug dealers. It damages us all. While I personally believe that any prohibition does not work in a free society, Medi-Cone will move forward, following rules set forth by proper legislation. We ask you to support the efforts of Medi-Cone and other committed providers by visiting [www.regulatemedicalmarijuana.org](http://www.regulatemedicalmarijuana.org).

**George Bianchini, CEO**  
California's Cooperative of Choice, Inc.





## Book Review:

## A gateway to health

*Marijuana Gateway to Health: How cannabis protects us from cancer and Alzheimer's Disease.*  
By Clint Werner

By Mary Pat Jacobs,  
Sonoma Alliance for  
Medical Marijuana

Once started, reading *Marijuana Gateway to Health* is hard to stop.

Clint Werner's training in journalism is evident throughout, making his book a definite smile to read. It may seem difficult to find humor in the egregious assaults against this benign and beneficial substance, but Werner has done it. Readers will laugh often at the factoids he places in ironic juxtaposition to the ridiculousness of the drug warriors' actions.

One need read only a page or three of this book to be well armed with information. Author of many books on wellness Andrew Weil, MD, wrote, "This book should be required reading for all medical professionals, elected officials and everyone interested in health and wellness."

The 'End Notes' are invaluable, as Werner's association with Dr. Donald Abrams gave him access to world-class researchers, medical professionals and long-time activists. It is also obvious that he went much further on his own to dig out the history and truths in the book.

Werner begins by explaining how the endocannabinoid system was discovered and how it interacts with receptors throughout the body, then describes exciting evidence that cannabinoids, especially THC and CBD, counteract a variety of diseases in ways that conventional drugs have not. Study cascades into study proving that marijuana can actually impede and even stop cancer-cell growth. It augments the protection of brain cells from Alzheimer's, stroke, traumatic injury, the effects of MS, Parkinson's and other cerebral disorders, and actually stimulates the formation of functional new brain cells.

Werner ends on the upbeat, chronicling "The Marijuana Renaissance" as attitudes change incrementally throughout society and government. It is more like a glacier than an avalanche to be sure, but moving in a positive direction.

"Should you use marijuana? If you're an adult, and you want to be healthier, the answer is probably yes," concludes the author. He makes it hard to disagree.



## Montanans may face a return to the ballot box

By John Masterson

Activists in Montana are moving forward in a blizzard of political backlash with a ballot issue proposal to end criminal penalties for responsible adult marijuana use.

The proposal, CI-110, would add two sentences to the state constitution: "Adults have the right to responsibly purchase, consume, produce, and possess marijuana, subject to reasonable limitations, regulations, and taxation. Except for actions that endanger minors, children, or public safety, no criminal offense or penalty of this state shall apply to such activities."

The language was approved for signature gathering by the state in December 2011, and a new organization formed to promote the initiative and oversee the campaign, Montana First, had its first signature gatherers on the street soon after.

Proponent Barb Trego, former deputy reserve sheriff in Lewis and Clark County, said, "This measure is as simple as can be. The basic principle is clear as day. After voters pass it, there will be work to do to define limits and regulations. This is an appropriate task for elected leaders after

voters signal their preference to stop arresting and jailing adults for personal use."

To amend the constitution requires that nearly 45,000 valid signatures be submitted by June 22, 2012 from 40% of the state's geographically immense but sparsely populated legislative districts. If passed in November, it will go into effect July 1, 2013.

Montana's legislature only meets for a few months every two years. It will go into session in January 2013, and could create a regulatory apparatus for defining the limits on home production, commercial sales and any tax structure. Whether legislators, many of them newly elected, will take on the task of regulating legal cannabis is anyone's guess. However, voters in the American West are generally ready to end cannabis prohibition. An October 2011 Gallup poll found that 55% of western voters agree marijuana should be legal.

If CI-110 signature gathering is successful and it is approved for the ballot, Montana will join seven states considering similar measures: CA, CO, MI, Missouri, Nebraska, OR, and WA. [montanafirst2012.org](http://montanafirst2012.org)

## Mass medical initiative

By Michael Cutler, NORML Legal Committee

Massachusetts allows voters to pass laws by ballot initiative, and it appears likely to adopt medical marijuana on the November 2012 ballot. A 2008 state initiative decriminalizing adult possession of an ounce of cannabis (substituting a fine for arrest or other penalty) won with a 65% vote, ahead of Barack Obama. Recent polls on medical use show 80% favorable.

The state elections agency certified 70,000 signatures in January, enabling "A Law for the Humanitarian Medical Use of Marijuana," to appear on the ballot. Upon a majority vote, the initiative will become effective January 2013, protecting patients with listed or "debilitating" conditions.

The initiative requires the state public health agency to license 35 nonprofit "medical marijuana treatment centers" (dispensaries), at least one in each of the state's 14 counties and no more than five in any one county. More can be licensed after 2013 if the agency deems it appropriate. A card and confidential patient registry will determine which patients have access to them.

## Montana medical cannabis access dying on vine

By John Masterson

A medical marijuana law still appears in the Montana law books, but the program is a mere shadow of its original self, and patients and providers are reeling, numbed by the dramatic setbacks of the past year. Providers are disappearing across the state, and patients are reportedly returning to a newly thriving 'black market' to obtain cannabis for their ailments.

