



Kristin Peskuski addressed a Medical Cannabis Conference held at the senior community Laguna Woods City Auditorium on Jan. 22. The image behind her depicts super-magnified and colorized trichomes, or resin glands of the cannabis plant, which contain cannabinoids. More about the conference and more photos by Michael Guerrini on page 5.

# Big jump in cannabis legislation nationally

## State lawmakers nationwide weigh marijuana reform

By Morgan Fox, Marijuana Policy Project

One of the biggest victories for cannabis last year was the sheer quantity of publicity in the media. After the discussion surrounding Props 19 in California, 203 in Arizona, and other major developments around the country, reform is in the lime-light. More importantly, it is finally being treated as a legitimate policy issue.

This exposure has had an impact in a number of state legislatures this session. More states are considering cannabis reform measures now than ever, and there is a real possibility that we will see some substantive changes in the near future.

Seven states (Arizona, Connecticut,

Hawaii, Illinois, Rhode Island, Texas, and Virginia) are considering bills to ‘decriminalize’ possession of small amounts of marijuana, and at least one more state legislature is expected to consider a similar proposal during the 2011 legislative session. All the bills would replace possible jail sentences with fines for a modest amount of marijuana (ranging from less than an ounce to up to two ounces).

While many argue that marijuana decrim does not go far enough, it would be a tremendous step forward for states like Texas with Draconian penalties, where more wide-reaching reform is still years off. Any step to help keep marijuana users out of jail deserves support.

Perhaps even more significant is that Please turn to page 11

# Leno bill would protect patients’ jobs

## Employment rights bill in California legislature

By Kris Hermes, Americans for Safe Access

California Senator Mark Leno (D-San Francisco) is moving legislation to protect the employment rights of patients. In late January, Leno introduced SB 129, a bill he said “simply establishes a medical cannabis patient’s right to work.”

The bill is similar to a Leno bill passed by both houses of the state legislature in 2008, AB 2279, and vetoed by then-Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger. Both bills seek to clarify the intent of the legislature when it passed SB420, the Medical Marijuana Program Act (MMPA), in 2003.

The MMPA states that, “Nothing in this article shall require any accommodation of any medical use of marijuana on the property or premises of any place of employment or during the hours of employment.” Unfortunately, the state Supreme Court in 2008 ruled in *Ross v. Raging Wire Telecommunications* that the language gives

employers a right to discriminate against more than 400,000 qualified patients. Leno’s bills have been in direct response to that ruling.

“The people who voted for Prop 215 never intended to force law-abiding Please turn to page 7



AWARD GIVEN — California State Senator Mark Leno received an award from California NORML Jan. 29 at the Berkeley conference. Photo by Mikki Norris

# Medical marijuana under attack

By Russ Bellville, NORML stash.norml.org

Fifteen states and the District of Columbia have enacted medical marijuana laws. Will there still be 15 of these by the end of the year? Two states – Montana and New Mexico – face unprecedented calls for outright repeal of their medical use laws.

The GOP lawmakers who dominate the Montana legislature are circulating a propaganda essay entitled, “Why Montana’s Medical Marijuana Law Should Be Repealed.” Montana NORML’s John Masterson said it was created by the state’s coordinator of drug courts.

The essay says the state medical use program has led to increased “criminal involvement ... intoxicated driving crashes and fatalities ... use of marijuana by their children ... lost productivity by their state’s workforce ... unsafe working conditions ... amount of drugs consumed on a regular basis by each user ... and the need for more psychiatric and addictive disease treatment.” None of this is true, according to Montana statistics.

Since medical marijuana was legalized in 2004 until 2009, teenage use dropped 28.7%, Montana’s crime index declined 15.8%, fewer people died in auto fatalities, gross domestic product outpaced national averages, workplace injuries and fatalities both dropped, overall marijuana use fell, and fewer people attended rehab claiming marijuana as their “primary substance.”

Regardless, Montana’s House Speaker Mike Milburn (R) remarked that, “Voters did vote for the [compassionate use] initiative but it wasn’t for what happened.” A front group, Safe Community Safe Kids, is Please turn to page 23

## THC content up, CBD down in confiscated cannabis

By Paul Armentano, NORML

Levels of the cannabinoid CBD (cannabidiol) are declining in marijuana, according to a review\* of over 5,000 samples seized by law enforcement in California. The review appears on the website of the journal *Drug and Alcohol Dependence*.

Investigators at the RAND Corporation in Santa Monica assessed changes in the median THC and CBD levels of cannabis seized between 1996 and 2008 and found that THC levels rose during this time period while CBD levels fell. “[M]edian THC potency has increased from 4.56% in 1996 to 11.75% in 2008,” they reported. “The increase in THC was far more dramatic in non-border areas (from 4.18% to 13.95%) than in border areas (from 4.52% to 6.84%). ... The median level of CBD dropped from 0.24% in 1996 to 0.08% in 2008.”

The authors speculated that the shift was because “growers are making greater use of plant strains that favor THC production over CBD production.”

Cannabidiol is a non-psychoactive cannabinoid that is believed to temper the psychoactive effects of THC. In preclinical trials, CBD has demonstrated the ability to both treat symptoms and modify the course of various diseases. A recent review in the journal *Trends in Pharmacological Sciences* reported that CBD has over a dozen separate therapeutic properties — Please turn to page 24

## Medical cannabis regulation bills in Cal legislature

By Dale Gieringer, Director Cal NORML

California Sen. Lou Correa (D-Anaheim) has introduced a comprehensive Medical Cannabis Licensing Act to provide a “complete, functional, licensing scheme” aimed at fulfilling Prop. 215’s mandate for a “safe and affordable” distribution system.

Senate Bill 847 would require producers, distributors and sellers to be licensed by the Dept. of Public Health, with licenses renewed each 12 months. It also establishes an indicia program under the Board of Equalization, to require traceable, secure indicia of licensure to be placed on medical marijuana, require a product testing program and a facilities inspection program, and authorize assessment of related fees.

On the whole, SB 847 is surprisingly well drafted (especially given that Correa has the worst record of any Democrat in the legislature on medical rights). It puts enforcement in the hands of the Dept. of Health and Board of Pharmacy; explicitly exempts licensees from charges for sales, Please turn to page 10

# Overflow crowd turns out for forum to discuss ‘Next Steps’ for marijuana reform in California

## Cal Norml hosts conferences

By Chris Conrad

An overflow crowd came from around the state to Berkeley Jan. 29, 2011 for a California NORML conference to assess ‘Marijuana Reform: Next Steps for California.’ Another conference is set for March 19 in Los Angeles (see canorml.org).

At the Jan. 29 event, State Senator Mark Leno and Assemblyman Tom Ammiano agreed that with Jerry Brown as state governor the prospect of getting meaningful reform passed and signed into law is enhanced. Leno said he is introducing SB129 to protect the jobs of qualified patients who use cannabis medicinally.

Oakland City Councilwoman Desley Brooks and Mendocino Supervisor John McCowen spoke of devising workable solutions at the local level in the face of erratic federal intervention. Surprise guest speaker Ethan Nadelmann of Drug Policy

Alliance pointed to a global debate that Prop 19 initiated in 2010 and the more favorable voter turnout expected in 2012.

Cal NORML Director Dale Gieringer guided the conferees through a series of panels and presentations.

A second room was opened to handle the overflow crowd. During the last panel of the day, that room became an open-microphone forum so everyone had a chance to speak on the future of reform.

All agreed that legalization reached new levels of acceptance in 2010. Dale Sky Jones of the Yes on 19 campaign said this was a major goal of the campaign and that a new initiative committee is in its developmental stages. “The question isn’t *whether* cannabis will be legalized, it is determining *what form* of legalization will take place.”

Throughout the day, a plethora of initiative ideas was discussed by the panels Please turn to page 7



WEST COAST LEAF

West Coasterdam Report



Patients attended the Oregon Medical Cannabis Awards 2010 event at the World Famous Cannabis Café in Portland on Dec. 10, 2010. The event is organized to gather data on the top strains available in Oregon and which symptoms each strain is most effective in relieving.

Photo by Michael Allen Kirk

## DEA returns \$7500 to grower it wrongly raided

The US Treasury returned \$7500 to Joy Greenfield on Jan. 25, 2011, money that had been confiscated by federal DEA agents in a summer 2010 raid on her Covelo property. "I've never seen that happen," commented her attorney Bob Boyd. Greenfield, 70, a softspoken grandmotherly grower, received Mendocino County's first permit to grow 99 marijuana plants under the protection of the sheriff's zip-tie program in July 2010. Within days of the approval, she was raided by the DEA, which confiscated her 99 plants, computer, and \$7500 cash. The DEA acknowledged they were looking for someone else. Her computer was returned last fall (but not the plants). Charges were never filed. Her collective is one of 18 who enrolled in the zip-tie program last year at \$50 per plant plus \$1500 and regular inspection fees. Greenfield said she intends to apply for the 99-plant exemption again this year. "I believe I got my money back because of the program." — *Pebbles Trippet*, MMMAB

## California narc charged with stealing, re-selling drug evidence

The commander of a multi-agency central Contra Costa County narcotics enforcement team was arrested Feb. 16, 2011 and charged with stealing illegal drugs and precursor compounds from police evidence lockers, then reselling them to traffickers. Normal Wielsch, an agent with the Bureau of Narcotics Enforcement, allegedly dealt with the head of a private investigation firm, Christopher Butler, in the scheme, and both are charged with embezzlement, second-degree burglary, and transporting and selling marijuana, methamphetamines, and steroids. One sale allegedly involved more than a pound of meth. The incident has raised concern about any cases where Wielsch and/or Butler's company were involved in an investigation.

## Bill to make some cultivation less serious offense

### Assembly bill creates wobbler as felony or misdemeanor

By Quintin Mecke

Assemblymember Tom Ammiano introduced AB 1017, sponsored by Mendocino County District Attorney David Eyster, to change Health and Safety Code section 11358 cultivation from a mandatory felony penalty to an alternate felony or misdemeanor, known as a "wobbler".

"When it comes to marijuana cultivation, one size does not fit all," said Eyster. "The proposed change affords local DAs the charging discretion to determine, for example, that a home gardener with a few non-medical plants will not be prosecuted at the same level as a profiteer operating a major marijuana plantation.

"It makes no sense that unlawful possession of less than one ounce of marijuana is an infraction, possession of more than an ounce of marijuana is a misdemeanor, possession of methamphetamines may be

charged as a misdemeanor, but growing any amount of marijuana must be charged as a straight felony punishable by prison."

"This change is long overdue and is simply common sense," said Ammiano.

"Allowing marijuana cultivation to be a misdemeanor will save the state money, allow for more cost-effective prosecution, and reflects the views of most Californians. I applaud DA Eyster for his leadership on trying to create a rational public policy for marijuana in California."

"Sending nonviolent marijuana offenders to state prison is a particular waste of resources in a state that lowered possession penalties last year and seriously considered ending marijuana prohibition outright," said Drug Policy Alliance California Director Stephen Gutwillig.

"The fact that law enforcement figures like DA Eyster support Ammiano's sensible new legislation shows how quickly the tide is turning."

## Inland Empire collective finds growing need

### Desert Organic Solutions

By Nicky Vallee

If you'd told Gary Cherlin a year ago that his soon-to-be-open medical marijuana dispensary would be viewed as an asset to the community, he never would have believed it. But a mere eight months after Desert Organic Solutions opened to the public in Palm Springs, business is 'growing.' One of only three legal facilities approved for operation in the Inland Empire, the Desert Organic Solutions (DOS) collective serves upwards of 100 patients per day, employs a

staff of seven, and is seen by many as an asset to the community.

"We started out with only six members, and I never could have imagined we would grow so quickly," says President Gary Cherlin. "We have 3,050 members now, and a large percentage of them have cancer, HIV, or multiple sclerosis. I've been getting tremendous feedback from them in terms of just how necessary this facility is to their overall well-being."

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## Washington legislature poised to improve cannabis access; medical, maybe otherwise

### Evergreen state moves major reform measures forward

By Alison Holcomb,

ACLU of Washington Drug Policy Director

Washington state legislators have introduced two comprehensive marijuana law reform measures in the 2011 session. Both have been through committee hearings with extensive witness testimony, the vast

Patients will get 'up front' protection, not simply a legal defense after arrest

majority of which supported passage, including testimony from high-profile public figures such as the Seattle city attorney and the deputy mayor of Tacoma, the state's third-largest city.

Senate Bill 5073, introduced by Sen. Jeanne Kohl-Welles and nine co-sponsors from both sides of the aisle and both sides of the state, will change state medical use law from providing patients only an affirmative defense to raise at trial to providing up-front protection from arrest and prosecution. It will create a system of licensed producers, processors, and dispensers of medical marijuana regulated by the state's departments of agriculture and health. Additional improvements include protecting patients from losing their children or their housing.

The bill was heard Jan. 20, highlighted by the compelling personal story of Tacoma Deputy Mayor Lauren Walker. She had been sympathetic but skeptical when she and her Tacoma City Council colleagues heard testimony last October opposing enforcement of a cease-and-desist letter issued to dispensaries within

the city. Shortly thereafter, Walker's husband was diagnosed with stage-IV metastatic melanoma. She related to the committee the intensely personal story of her family's struggle, ending on the hopeful note that — with the help of cannabis — her husband had managed to keep down a bowl of cereal earlier that morning.

Senate Bill 5073 passed out of committee Feb. 10 with bipartisan support. Seven members recommended passage by the full Senate, and two referred the bill with no recommendation. No member voted to oppose it. Unfortunately, a provision to

Sen. Jeanne Kohl-Welles

protect patients against job discrimination did not survive amendments during the executive session.

Its House companion is HB 1100, by Speaker Pro Tempore Jim Moeller, Majority Whip Sharon Tomiko Santos, and representatives from Seattle as well as from Spokane, the state's second-largest city.

Another comprehensive bill on the table is HB 1550, by Rep. Mary Lou



Dickerson and 13 other representatives. It would make cannabis available to adults aged 21 years and older through state-operated liquor stores. Producers would be licensed by the Liquor Control Board.

It received a public hearing before the House Committee on Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Feb. 8.