In California and Colorado, federal prosecutors have sent warning letters to dispensaries and landlords, giving them advance notice of a crackdown.

However, in March 2011, at the same moment the MT State Senate's judiciary committee was rejecting a bill to repeal the medical use law, the DEA and other agencies raided 26 groups statewide. That is equivalent to simultaneously raiding some 960 CA locations — and in MT it produced a chilling effect every bit as severe.

A month later, as its very last action, the state legislature replaced the 2004 medical use initiative voters had adopted by 62% of the vote with a new opponent-written law that came "as close to repeal as we can get," said one legislator. That law is under

review by the state Supreme Court. Last summer, advocates gathered enough signatures to put the law on referendum in November, but it remains in effect.

Meanwhile, the number of registered patients has shrunk from more than 30,000 to barely 20,000. A year ago, more than 5,000 Montanans registered with the state to grow for patients; under the new law, fewer than 400 have, "and a lot of them are closing down every day," said a former provider who asked to be anonymous.

The US Attorney has in the past year sought indictments of more Montanans for following the original state law than were prosecuted nationally under eight years of the Bush administration. No evidence of compliance with state law nor mention of the 'Ogden memo' is admissible. Most of those targeted by the government have been forced to plead guilty to somewhat lesser charges, and everyone sentenced so far has been given at least a year in prison plus years of later supervision.

A new documentary film, *Code of the West* premiered at the South by Southwest film festival in Austin in March 2012 to tell this grim story.\*

\* Info at [codeofthewestfilm.com](http://codeofthewestfilm.com), [montanadrugpolicy.org](http://montanadrugpolicy.org)

## How much do you value the West Coast Leaf?

Putting out a free newspaper isn't free.

(It's not even cheap.)

### 4 Ways You Can Help

- **Buy an advertisement**

A tax deductible business expense.

- **Get a subscription**

At least it covers the shipping.

- **Make a donation**

\$5 or \$500, any amount is a help.

- **Become a sponsor**

Make regular donations to sustain our work.

*Please help us spread the word.*

**MAIL YOUR CHECK**

PO Box 21106, El Sobrante CA 94820

**PAY OR DONATE ONLINE**

**WestCoastLeaf.com**

**CALL 510-275-9311**

Quality BioGrown Medicine for just \$50 a quarter

**Great Locations.  
Great Prices.  
Great Medicine.  
Best People.**

**Peace in Medicine**

[www.PeaceInMedicine.org](http://www.PeaceInMedicine.org) tel.707-823-4206

**Winner of The Bohemian's Best of the North Bay "Best Herbal Clinic" 2011**

**Downtown Santa Rosa**  
1061 North Dutton Ave.  
Tu, Fr, Sa ..... 10am - 5pm  
We, Th ..... 12pm - 7pm  
Su, Mo ..... Closed

**Downtown Sebastopol**  
6771 Sebastopol Ave.  
Mo - Sa ..... 11am - 7pm  
Su ..... Noon - 7pm

CA PROP 215 REQUIRES: ONLY THOSE WITH LEGALLY RECOGNIZED MEDICAL CANNABIS I.D. CARDS OR A VERIFIABLE, WRITTEN RECOMMENDATION FROM A PHYSICIAN FOR MEDICAL CANNABIS MAY OBTAIN CANNABIS FROM DISPENSARIES. © & TM 2011 Peace in Medicine.

**MARGOLIN & LAWRENCE**  
**ATTORNEYS AT LAW**  
"DEFENDING YOUR RIGHTS AND LIBERTIES"  
California's Premier Criminal Defense Team  
**HARVARD TRIAL LAWYERS**  
STATE • FEDERAL • JUVENILE COURTS

**(323) 653-9700**  
**NEED HELP?  
CALL 24/7**

Get your **FREE** guide to the laws in medical marijuana states  
**LA's DOPEST ATTORNEY™**  
Allison Margolin has been profiled in the Los Angeles Times, Wall Street Journal Law Blog, LA Weekly and California Lawyer magazine.  
This is a legal advertisement



WEST COAST LEAF

Editorials and Commentary

# IRS §280(e): Devilish in its details

We are pleased to see that a coalition is growing to reform one of the most insidious of the federal tax codes, the onerous IRS 280(e). Just as the Feds used the tax codes to go after the Alcohol Prohibition Roaring 20s’ era violent gangsters, they now turn it against non-profit organizations that help sick and dying people, making no distinction between the two. Alcohol Prohibition ended in 1933, and the Marijuana Tax Act of 1937 was adopted then struck down as unconstitutional by the 1969 US Supreme Court as an abuse of the federal power to tax. Section 280(e) is as shameful an abuse of that power, however, today’s Court is less inclined to stand up for liberty or justice, so the National 280(e) Reform Campaign and the National Cannabis Industries Assn. and others are working in coalition to get Congress to change it. In today’s anti-tax climate, this code should be easy to eliminate.

# Washington DC’s subsidy to the drug lords

Three groups stand to benefit from the federal war on patients. First are the fat cats of pot prohibition — federal and state narcotics agencies that feed at the trough of our tax money with no real oversight by the administration. In 2007 alone, they spent about \$42 billion, and today probably much more. Second are international drug traffickers who had been losing market share to clean, regulated and taxed local providers of medical cannabis and conversions. The Feds gets rid of the competition and pushes their annual US profits to about a \$113 billion enterprise. Third are illicit growers and street dealers who get a wind-fall if Obama succeeds in driving-up prices, and they don’t have to worry about rules, licenses, taxes or laws. Unless they get caught, and they know that will never happen.

Everyone else loses: Patients are deprived of access to effective medicine. Researchers are deprived of *materia medica* for cannabis studies. Taxpayers pay for police budgets, prison budgets and bear the social harms done by prohibition. Farmers are deprived of Earth’s number one sustainable cash crop, hemp. The economy loses all the suppressed hemp businesses. The environment is ravaged by petro-criminal industries and bad underground growing practices. Such are the fruits of Washington DC’s folly.

# California High Court could heal the rift

With the California Supreme Court planning to rule on the legality of dispensary bans and regulations, we are hopeful that they will do right. They’ve shown this capacity before, in the *Mower* and *Kelly* decisions that protect patients today. State law enforcement’s own misbehavior has created confusion about cannabis distribution laws, and federal agencies then manipulate that confusion to rationalize an end-run around Obama’s promise not to go after state-legal medical marijuana. Once the Court makes it clear that safe access to medical marijuana is a right in this state, that cultivation and patient-to-patient transactions are legal, and that dispensaries may be registered to comply with local ordinances, but not banned, it will strip away the artifice used by federal prosecutors to circumvent state laws and Obama’s stated policies. With that distinction made, California will be able to regulate cannabis for the greater good.

# Calling all angels

Three California legalization initiatives are now ready to join forces behind whichever one can find a sponsor with \$2 million to spend on signature gathering. The *West Coast Leaf* concurs that any of these would be a significant advance for our cause, and strongly hopes that an angel soon alights.

## Setting the record straight

The front page article of *West Coast Leaf* Winter 2012 on the California Medical Assn. endorsement of cannabis legalization was co-authored by Dr. David Ostrow and Dr. David Bearman.

WEST COAST LEAF

*The West Coast Leaf™* is a free speech publication owned and operated by Creative Xpressions. ISSN 1945-211X. Business license EC08-0002765. *The Leaf* supports tolerance and maintains that cannabis sales and cultivation should and will be legal for adult consumption. We invite your submissions and advertising. *WCL* fosters a socio-political community by providing photos, news, directories, features, ads and regional information of interest to our readers. Special thanks to Jackie G. Wilson for her editorial assistance.

Chris Conrad, executive editor  
Mikki Norris, managing editor  
PO Box 21106, El Sobrante CA 94820  
WestCoastLeaf.com • 510-275-9311  
Vol 5 No 1. Print run: 151,000 copies.  
Winter Issue. © 2011, 2012. All rights reserved.

# The inevitability of marijuana legalization

By Brian Vicente, Exec. Dir., Sensible Colorado  
Citizen advocacy groups in both Colorado and Washington recently turned in ample signatures to place marijuana legalization measures on the 2012 Presidential ballots of their respective states.

The measures to regulate marijuana like alcohol at the state level — limiting its use to adults 21 and over and requiring sales to take place in well-regulated stores — would shake the foundation of the nation’s long-standing and increasingly unpopular Drug War. Here’s the kicker: Both measures are likely to pass.

National and local polling shows the country trending toward marijuana reform. For the first time in 30 years of polling, Gallup showed a record-high 50% of Americans support making marijuana legal. A series of regional polls show that western states, in particular, are ready to end the decades-old hemp prohibition.

Increasingly, cannabis reform is being seen as a pressing social justice issue that demands attention. At a recent drug policy reform conference in Los Angeles, Ira Glasser, former head of the national ACLU, gave an impassioned speech citing the Drug War’s disparate impact on people of color and likening the nation’s drug laws to Jim Crow laws. The NAACP came out in support of a 2010 California initiative to legalize marijuana and Hilary Shelton, its vice president of advocacy, said, “We are usually conservative in terms of the issues that we support, but disproportionate prosecution of [African-Americans for] drug-related offenses for marijuana has called us to fight for decriminalization in our community.”

Joining this call are increasing numbers of Latinos, an important and growing sector of the electorate that is weary of racial profiling and the inescapably disproportionate racial impact of prohibition. Latinos are arrested for marijuana possession at much higher rates than whites, despite a lower usage rate. In major California cities, the 2006-08 arrest rate for Latinos is two to three times higher than for whites. In New York City, it’s almost four times higher. Both black and brown communities are increasingly weary of the collateral consequences experienced by those convicted of drug possession offenses, such as denial of federal student loans and housing benefits and lifelong difficulty in securing employment due to ‘criminal’ records.