"Ending marijuana prohibition is perhaps the most pro-law-enforcement action this legislature can take," Seattle City Attorney Peter Holmes told the committee.

"It will enhance the legitimacy of our laws and our law enforcement."

HB 1550's Senate companion is SB 5598, introduced by President Pro Tempore Margarita Prentice and Sen. Adam Kline.

## Cannabis: Fresno rejects cornerstone for Central Valley recovery

By Lilly White

Despite the great opportunities that come with cannabis — jobs, tax revenues, and industrial hemp farming and manufacturing — Fresno city and county officials decided to ban it completely.

Fresno, the fifth largest city in California, sits amid the Central Valley, a key producer of agricultural products. Gubernatorial candidate Meg Whitman compared the Valley to Detroit. Some 80% of its farms are family-owned; many are failing. Fresno has one of the highest unemployment rates in the nation. The mayor has asked its citizens to donate \$1 each to help take care of the homeless. Cannabis could help cure some of its ills.

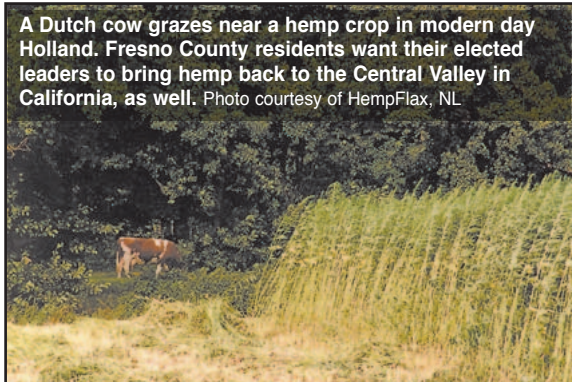
Nonetheless, in September 2009, Fresno City Council banned all medical marijuana dispensaries and collectives, using "must be federally legal" language in their ordinance. Fresno dispensaries shut down or moved into unincorporated parts of the

county, including some areas within city boundaries.

In July 2010, the County Board of Supervisors took action against the collectives by placing a moratorium on new shops. Then in September, it banned outdoor cultivation. When the Planning Dept. brought a draft regulation ordinance to the Board in December, it was told to move forward with a ban instead.

"This directive defies not only safe access, common sense and changing public attitudes toward cannabis, but also state law and the attorney general's guidelines," said Shannon Luce of the Mind, Body and Soul Collective.

"We should be putting our farmers to work and improving the quality of the soil, air, and life in general by planting industrial hemp across the Valley floor. We should



be re-tooling our farms and factories to accommodate the production of hemp and its 30,000-plus uses. We should be focusing, heavily on cannabis bio-fuel production with the oil reserves declining at a rate of 40% annually."

Luce said there is currently a Central Valley chapter of NORML forming. "They are a wonderful, dedicated group of people with fabulous ideas for the future of cannabis in the Central Valley."

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# Los Angeles adopts disappointing lottery plan for only 100 dispensaries, but gets its ordinance

## Bittersweet victory for ASA

By Jessica Gelay, Drug Policy Alliance

Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa signed hard-fought and still flawed medical marijuana regulations for the City of Los Angeles that took effect Jan. 28, 2011.

Previous regulations were revised after Superior Court Judge Anthony Mohr struck down portions of the ordinance Dec. 10, 2010 in the case *Americans for Safe Access v. City of Los Angeles*. ASA represents over 100 collectives in this case.

The revisions mean that any collective that can prove it was in operation before Sept. 7, 2007 will be eligible to participate in a lottery. One hundred collectives will be chosen to apply for the registration process. The same day the new regulations were voted on, a motion was introduced to allow ten additional permits that Council members would be able to give on a discretionary basis. The date of the lottery has not yet been announced, but is expected to be released soon.

“At the end of the day there will be medical cannabis dispensing collectives in LA, even if it’s not as many as we want, or the ones that we want,” said Don Duncan, Americans for Safe Access California’s campaign director.

The struggle has gone on since 2006, and bad press surrounding the city’s lack of control over the opening of collectives has led to a statewide backlash in which counties, including LA, Orange, and Fresno, have voted to ban collectives outright. As dismal as that appears, support for safe access does exist, and case law is getting stronger.

For example, Judge Mohr acknowledged the lawful rights of citizens of California when he ruled, “[I]n discharging its powers and duties under the police power, the City must not lose sight of the fact that the People of the State of California have conferred on qualified patients the right to obtain marijuana for

medical purposes. No local subdivision should be allowed to curtail that right wholesale or regulate it out of existence.”

The California Coastal Commission spoke out and rejected Laguna Beach’s desire to ban collectives in all city zones. Six commissioners disagreed with the city’s stance that cannabis collectives would be too difficult to deal with. In an article published Jan. 19, commissioner Mark Stone told *OC Register* reporter Claudia Koerner, “For communities to not step up and take some responsibility for how their folks can have access, and to push it off onto other communities, brings to us a consistency issue that is legitimate for us to look at even though it’s not directly a coastal access issue.”

In the same article, commissioner Ross Mirkarimi said, “Dispensary bans included patient access and criminal justice issues that the Coastal Commission could not ignore.” He said he “hoped the vote would send a message to cities to take a harder look at how to regulate dispensaries instead of banning them.”

# Patients have high hopes for new Riverside DA

By Lanny Swerdlow, RN LNC

To the relief of medical marijuana patients throughout Riverside County, Judge Paul Zellerbach was sworn in as the county’s new District Attorney Jan. 3, 2011. He replaces one-term DA Rod Pacheco, whose zeal for prosecuting cannabis patients created a climate of fear and intimidation that permeated the county’s medical marijuana community.

Commenting on Pacheco’s relationship to marijuana patients, Marty Victor, who had been prosecuted by Pacheco for operating a 10-member collective in his backyard, emphatically stated, “I think he should be thrown in jail. The guy is a crook. He robbed me and my wife of our lives and he’s robbed the citizens of Riverside County of their dignity. Zellerbach will be

# San Bernardino rejects ‘White Paper’ as biased

By Allen Bartleman, Attorney at Law

San Bernardino County Planning Commissioners, expressing concern that their staff had provided biased evidence in the “California Police Chief’s White Paper on Medical Marijuana,” delayed a vote on a cannabis collectives ban, to seek a more balanced presentation of facts. However, planners revisited the proposal at their Feb. 17, 2011 meeting and passed a ban.

It next goes to the Board of Supervisors, who are expected to pass it. More than 70 qualified patients, their attorneys, and other witnesses opposed to the proposed ban appeared before the planners during five hours of testimony. While patients testified about the benefits of cannabis in alleviating their conditions or symptoms, the anti-patient forces also cited anecdotal scare stories about marijuana affecting children and the community. Attributing “immorality” to pot use, some claims made by professional anti-drug advocates actually caused people to laugh out loud.

Attorneys Allen Bartleman of San Bernardino and Lawrence Bynum of Riverside cited grievous errors in the so-called White Paper, such as blaming dis-

pensaries for nearby, unrelated crimes. Bynum noted that the claimed crimes surrounding any dispensary could not be documented and, even if some were true, there are other legal remedies short of a ban on all dispensaries.

Commissioners expressed concern that their staff had provided biased evidence in the infamous “California Police Chief’s White Paper on Medical Marijuana”

The proposed ban would over-broadly define a “dispensary” as three or more qualified patients growing their own medicine, any outdoor grow, or any place where cannabis is provided. The commission staff apparently drew up the restrictive ordinance with no consideration for the established rights of qualified California patients under Prop 215, SB 420, or the Attorney General’s guidelines. It would contradict established state law by forbidding outdoor growing or the forming of collectives.

San Bernardino County has had a legal moratorium on medical marijuana dispensaries since June, 2009. By law, the moratorium expires in June, and if it is not replaced by an ordinance, it will allow dispensaries to go forward unregulated.

Non-regulation is the county rule today; numerous dispensaries have been operating without any legal oversight. By enacting a senseless moratorium for nearly two years, the Board of Supervisors created a surge of dispensaries in many locations, clustered together, sometimes acting illegally and giving a bad reputation to legitimate, law-abiding operators.

Several planning commissioners expressed a desire to pass a less restrictive ordinance than proposed by staff. Attorney advocates intend to relay unbiased facts and propose a substitute ordinance that will allow patients to exercise their rights while protecting the community from nuisances which may be caused by a few dispensaries or individuals.

a breath of fresh air.”

Zellerbach, 57, served as a Riverside County prosecutor for 22 years and as a superior court judge for the past 10 and a half. He was supported in his bid for office by a broad coalition of private lawyers, public defenders, community activists, progressive organizations, and cannabis patients.

Asked about allowing collectives to operate, Zellerbach replied, “It’s a problematic issue. It’s up to each jurisdiction, whether it be the cities or the county, to decide how they want to deal with the issue. It is not the position of the DA or the DA’s office to tell the county or each individual city throughout the county what they should or should not do. It is the

Please turn to page 11



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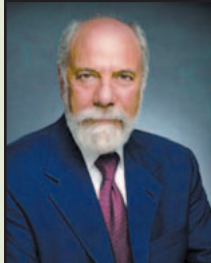
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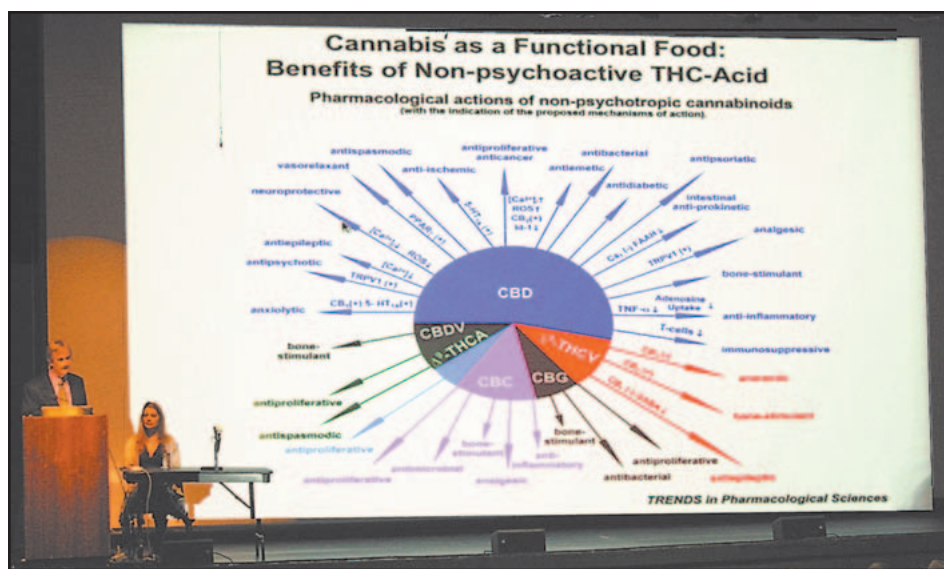


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## Mendo County permit system moves ahead

By John McCowen, County Supervisor\*

Mendocino County's landmark medical marijuana cultivation program, allowing 99-plant permits issued by the Sheriff's Office, is entering its second year.

The program is unique in that applicants are inspected by the Sheriff's Office and must comply with numerous conditions designed to prevent black-market diversion, protect the environment, and prevent neighborhood problems.

Applicants must show that they are not illegally diverting water, creating erosion, harming wildlife, polluting the environment, or creating neighborhood problems.

Adopted in 2008, the Medical Marijuana Cultivation Ordinance, Section 9.31, imposed a restrictive 25-plant-per-parcel limit, but had few other limits on neighborhood impacts. Amendments adopted last year allowed for the 99-plant permits with new conditions to limit neighborhood and community impacts.

Collectives, cooperatives, and individual members cultivating on their behalf may apply for the permits if they comply with the Compassionate Use Act (Prop 215), the Medical Marijuana Program Act (SB 420), and the Attorney General Guidelines, and have a sufficient patient base to justify the amount produced.

A minimum parcel size of five acres is required. Multiple contiguous parcels under one ownership are eligible for only one permit, to limit neighborhood impacts. Applicants may apply for additional permits on non-contiguous parcels. They pay an application fee and buy serial-numbered zip ties to attach to each mature plant. After an initial inspection by the

Sheriff's Office, applicants may choose among three "third-party inspectors" for subsequent compliance inspections.

Applicants must show that they are not illegally diverting water, creating erosion, harming wildlife, polluting the environment, or creating neighborhood problems. In return, they have unprecedented assurance that they will not be subject to arrest and eradication of their plants by local police. By drawing a bright line around legally-compliant growers, the county and its applicants can avoid the costs of arrest and prosecution.

All 18 applicants were approved in 2010 and have been participating in a collaborative process with the Sheriff's Office and third-party inspectors to identify and resolve issues and identify possible improvements to the program. Under discussion are requirements that permit holders comply with sustainability guidelines that would be adopted by the Sheriff to insure quality and purity.

An unintended benefit of the program is less polarization and a growing reconciliation between law enforcement and the patient community. At a recent budget hearing, several applicants spoke in support of the Sheriff's Office, which has undergone budget cuts and layoffs.

Critics contend that the ordinance violates the CUA and the MMPA, but thus far courts have held that local jurisdictions may regulate the time, place, and manner of cultivation. Likewise, it is legal for everyone to drink milk, but no one thinks they can have a herd of dairy cows in their residential back yard. As one speaker at the Next Steps Conference said, if marijuana is legalized, it will be regulated.

\* McCowen is a Mendocino County Supervisor who helped develop the 99 plant permit program.

## Mega-grows proposal scaled down in Oakland

### City cultivation ordinance up in air over legalities, logistics

By Mickey Martin, T-Comp Consulting

Oakland City Council persists in its effort to license medical garden facilities and is searching for ways to do it legally, after a plan for four unlimited mega-grows was deemed illegal by the Alameda County District Attorney's Office and raised eyebrows at the US Department of Justice.

The most current incarnation, put forth by Councilperson Desley Brooks, makes way for five new permitted organizations that each would have a licensed grow space and dispensary. The new ordinance does not address existing dispensaries, "leaving (it) open." So, new organizations would be allowed grow licenses while existing ones that have served the community for years would not, unless changes are made to the proposal.