In Colorado, where 69% of those in state prison for drug offenses are people of color, the Regulate Marijuana Like Alcohol Act is inspiring a coalition with supporters that include leaders in the Latino community like Kim Cordova, president of the state’s largest union, and civil rights

groups like the ACLU and the Colorado Criminal Defense Bar. Columnists from both sides of the political spectrum penned their support for legalization in both the conservative *Colorado Springs Gazette* and the mainstream *Denver Post*.

These groups represent the changing face of the drug policy reform movement with impacted parties, opinion makers, and civil rights defenders adding their voices to the call for systemic change. Given national opinion trends and a growing and diverse coalition in support of reform, it seems increasingly likely that this targeted pushback signals the beginning of the end for marijuana prohibition.

## US Congressional candidate needs support to change law

By Roger Goodman,\* [GoodmanforCongress.com](http://GoodmanforCongress.com)  
Federal prohibition of so-called ‘controlled substances’ has given rise to the same adverse consequences as did Alcohol Prohibition in the 1920s. Current US drug-policy has been clogging the courts and wasting taxpayer dollars on irrational and counterproductive strategies while feeding violent illegal markets, public corruption and disrespect for the law.

The mantra for decades has been that drug laws ‘protect children,’ but high-school and junior-high-school kids now have easier access to prohibited drugs than do adults. Meanwhile, we arrest more than 800,000 adults each year for marijuana possession alone.

For many years, I’ve worked as a drug policy reformer across the country. Currently, as a Washington state lawmaker, I’ve sponsored state bills to expand medical marijuana access and legalize cannabis for adults. But success at home is often stymied by federal intransigence.

I’m now stepping out even further as a candidate for Congress, to give national leadership on this issue and ensure that states can regulate and control cannabis for the health, safety and welfare of its citizens — without federal interference.

I pledge to fight for an end to marijuana prohibition for the entire country, and to help implement exit strategy for the failed War on Drugs. To do this, I will need your support as well — your time, your financial donations, your endorsements, and if you live in Washington State’s First Congressional district, your vote as well as that of your neighbors.

It’s time that elected officials tell the truth, ignore convention and support policies based on science, reason and compassion. That is what I promise to do.

\* State Rep. Roger Goodman (D) is a leading contender in the 2012 race for Washington’s 1st US Congressional Dist.

WEST COAST LEAF

Upcoming Quarterly Schedule and Submission Deadlines

Your ad in this newspaper helps build our community in California and the West, and will be seen around the world.

Summer 2012 • Deadline May 11, 2012  
Circulated June – August

Autumn 2012 • Deadline Aug. 10, 2012  
Circulated September – November

ADVERTISERS AND SUBSCRIBERS HELP GROW THE LEAF

West Coast Leaf provides free copies of our newspapers at locations and events throughout California and the West Coast.

We are an advertiser, subscriber and donor supported community newspaper.  
To subscribe, you can use the handy coupon in this issue or visit us online.

PLACE YOUR AD AT [WWW.WESTCOASTLEAF.COM](http://WWW.WESTCOASTLEAF.COM) OR CALL:  
**West Coast Leaf • 510-275-9311**  
For bulk distribution, contact us at [distribution@WestCoastLeaf.com](mailto:distribution@WestCoastLeaf.com)

It’s about time *you* subscribe to the WEST COAST LEAF.

A unique newspaper, delivered quarterly in a discreet, plain envelope.

Annual subscription (1 copy per issue for a year)	\$20
Buddy pack (20 copies per issue for a year)	\$50
Activist stack (50 copies per issue for a year)	\$75
Distributor bundle (100 copies per issue for a year)	\$100

For larger quantities: Call 510-275-9311 to make arrangements.

PayPal payments accepted at [WestCoastLeaf.com](http://WestCoastLeaf.com) ... or  
Call 510-275-9311 for Visa / other Credit Card payments ... or  
Fill-out and mail-in this handy coupon with check or MO to Creative Xpressions

☐ Subscriber \$20    ☐ 20 copies / \$50    ☐ 50 / \$75    ☐ 100 / \$100

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Begin: ☐ Spring 2012 ☐ Summer 2012

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone or Email \_\_\_\_\_

Make check or MO payable to ‘Creative Xpressions’ and mail it with this form to:  
**Creative Xpressions Subscriptions, PO Box 21106, El Sobrante CA 94820**



## WEST COAST LEAF

## Calendar and Community Directory

**March 23-24, 13th Annual Students for Sensible Drug Policy National Conference, Denver, Co.** Hyatt Regency Denver Tech Center, 7800 East Tufts Ave. ssdp.org

**April 7, 41st Annual Hash Bash, Ann Arbor, MI.** Noon-1 PM on the Diag, U of Michigan. Noon-5 PM, Monroe Street Fair.

freedomactivist.net/hashbash.html.

**April 20, It's always 4:20 somewhere.** International day of cannabis unity.

**April 21, Deep Green Festival and Conference, Richmond, CA.** Craneway Pavillion, Marina district of Richmond. Noon to midnight. Earth Day weekend,

## Hemp the ever green, hits the mainstream

By John Dvorak, Hempology.Org

As more and more hemp products hit the market, the 'giggle factor' (*Can I smoke that?*) is being replaced by the 'gaga factor' (*Where can I get that?*).

Hemp foods are increasingly being incorporated into the products of mainstream, 'non-hempster' companies. More fitness magazines and health gurus are espousing the health benefits of the humble hemp seed. *The New York Times* ran a January 2012 feature article on vegan body builders that included favorable statements about hemp protein powder.

Hemp is making inroads in the construction industry as more companies see that hemp-based building materials have big benefits over conventional products. Hemp Oil Canada added an office to their production center using hemp concrete. In addition to being breathable, carbon-negative, non-toxic and mold/pest resistant, hemp-crete is an excellent insulator against super-cold Manitoba winters. In Cheshire Oaks, England, the Marks and Spencer retail chain opened a huge new eco-friendly store that includes hemp concrete walls.

On the textile side, all sorts of great hemp clothing can be had. H&M launched an eco-friendly collection with hemp silk blends and recycled wool. Patagonia, in stores across the country, has several items using hemp, and Simple brand shoes are comfortable, stylish — and made of hemp.

Manitoba Harvest recently received multi-million dollar venture capital funding to expand, in order to keep up with its 40-50% annual growth over the last few years. Its products are now found in many mainstream stores, including Safeway and 60 Costco stores across Canada.

Kentucky is moving forward with a

hemp bill to provide needed revenue for farmers and manufacturers in a state that is in dire need of both.

To get a daily hemp news summary by email, create a Google Alert using the keywords [hemp -"Indian hemp"]. (Indian hemp is a common term used for marijuana in Europe and Asia.) *The Hemp Industry Insider* by Australian Dionne Payn covers the industry from a global perspective with info her readers can make use of locally. Visit [hempindustryinsider.com](http://hempindustryinsider.com) to download a free copy and join her mailing list.

celebrating cannabis, health and ecology. Full day of music and special guests, speakers and panels, vendors and exhibits, eco fashion show, outdoor DJ and 215 Zone, food. For more info, see [deepgreenfest.com](http://deepgreenfest.com)

**April 26-28, Seventh National Clinical Conference on Cannabis Therapeutics, Tucson, AZ.** Lowe's Ventana Canyon Resort. Latest medical research, patient information. Register at [medicalcannabis.com](http://medicalcannabis.com)

**May 25-27, Treating Yourself Third Annual Expo, Toronto, Canada.** Metro Toronto Convention Centre, North Building Hall A. Lectures, vendors, entertainment, world's largest vapor lounge for medical marijuana patients. For more info, see [treatingyourselfexpo.com](http://treatingyourselfexpo.com)

**May 31-June 2, 2012 Aspen NORML Legal Seminar, Aspen, CO.** The Gant. CLE credit available for attorneys. Non-lawyers welcome, too. For more details, [norml.org](http://norml.org)

**Aug. 17-19, 21st Annual Seattle Hempfest, Seattle, WA.** Myrtle Edwards Park. World's largest "protestival" with music, speakers, vendors, food. [hempfest.org](http://hempfest.org)



**BIRTHDAY HONOR:** Michael Aldrich receives a Senate Certificate of Recognition signed by Sen. Mark Leno on the occasion of his 70th birthday on Feb. 7, 2012 at SPARC in San Francisco. Aldrich was the first in the US to write his dissertation on cannabis in 1970, 'Marijuana Myths & Folklore,' and has been a long-time activist with his wife, Michelle, for medical marijuana and legalization starting with Amorphia's first Prop. 19 in 1972. He is a prolific writer, curator of the Aldrich Archives, and a board member of Cal NORML, SPARC, and Patients Out of Time. Photo by Mikki Norris

**Oct. 3-6, 41st Annual National NORML conference, Los Angeles, CA.** Omni Los Angeles Hotel. For info, see [norml.org](http://norml.org)

ON EARTH DAY WEEKEND — CELEBRATING CANNABIS, HEALTH & ECOLOGY

# Deep Green

2012 FESTIVAL & CONFERENCE

**APRIL 21**  
Noon — Midnight

**Experts & Visionaries**







Dale Gieringer   Debby Goldsberry   Ralph Metzner   Sherry Glaser   Steve DeAngelo

**Live Music**

The Luminaries  
Indubious  
Jillian Ann  
Dogon Lights

**Special Attractions**

Over 100 Exhibitors  
Earth Temple Dome  
Eco-Fashion Show  
Vapor Room Indoor 215 Club\*  
Outdoor DJ+215 Zone\*  
Natural Food Delights  
Hot DJs — Inside & Out

\*Admittance to smoking areas with Prop 215 credentials

**Deep Green Conference**

In-depth Panels & Workshops from top experts and true pioneers!