The revised plan attempts to identify cultivation and dispensing locations, require new organizations to grow 70% of the medicine they dispense, maintain patient/provider relationships in accordance with California law, and allow a grow space of up to 50,000 square feet.

"This appears to be advantageous only to the five new potential dispensaries," said a perplexed local dispensary operator with a current permit.

The ordinance drew criticism from patients, providers and collective operators who questioned the wisdom and motive of the Council to proceed after the release of a letter warning of enforcement from US Attorney for the Northern CA District Melinda Heig. City Attorney John Russo declared he would not work on the ordinance any further after evaluating and discussing the situation with the Feds.



Photo by Sam Salbazar, medicalmarijuana411.com

Brooks is championing the newly modified version of the ordinance with Council President Larry Reid, after "several comments in the press regarding the legality of (the previous) ordinance" moved them to instruct staff to prepare legislation to modify the terms of the ordinance, according to a memo from Brooks's office. They wanted the new language to "clearly and unambiguously be in compliance with local and state law" and "prevent the unlawful marketing and selling of marijuana for profit," but were silent on the need to increase patient value or safety.

Prospective operator Dhar Mann has worked close with Brooks's office in the crafting of the ordinance. Councilpersons Brooks, Reid, and Rebecca Kaplan have all appeared at the opening of his hydro store. Mann hopes for speedy resolution so he can open a large grow facility and dispensary in Oakland.

"Politics and these issues need to be addressed now rather than later," Mann stated. "The delays have placed Oakland as a follower rather than as a leader, as other states have gone ahead with cultivation and dispensary processes; but that may not necessarily be a bad thing."

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## Ukiah dispensaries sponsor educational seminar

By Carole Brodsky, MMMAB

About 50 Mendocino County residents attended a January seminar sponsored by three Ukiah cannabis dispensaries, Compassionate Heart, MJ's Place and Reflections of Avalon.

County Supervisor John McCowen dis-

cussed the local Medical Marijuana Cultivation Regulation. "The exemptions to grow up to 99 plants have reduced grower anxiety. It's not perfect, but people no longer have to fear the Sheriff. They visit your garden with a clipboard, not a machete."

Tim Blake, founder of Laytonville's Emerald Cup outdoor cannabis competition, discussed grower challenges. "We grow all the outdoor we need but can't get it to the marketplace. We retain less than 18% of market share. A whole generation dislikes outdoor cannabis. It's a tough market to break," he noted.

Blake encouraged growers to join Mendocino County's 99-plant growing program. "If you're not an in-law, you're an outlaw," he cautioned.

Oakland's Steep Hill Laboratories CEO AnnaRae Grabstein presented information about its 'Safe Cannabis' Program. "Products are tested for potency, pesticides, and microbiological contaminants and packaged in nitrogen-sealed, tamper-proof mylar bags," he said.

Ukiah physician Dr. John Lovejoy discussed cannabis use during pregnancy and breast feeding, citing four years of Mendocino County public health records. "One out of ten pregnant women claimed cannabis use during pregnancy," he said.

"Mothers using cannabis must err on the side of caution," Lovejoy noted.

Dr. Jean Tallerand discussed cannabis usage from 8000 BC to the present. "Cannabis is the oldest non-food crop cultivated by humans," he noted, and drew chuckles quoting a 1907 Ukiah *Dispatch Democrat* report that the "queer smokes gave one a desire to caress one's feet."

Dr. Mark Rabe discussed CBD and the brain's endocannabinoid receptor sites.

Sergeant Randy Johnson, coordinator of the county's cultivation program, said first-year applicants were concerned. "Growers said, 'They want to get my name.' Like they can't get it anyway," said Johnson, getting laughs.

"You may be legal in the program but there's no transportation exemption," he cautioned, and added that gardens of 25 plants or less are not targets. "I'm not saying they're totally off limits. If you've got 50 pounds of processed and ten guns, we might have issues."

Johnson claimed the DEA is not

Please turn to page 13



Steve DeAngelo of Harborside speaks at the Jan. 29 Cal NORML conference. Also visible, Ethan Nadelmann of DPA and Dale Sky Jones of Yes on 19.

Photo by Sam Salbazar, medicalmarijuana411.com

## Cal activists ready to go beyond medical use

### 'Next Steps' survey finds agreement on key issues

By Dale Gieringer, California NORML Director

Participants at California NORML's 'Next Steps' conference in Berkeley Jan. 29 took a vote on ideas for a 2012 initiative or legislation in Sacramento. Activists will have another chance to vote at a follow-up conference in LA (canorml.org) March 19.

One hundred questionnaires were returned, with proposals rated on a scale of one to four, lower numbers being better.

The most popular priority was to legalize adult use, possession, and personal cultivation (average score 1.44), followed by reducing felonies to lesser offenses (1.59) and establishing clearer rules for medical marijuana (1.72).

After that came legalizing "like alcohol" (1.90). The only unpopular idea was to stick to medical marijuana on the grounds it's too early for legalization (3.18).

Respondents rated various measures that might be included in a ballot initiative on a scale of one to five, with five being "unacceptable." The most popular and least controversial proposal was to end employment and housing discrimination against Prop 215 patients (average score 1.33, no unacceptable votes), followed by establishing clubs where adults could smoke marijuana publicly but not necessarily buy it (1.78, two unacceptable) and requiring commercial marijuana to be tested for potency and contaminants (1.86, one unacceptable).

The most unpopular proposals were repealing all state laws and leaving enforcement to the Feds (3.32, 35 unacceptable); taxing commercial medical production (3.04, 15 unacceptable); allowing localities to regulate personal cultivation (2.90, 14 unacceptable); legalizing personal use and cultivation but not public sales (2.70,

13 unacceptable), and opening up medical marijuana sales to for-profit businesses (2.64, 17 unacceptable)

A scattering of answers was received to the question of how much marijuana should be taxed. The responses ranged from nothing or sales tax only up to \$50 per ounce. The median response was around \$10-\$20 per ounce.

### 'Next Steps' conference

Continued from page 1

and privately among the 300 attendees, who included many of the state's top activists, as well as people who came from across the nation to participate.

Mikki Norris spoke to "who we are," by listing the diverse players and opinions with a stake in cannabis reform. The call for unity was repeated many times. One division was made apparent in the two-track path taken by the conference in concurrent afternoon breakout sessions — medical marijuana and full legalization.

On medical use, Steve De Angelo of Harborside Health Center talked about working with local government, while Steph Sherer of Americans for Safe Access discussed the delicacies of working for the rights of patients across the country who are affected by what happens here. Berkeley family doctor Frank Lucido, M.D. and others expressed physician viewpoints. Attorneys dissected legal aspects of crafting legalization laws.

Nate Bradley of LEAP, Michael Jolson with the CCHHI or 'Jack Herer' initiative, Jeff Jones of Yes on 19, Debby Goldsberry of the Cannabis Action Network, Bruce Margolin of LA NORML, Lindsay Robinson of Marijuana Policy Project, Deborah Small of Break the Chains and others were on a crowded activist panel.

Video of the event is posted online at canorml.org.