- Organic Gardening
- Legalization Initiatives
- Latest Medical Science
- Dispensary Management
- Hemp Industry Opportunities
- Children, Families & Prohibition

- Chris Conrad • Amanda Reiman
- Aaron Smith • William Panzer • Troy Dayton
- JoAnna LaForce • Kyle Kushman
- Mark Goldfogel • Martin Lee • Mikki Norris
- Patrick Goggin • Larry Bedard
- Christopher R. Daugherty & many more

**1414 Harbour Way So., Richmond, CA**

**Craneway Conference Center**  
Noon – 6 pm

**VIP Reception @ Nexus Center**  
6pm – 7:30pm
















www.BabaKen.com

www.DeepGreenFest.com

**FESTIVAL:** \$15 Advance / \$25 Door 18+ ID

**CONFERENCE:** \$60 Advance / \$75 Door  
INCLUDES ADMISSION TO FESTIVAL

"So much fun it's unbelievable.  
It makes me happy and energetic"



**www.BabaKen.com**



## Community Announcements

### Jacobs: His garden inspired Sonoma guidelines

#### Monty Jacobs

Born 10/30/1949 –  
Died 12/29/2011

Patient activist and three-time cancer survivor Monty Jacobs passed away peacefully from heart complications due to radiation fibrosis. He departed just as the last guests left his farewell party.

Monty was born in Lakewood, CA to Patty and Harvey Jacobs, an internationally known hydraulic engineer. He had a passion for automobiles. During cancer recovery in the 1980s, Monty customized a rolled-over Porsche, attracting the interest of fellow enthusiasts.

An inventor with an artistic flair who worked with wood and metal, Jacobs designed many custom pieces, including a cannabis vaporizer before it became popular. He and his wife, Mary Pat, were inseparable and became known as “the Monty Pats.” They followed the county fair circuit, carving redwood signs. With his brother Hal, Monty designed and built sev-



eral homes — some award winning, some passive solar — including a beautiful off-the-grid home on the rustic property known as Ent Walk.

Monty and Mary Pat were among the top signature gatherers for the medical use initiative, Prop 215, and played a key role in rescuing the 1996 petition drive. As leaders of Sonoma Alliance for Medical Marijuana, the couple worked with law enforcement for patients’ rights. Jacobs’ cannabis medical marijuana garden was the model for the Sonoma County guidelines that protects a 100-square-foot garden canopy rather than a plant count.

Monty is survived by Mary Pat, his assistance dog Sassy, his brother, nieces, nephews, in-laws, and many friends. Donations in his memory will be used to maintain and continue his dream of creating an arboretum at Ent Walk and may be sent to Mary Pat Jacobs, PO Box 216, Sebastopol, CA 95473.

### Galbraith: Perennial KY gubernatorial candidate

#### L. Gatewood Galbraith

Born Jan. 23, 1947 – Died Jan. 4, 2012

One of the great icons of cannabis reform and author of *The Last Free Man in America*, Louis Gatewood Galbraith passed away Jan. 4, 2012 of complications from emphysema.



In addition to five runs for Kentucky governor, Galbraith was known for backing industrial hemp and for the Truth Commission and Marijuana Feasibility Study he launched in the late 1980s. His plan was to model commercial cannabis regulations after the tobacco model, with individual farmers allowed to produce personal amounts plus a small crop that would be inspected and distributed through a state agency. His hope was that it would protect the ‘mom and pop’ model of marijuana cultivation.

Born in Carlisle, KY to Henry Clay and Dollie Galbraith, Gatewood spoke with a heavy drawl and impassioned rhetoric, blasting the “greedy corporations” for their “synthetic subversion” and invoking “America’s founders” to demand a “natur-

al order” of agriculture-based economics.

Galbraith catalogued the roadside signposts that commemorate hemp as Kentucky’s primary cash crop of the 18th and 19th centuries and pointed out the hemp leaves carved into the state Capitol’s pilasters. He sought to unify the Green Party, the Democratic Party, the Reform Party, Libertarians, cannabis reformers and Tea Partiers into a coalition to take back American liberties.

Galbraith said that Reagan- and Bush-style conservatives “are not conservatives, they’re aliens,” and railed that his Grandpappy grew hemp and would have taken up arms against the creeping fascism in America. “Did my father’s generation hit the beaches of Normandy and Iwo Jima so that I’d have to pee in a cup to hold a job in America?” he often asked. “No!”

He is survived by his three daughters.

### Prominent SF activist

#### Michael Goldstein,

Born 1953- Died Dec. 2, 2011



Like many gay men of his time, Michael Goldstein came to San Francisco for its social tolerance and stayed for the political action until he passed away Dec. 2, 2011 from stage 4 lymphoma after living with HIV for nearly 20 years. Over the years, Goldstein was an effective progressive activist who was as an elected member of the Democratic County Central Committee, a president of the Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club, and worked for the SF AIDS Legal Research Panel. He became a champion for the right to use medical cannabis, and after the City adopted its lowest-law-enforcement-priority policy, he became head of the Marijuana Offenses Oversight Committee.

“Michael was determined, opinionated, persistent, intolerant of bullshit, prickly, always questioning. He challenged us all to move a common agenda and come together beyond our own personal ambitions,” said his friend, Debra Walker.

### Fought for better pain relief

#### Siobhan Reynolds

Born 1961 – Died 12/24/2011

Siobhan Reynolds, founder of the Pain Relief Network, died in a plane crash on Christmas Eve, 2011. Alerted to the drug issue by first husband Sean Greenwood’s decades-long struggle with pain, she battled the stigma against opioid-prescribing doctors who are labelled ‘pill-mills’ and ‘drug traffickers’ simply for allowing chronic pain patients to use adequate amounts of pain medications. She spoke out in behalf of Greenwood’s doctor, William Hurwitz, who was repeatedly prosecuted for “overprescribing,” and for his patients. She fought against an attack by the US Attorney’s office, challenging her right to free speech and privacy.