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# American in Egypt faces death penalty for hemp

## Escapes from burning prison

By Adam Eiding [Votehemp.com](http://Votehemp.com)

Mostafa Soliman, a US citizen who has lived in America for 40 years, was wrongly imprisoned Dec. 30, 2010 by Egyptian authorities for importing organic hemp seed oil used in salads and other healthy recipes. The nation's leading trade organization promoting non-drug industrial hemp became involved and learned that, if convicted, he risks death by hanging.

After almost a month in jail, Soliman was finally granted bail as protests raged across Egypt. Just as he was about to be released on Jan. 28, his jail was attacked by protesters and set on fire. Guards and police fled, leaving the prisoners, many crammed into eight-by-eight-foot cells with up to 30 people in each, to die in the burning jail. Protesters eventually entered the jail, smashed the locks on the prison cells amidst smoke and tear gas, and released the inmates in a nightmarish scene of danger and chaos.

Over the next few days, attorneys in the US working with the Hemp Industries Assn. (HIA), asked the US Embassy in

Cairo to reissue Soliman a passport so he could return to the US. So far, the embassy has refused to issue the new passport, for no apparent reason other than the unfounded Egyptian drug charges.

The Egyptian-born American is owner of Health Harvest, a company which exports hemp-seed oil from Canada and operates in Egypt. He lives in Aventura, Florida, and was in Egypt to manage the arrival of product shipments.

"This is a tragic mistake that could be solved with a simple drug test. Soliman is falsely accused of importing 'hash oil' when in fact it was healthy hemp food," said HIA Executive Director Eric Steenstra.

"The HIA and [Votehemp.com](http://Votehemp.com) are launching a campaign to free Mostafa Soliman that will hopefully jump-start action at the US State Department. The unrest in Egypt will make it more difficult for US authorities to act, but this terrible mistake by Egyptian authorities was made well before the recent protests began and in many ways symbolizes the corruption the protestors are resisting."

To help, call 202-744-2671 or email [adam@mintwood.com](mailto:adam@mintwood.com).

# US Navy veteran denied his medical use defense

By Angela Bacca, [GreenAid.com](http://GreenAid.com)

Ken Unger is a US Navy veteran deemed 100% disabled and unemployable by the St. Louis Veterans Administration. The State of Missouri is barring Unger, who is fighting marijuana charges, from explaining his medical use in court.

Unger was hit in the head with a 50-ton crane hook while serving in Grenada in 1983, and left with two herniated discs in his back, muscle spasms, weakness, pain, and numbness in his legs. He has six coronary stents holding the arteries in his heart open and an artery bypass in his right leg. His injuries have rendered him weak, and he suffers from depression as well as diabetes.

Unger had been prescribed morphine, which led to three heart attacks, but learned the benefits of cannabis, which has no detrimental side effect for him. He cultivated small amounts of marijuana to treat his service-related injuries and has never profited from his efforts. Unger is charged



with felony possession with intent to distribute and faces five to 15 years in state prison. He plans to fight for his right to a medical defense in court. If won, this will set a state precedent. O'Fallon, Missouri police obtained a warrant to search Unger's home on

the suspicion he was growing and selling marijuana. The distribution charge had no evidence to back it up. In applying for the warrant, Officer Justin Hill wrote, "Your affiant knows that persons who cultivate marijuana will distribute marijuana they produce for others for profit."

Unger has no prior federal, state, or local offenses. He rejected a five-year probation plea offer that would have required Unger to submit to drug testing, thus preventing him from using any medication to treat his chronic pain.

# Study: Drug dogs may alert to please their handlers

Continued from page 5

In another room they placed decoys of two sausages and two tennis balls. The last room had red construction paper where the decoy scents were hidden. No rooms contained either drugs or explosives. So, while there should have been zero real alerts, in fact there were alerts in all rooms, and increased alerts in rooms with the red construction paper, indicating that human suggestion was more at play than dog interest. Alerts were on different target

locations, so dogs were not just alerting in the same places as other dogs.

While revealing, the study hardly negates the ability of these animals to perform incredible feats with their enhanced sense of smell. It does signal the need to replicate the test and for closer examination of the handler-dog relationship to compensate for the cognitive factors that handlers and trainers have in these situations, and to thereby avoid false alerts and protect Fourth Amendment rights.



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- "Alumnus of the Year", Boalt Hall, U.C. Berkeley, 1993
- Charles Garry Award, 1994
- ACLU Benjamin Dreyfus Civil Liberties Award, 1997
- "Ten Best Criminal Defense Attorneys of the Century", California Attorneys for Criminal Justice, 2000
- Lifetime Achievement Award, 2000 McFetridge-American Inn of Court,
- "Trial Lawyer of the Year", Trial Lawyers for Public Justice, 2003 Co-Awardee
- Certificate of Honor, Board of Supervisors City & County of San Francisco, 2005
- Lawyer of the Year, Criminal Trial Lawyers Association of Northern California, 2005
- Gideon Equal Justice Award, SF Public Defender's Office & SF Private Defense Bar, 2005
- NORML "Lester Grinspoon Award" for Outstanding Achievement in the Field of Marijuana Law Reform, 2008

# The Radical Life and Law of J. Tony Serra



## Long Beach collective founders face prosecution

### Human Solution to go to trial

By Cheri Sicard

The founder of The Human Solution, a nonprofit, grassroots association providing education and support to qualified patients and the community at large, faces felony charges in Long Beach Superior Court.

Joe Grumbine and partner Joe Byron operated two medical marijuana collectives in Garden Grove and Long Beach that were part of a December 2009 SWAT-style raid involving drug-sniffing dogs, helicopters, and 120 armed officers sent to 17 locations. Fifteen people were arrested — volunteers, employees and even an independent construction worker. A year later, only Grumbine and Byron face actual charges.

Ironically, a California court had found Grumbine in complete compliance with California's medical marijuana laws in a similar case that culminated just five weeks before the raid took place.

Despite having no prior convictions, Judge Arthur Jean imposed \$200,000 and \$300,000 bails on Grumbine and Byron, respectively. Later, Grumbine's bail was reduced to \$120,000 — more than LA County recommends for rapists, kidnappers, and child molesters.

"What's so frightening about the whole situation," Grumbine said, "is that this could happen to anyone. Getting in trouble with the law was something we never envisioned because we read and understood the law. We followed it and trusted that we were protected, because that's what laws in America are supposed to do."

A preliminary hearing began Feb. 8 in a



Byron (left) and Grumbine in court.  
Photo by Sam Salbazar, medicalmarijuana411.com

courtroom overflowing with supporters, most wearing The Human Solution's signature green "solidarity ribbons," just as they did during the bail hearings. Detective after detective noted that the undercover officers sent in to buy medicine did possess valid doctor's recommendations and the collectives verified that fact. Police testified that the collectives provided other benefits to members, including chiropractic and massage services, free medicine, food, clothing, and wheelchairs to those in need. The officers even admitted to being aware that the collectives assisted handicapped patients in building wheelchair ramps in their homes free of charge.

Nonetheless, the preliminary hearing marches on. A lengthy jury trial is likely to follow, unless Judge Jesse Rodriguez finds it's not warranted. Grumbine remains optimistic, inspired in large part by the dedicated Human Solution members and others who have stood firmly by him.

## Cannabis patients need a plan to ensure that their medical rights are respected on probation, parole

### It's best to talk to attorney

By Lisa Meier, Jackson Square Law

Cannabis patients who wish to medicate while on probation for a criminal offense often find themselves in a quandary.

On the one hand, if the patient specifically requests permission from their probation officer to use cannabis, the request may be declined and the probationer will not be allowed to medicate until the issue is litigated in court, a process which could take a month or longer. On the other hand, if the probationer uses marijuana without permission, they risk incarceration for violating probation.

Prosecutors argue that judges have broad discretion in imposing reasonable conditions of probation, including not using or growing marijuana, particularly when the underlying conviction is for a cannabis-related offense, per *People v. Bianco* (2001). They argue that probationers must obey all laws while on probation, including federal laws, and marijuana violates federal law. Defense attorneys, however, counter that Prop 215, the *Compassionate Use Act* (CUA), provides that patients are not subject to criminal prosecution and sanctions for its use.

In *People v. Tilehkooh* (2003), the appellate court found that "it would completely frustrate the purpose of Health and Safety Code 11362.5 (the CUA) if a violation of probation for the medical use or possession of marijuana is permitted while barring a criminal prosecution for the same conduct." Defense attorneys also cite this case to argue that the state is barred from prosecuting violations of federal law.

To further complicate this issue, the *Medical Marijuana Program Act* (MMPA or

SB 420) took effect in 2004. Section 11362.795 states that a probationer who is a qualified patient may ask a court to confirm their right to use medical marijuana.

While this may seem to help patients to medicate, appellate courts have held that it permits the court to grant or reject a patient's request to use cannabis while on probation, so the decision should be made on a case-by-case basis.

Gather pertinent medical records and a letter from a physician explaining why cannabis is an effective treatment. Have friends and family write letters for you.

The California Supreme Court in *People v. Kelly* (2010) held that the quantity limits set by the MMPA are unconstitutional as it cannot amend the CUA, or Prop 215, a law passed by voter initiative. Similarly, defense attorneys cite *Kelly* to argue that the MMPA may not restrict a patient's right to use cannabis while on probation.

Given this confusion, the best course of action for a patient on probation is to raise this issue to their attorney before sentencing. Gather pertinent medical records and a letter from their physician explaining why cannabis is an effective treatment for their condition. Have friends and family write letters outlining the patient's good character and explaining how cannabis has helped them.

If the patient is making the request after being on probation, they should gather the information described above and provide proof they complied with the conditions of probation up to that point (i.e., paid fines, reported as requested, no new arrests, passed drug testing).



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## Two California bills look at medical regulations

*Continued from page 1*

distribution, etc., under HSC 11357 – 61; provides for hygiene, safety and security inspections; and leaves it to relevant public agencies to work out regulations. It prescribes fees, not taxes, to fund the system.

Meanwhile, Sen. Calderon has re-introduced a more lengthy and complicated Cannabis and Cannabis Product Certificate / Taxation bill like one he sponsored last year, aimed at collecting sales taxes.

It provides for certification by the State Board of Equalization for all growers, wholesalers, retailers, and transporters of cannabis products doing business in California. It would require certified growers, wholesalers, retailers and transporters to keep records of every sale, transfer, or delivery of such products, as specified. The bill would authorize any peace officer and specified employees of the board to conduct inspections, as provided. It would prohibit growers, wholesalers, retailers, and transporters from selling or purchasing cannabis products without a certificate.

The SB 626 bill has many shortcomings. It tries to regulate medical marijuana through the state Board of Equalization rather than the Dept. of Health; requires growers and transporters as well as sellers to register with the BoE; tries to make wholesalers pre-pay sales tax before the product is sold; prevents anyone with a felony record from participating; and fails to protect legal providers from prosecution under HSC 11358, 11359, 11360, etc.

## Palm Springs collective gives back to the community

*Continued from page 2*

at Indian Canyon Drive, the facility opened June 5, 2010 after a year and a half process to provide patients with safe, reliable access to affordable, high-quality cannabis.

The membership collective is open to all qualified patients with a physician's verified recommendation and primary caregivers. "The City of Palm Springs was wonderful in terms of helping to fast-track the approval for our zoning license prior to opening," Cherlin said. "They see we are a legitimate, licensed facility that helps people who are suffering.

"For me, it's all about giving back to the community," he added. "I wanted to help and asked myself 'what is the best way to give back?'" So, DOS has been expanding its patient programs, offering a free package of medicine once a month to indigent patients. It also runs a program for the disabled and one for military veterans, and recently started collecting clothing for an area homeless shelter.

In terms of future trends, Cherlin anticipates tremendous growth in the area of edible products. His facility offers a large assortment of such items, which include everything from ice cream to gluten-free bread pudding.

"These products really appeal to our older patients who are seeking alternative ways of ingesting the medicine," he said. "In this day and age, there are so many options for people. Medicinal marijuana isn't just about smoking anymore."

The facility's patient demographic runs the gamut. On an average day, Cherlin says the dispensary could see anyone from a 90-year-old glaucoma patient to a 23-year-old suffering from breast cancer.

For more about Desert Organic Solutions, call 760-288-4000 or visit [www.desertorganicsolutions.com](http://www.desertorganicsolutions.com).



## Lenient sentencing victory in Stacy case

### Two years federal probation for dispensary operator

By Eugene Davidovich

San Diego medical marijuana patients saw a victory Jan. 7, 2011 at the Federal Courthouse. In a courtroom filled to the brim with supporters wearing green solidarity ribbons, James Stacy was sentenced to probation for two years for operating a medical dispensary in Vista, Calif.

His collective, Movement in Action, was raided in September of 2009 as part of San Diego DA Bonnie Dumanis' Operation Green Rx raids on over a dozen San Diego

dispensaries.

Last year, Stacy was facing a federal mandatory minimum of five years in prison with the possibility of a life sentence. Shortly before his trial was supposed to begin last November, the US Attorney made an offer which included three years probation and no jail time, if Stacy pled guilty to cultivation. After due consideration Stacy signed the deal.

The probation department recommended Stacy be incarcerated for 13

months and go to drug rehab. Both the US attorney and judge disagreed and stated multiple times that Stacy was in clear and unambiguous compliance with state law, so no jail time was warranted.

Judge Moskowitz took extra time to modify the terms of Stacy's probation to

make them less restrictive and reduced the original three-year probation recommendation to two years.

The US Attorney's office agreed and Stacy walked out of that courtroom, not in custody, into a hallway filled with his supporters and friends.

## Coalition takes patient issues to City Hall

### San Diego fight to 'Stop the Ban' against medical access

By Ben Cisneros and Eugene Davidovich

A coalition of community groups, non-profits, businesses, and concerned citizens launched the grassroots 'Stop the Ban' campaign to get San Diego City Council to replace an impending *de facto* ban on medical cannabis facilities with reasonable regulations for collectives.

The Council is expected to vote on the proposed ordinance March 28, 2011. If passed, it would force all currently open facilities to close and effectively eradicate safe access in the city, where over 50,000 patients are currently served by more than 100 dispensaries. It would take collectives at least a year to come into compliance with the Process 4 Conditional Use Permit, so, under this scenario, San Diego will see a long period of time with no access and then maybe a handful of places emerging after the compliance period.