### LA activist, spokesperson

Richard Kearns • May 26, 1951 – Jan. 12, 2012

Longtime AIDS survivor, activist, poet, journalist, photographer, exercise instructor and teacher passed away peacefully at the age of 60 with loved ones at his side. Richard was an advocate for medical cannabis and AIDS issues who spoke often before many city councils in Los Angeles and Southern California. He was a conference and seminar organizer, and a founding director and board member of the Patient Advocacy Network.



**Toronto, Canada 🍁 May 25-27, 2012**

**3rd annual**  
**Treating Yourself Expo**  
**Metro Toronto Convention Centre**  
**North Building Hall A**



#### SPECIAL EVENTS

**THE FLAME OFF!**  
Glass Blowing Competition

Team 1  
Chris Carlson  
Pablo  
Marcell

Team 2  
Dale Sommers  
Brandon Martin  
Steve Gelb

Team 3  
Kurt B.  
Chad G.  
JOP



**MEDICAL MARIJUANA CUP 2012**

🌿 **World's largest Vapour Lounge**  
🌿 **Seed Vendors**  
🌿 **Seminars**  
🌿 **Activism Alley + much more**

🌿 **Admission prices**  
Day pass - \$20  
3-day pass - \$50  
VIP pass (limited number) - \$420

🌿 **Show hours**  
Friday 10am-8pm  
Saturday 10am-8pm  
Sunday 10am-6pm

For information on becoming a Sponsor or Vendor please go to  
**www.treatingyourselfexpo.com**







**Puff, puff, pass:** Actress turned author Heather Donahue takes a break to medicate during the Humboldt Hemp Fest last summer. Donahue penned *Growgirl* (Gotham Books) about her year growing medicine in Northern California. Photo by Sharon Letts

Hollywood to Nuggettown

Growgirl by Heather Donahue  
Gotham Books

By Sharon Letts,\* thepuffingtonhost.com

What does a girl pegged for B-horror films do next? Happenstance and a man brought Heather Donahue of the psych-horror film *The Blair Witch Project* to California’s other multi-million dollar industry — legal medical cannabis, once known as marijuana — the state’s largest cash crop.

“Nuggettown” (in the Sierras) could be in any state where cannabis is legal medicine and growers support each other based on sheer trust, and intimate relationships begin and end with the grow cycle.

The draw of *Growgirl* is in part its shared secrets of a growers’ community and the riches made (in fact, their one-year stint as farmers didn’t turn a profit). A journal of this nature, written by a person of some fame and notoriety, also shows the normalcy of the process it depicts.

Donahue puts her face out there to tell an intelligent personal story for the greater good. A face we first met in a horror movie, now reveals its own truth: the changing face of the cannabis community.

\*Letts is a writer and author of *Humboldt Stories: It’s not Weeds, it’s real*, a fiction based on the Humboldt grow scene.

High spirits among a rising tide of stoner starlets

By Steve Bloom, celebstoner.com

From Rihanna to Miley Cyrus to Cameron Diaz, cannabis is in style. In fact, female celebstoners are more apt to wear weed-themed clothing or, better yet, smoke pot in public than their male counterparts.

Rihanna was recently photographed puffing on a blunt while she vacationed in Hawaii. The Barbados-born pop star adores Bob Marley, has a room devoted to Tuff Gong in her LA mansion and has been seen dressed in tee-shirts and bathing suits featuring Marley with his trademark spliff.

Cyrus famously smoked *salvia* out of a bong on her 18th birthday. For her 19th, friends presented Cyrus with a special cake. “You know you’re a stoner when your friends make you a Bob Marley cake,” the singer quipped. “You know you smoke way too much f-in’ weed.”

The 2011 Top CelebStoner Diaz reportedly smoked weed at a Golden Globes after-party with Leonardo DiCaprio and Maroon 5’s Adam Levine. No surprise there. Last year, Diaz said she used to buy pot from Snoop Dogg when they both attended Long Beach Polytechnic High School. The *Bad Teacher* star made the most of that role, exclaiming, “Pot is awesome!” both in the movie and during a visit to *Late Night with Jimmy Fallon*.

Add actresses Kristen Stewart, Mischa Barton and Megan Fox, rapper MIA, soul singer Joss Stone (*stoned?*), comedian Sarah Silverman and Hollywood heiress Paris Hilton to the list of out-of-the closet stoner starlets. Less vocal or demonstrative are *Weeds*’ Mary-Louise Parker and Diaz’s BFF Drew Barrymore.

Roseanne Barr may be too old to be a starlet, but she sure has been vocal about

legalizing marijuana of late. On her TV show, *Roseanne’s Nuts*, she ate a medicated cookie. Exclaims the comedian, who’s vying for the Green Party’s presidential nod: “Hemp is the hope of the world.”

The ageless Joan Rivers (okay, she’s 78) outdid all her younger contemporaries by lighting up on her reality series, *Joan & Melissa: Joan Knows Best*. The campy comic was so high her daughter had to intervene. Joan River has the munchies? Now that’s news!

Steve Bloom is the publisher of CelebStoner.com, and co-author of *Pot Culture* and *Reefer Movie Madness*



Don Duncan and Stacey Swimme welcomed their son, Parker Reed, Dec. 7, 2011. He measured 19.5 inches and weighed 7 lbs. 12 oz. Don is the co-founder and California Director of Americans for Safe Access. Stacey is the co-founder of Sex Workers Outreach Project and is currently the Communications Coordinator in their Los Angeles chapter.

A perspective from inside the Emerald Triangle

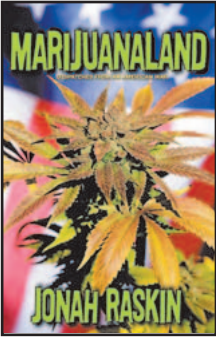
*Marijuanaland: Dispatches from an American War*  
By Jonah Raskin  
High Times publishing, \$12.99

By John Ellis

Californians have built a multibillion-dollar-a-year industry out of a few seeds and the hopes and dreams of an aging counter-culture that is now heading into retirement.

*Marijuanaland* documents the cultural effects on Americans driven to live and work in the underground cannabis economy that largely drives the area known as the Emerald Triangle. Jonah Raskin interweaves facts with decades of mythology laid on the shoulders of people who all have skin in the game — growers, dealers, activists and law enforcement.

Raskin takes the reader on a visually enhanced journey through the Northern Cal counties of Humboldt, Mendocino and Trinity, with a journalist’s view of the changing scene. He introduces some of the wonderful people and characters who risk everything to supply patients and commercial markets alike. He explores the politics



of prohibition and the activists who fight against it, as well as the profiteers who thrive under it. Between these worlds Raskin treads a fine line where his narrative leans in favor of legaliza-

tion and shows why that is the only viable outcome, while he shares the perspectives of those who feel threatened by it.

County by county, the reader is ushered into grow sites, dispensaries, and even jails, where people say what’s really on their mind. They demonstrate and explore the evolution of the plant and talk about changes in the culture and the laws. He also takes a look at Sonoma County, where Raskin has worked as an instructor at Sonoma State.

This book is a joy to read as you join Raskin on a trip through *Marijuanaland*.

Harvesting April 20th in select theaters  
in LA, SF, CHI, NYC, WA, OR, CO & AZ.

CALIFORNIA  
90420

THE STORY OF 4:20 SOMETHINGS

The San Francisco Independent Film Festival calls CALIFORNIA, 90420...  
“Possibly the most honest marijuana film out there.”

90420.com

facebook.com/California90420

Cannabis Business Professionals:  
Enjoy strength in numbers!

NATIONAL CANNABIS INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION  
TheCannabisIndustry.org

The National Cannabis Industry Association is the only national trade association fighting for the cannabis industry on the federal level. Whether it's reforming criminal justice policy or the tax code, NCIA is working hard to defend and advance the interests of our growing industry.

If you're a cannabis professional and want respected and effective representation on the national stage, join NCIA today!

For more information, visit  
www.TheCannabisIndustry.org/join  
or call (202) 379-4861

National Cannabis Industry Association P.O. Box 78062 - Washington, D.C. 20013

Hash Marihuana  
& Hemp Museum

A M S T E R D A M

A PERMANENT EXHIBITION ABOUT THE HISTORY  
AND USE OF CANNABIS AROUND THE WORLD.

Hash Marihuana & Hemp Museum  
Oudezijds Achterburgwal 148 Amsterdam  
Next to the 'Sensi Seed Bank'  
Open all week from 10 AM until 11 PM  
www.hashmuseum.com





**Our legitimate medical practice has allowed us to become the nation’s premier medical marijuana clinic, caring for over 150,000 patients in nine states.**

Some clinics offer cut-rate fees and over-the-phone medical exams, only to take off with your money and leave you with a permit that isn’t valid.

THCF Medical Clinics are different. We have a track record of actually appearing in court to defend our patients because we follow the state laws that protect your rights.

Our knowledgeable staff will help you understand the medical marijuana laws in your state, and our caring doctors and nurses take their time with each patient.

- Helping patients since 2001
- Fully compliant with state laws and regulations
- 100% HIPAA compliant and all records are stored securely



1.800.723.0188



**The Hemp and Cannabis Foundation**  
THCF Medical Clinics

thc-foundation.org

Oregon • Washington • Colorado • California • Hawaii • Nevada • Montana • Michigan • Rhode Island • District of Columbia

- |                         |                       |                      |             |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|-------------|
| • Chronic Severe Pain   | • Crohn’s Disease     | • Multiple Sclerosis | • Cancer    |
| • Glaucoma              | • Chronic Nausea      | • Cachexia           | • GERD      |
| • AIDS/HIV              | • Seizure Disorders   | • Hepatitis C        | • Asthma    |
| • Chronic Muscle Spasms | • Parkinson’s Disease | • IBS                | • Arthritis |