Led by the local chapter of Americans for Safe Access and Canvass for a Cause, a non-profit specializing in grassroots organizing, Stop the Ban is urging the City to amend its proposed ordinance and bring it in line with the recommendations of the City Medical Marijuana Task Force.

"People need to know what's about to happen in their city," said attorney and Stop the Ban spokesperson Rachel Scoma. "The ordinance, as proposed, would close every medical cannabis facility serving patients in San Diego, make it virtually impossible for any to reopen, and leave thousands of AIDS, cancer, MS and other seriously ill patients in despair."

Gretchen Bergman of A New Path outlined the need for compassion and her opposition to the proposal at a Stop the Ban press conference held outside City Hall.

"We want to make sure that if the City insists on passing this ban that they do so despite the most unprecedented outpouring of public opposition to an ordinance that the city has ever seen," said Scoma.

The campaign has also launched stopthebansd.org to inform the public about the impending ban and help organize volunteers for the effort.

Stop The Ban Coalition: Canvass for a Cause, A New PATH, Drug Policy Alliance (DPA), Americans for Safe Access, San Diego Renters Union, Veterans for Medical Marijuana Access, Students for Sensible Drug Policy, Ideal Choice Insurance, Law Offices of Melissa Bobrow, Law Offices of Kimberly Simms, *Nug* Magazine, *Kush* Magazine, San Diego County Community Coalition, Green Freedom Law Group, Legal Cannabis Institute, several members of the San Diego Medical Marijuana Task Force, and others.

## Legislation surges in 2011

Continued from page 1

legislatures in 10 states are now considering bills to create entirely new medical marijuana programs, with at least four more expected to do the same this year. Connecticut, Delaware, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, and Oklahoma are all looking at bills to protect seriously ill patients from arrest under certain conditions with a recommendation from their physician. In the most optimistic view, the number of states that allow medical use could nearly double this year.

In addition, some states are looking at ways to improve their existing programs. A California bill would protect qualified patients from being fired for simply testing positive for marijuana on a drug test, but excepting workplace impairment or situations involving safety issues.

Unfortunately, some states are also looking at ways to curtail or eliminate their medical use programs. The most notable example of this is Montana, where a bill to repeal the program entirely has already passed the state House along party lines and is on its way to the Senate. If this bill passes, over 20,000 Montana patients will become criminals overnight.

Everything possible must be done to make sure our representatives know the facts about marijuana, and to promote the passage of rational state legislation.



Lanny Swerdlow interviewing Riverside's new District Attorney, Paul Zellerbach

## New DA in Riverside

Continued from page 4

responsibility of the DA to make sure that whatever the cities decide to do that collectives and cooperatives are run according to the law. That's my job."

As for the need for licensing requirements and regulations so patients won't be in the position of breaking laws, he said "I don't disagree with that position. We want everyone to follow the laws in our society, so that's a good thing."

Angela Smith, board member of Yes We Cannabis, a medical-use advocacy group based in Riverside, is optimistic that there will be a change for the better in relations between qualified patients and law enforcement. Whereas Pacheco had refused to meet with patients, Smith said, "We look forward to working with the new DA in our efforts to protect safe access across Riverside County. I believe Zellerbach will bring a new perspective to the office that is long overdue."

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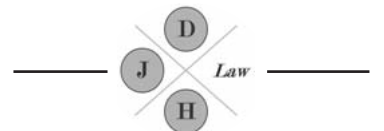
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Researcher John Dvorak shows off a piece of insulative hemp concrete. Switzerland, England, Germany and France have been documenting the environmental benefits of building with hemp for more than 20 years. Three hemp houses were built in Asheville, North Carolina in 2010 by Hemp Technologies, Inc. Construction of the houses has generated a tremendous amount of media attention. Other hemp concrete projects are underway or planned across North America as builders seek ever-more eco-riently construction alternatives.

An Adnams Brewery warehouse in England was built of hemp concrete and so, an \$800,000 heating/air conditioning unit did not have to be installed, reducing electricity expenses by over \$50,000 per year.

An area the size of a football field can grow enough hemp to build an average-size house. But it is illegal to grow hemp under federal law.

Learn more at [hempology.org](http://hempology.org)

## SLO patients seek better treatment from county

### Medical cannabis protests continue in San Luis Obispo

By William Dolphin, Americans for Safe Access

San Luis Obispo-area medical cannabis activists have been staging informational events and rallies in support of patients and providers facing charges.

During a three-day period at the end of December, local and state law enforcement agencies raided seven collectively run medical cannabis delivery services, arresting 15 people on felony charges, with bail set at up to \$100,000. In addition to seizing medicine, money, computers and other property, police have also frozen some bank accounts. Several of those arrested were charged with child endangerment, and Child Protective Services removed at least six children from the homes of three different families.

A January courthouse protest that coincided with the arraignment of one of the providers helped persuade two San Luis Obispo County supervisors to speak with incoming Sheriff Ian Parkinson to clarify his stance on medical marijuana.

"I want to be sure that the sheriff is

applying his precious resources in a rational way," District 2 Supervisor Bruce Gibson told local media.

"I would hope that he would pursue violations of our drug laws, but not a fruitless pursuit of those following the rules."

Patient advocates have been passing out flyers at the San Luis Obispo Farmers' Market on the first two Thursdays of the month. Several of those arrested appeared in court Feb. 9, 10 and 14.

Voters in nearby Morro Bay defeated a November ballot initiative that would have banned dispensaries, and city officials are now considering a dispensary ordinance.

Many cannabis patients have turned to delivery services, since all of the incorporated cities in the area have adopted moratoriums or outright bans against storefront cannabis dispensaries.

Raided collectives include Cannafornia Health Services, Atascadero; Santa Barbara Collective, Tarzana (LA); Open Access Foundation, Trilogy Health Services, and Harmonic Alliance, Paso Robles; Hopeful Remedies and West Coast Caregiving, Pismo Beach.

## Therapeutic use of cannabis has a very good prognosis

By Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director

NORML has revised, updated and posted online its popular and comprehensive booklet *Emerging Clinical Applications for Cannabis & Cannabinoids*.

The report reviews some 200 newly published scientific studies assessing the safety and efficacy of marijuana and its compounds in the treatment and management of 19 clinical indications: chronic pain, Alzheimer's disease, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), diabetes mellitus, dystonia, fibromyalgia, gastrointestinal disorders, gliomas and other cancers, human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), hepatitis C, hypertension, incontinence, methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA), multiple sclerosis, osteoporosis, pruritus, rheumatoid arthritis, sleep apnea, and Tourette syndrome. In some cases, pre-clinical data and clinical data indicate that cannabinoids may halt the progression of disease more efficaciously than available pharmaceuticals.

The updated report features a new section on the endocannabinoid system and its role in maintaining mental and physio-

## Got Bot?

By Mary Jane Borden, DrugSense.org

A new tool from DrugSense lets activists track drug policy developments almost as they happen, so they can make better decisions, craft better campaigns, or act more quickly. It's called a bot. A sample can be accessed at [drugbot.org](http://drugbot.org).

Bot is an Internet spider that parses over 1,000 breaking drug policy articles per day from newspapers, blogs, social media, and other Web content. While parsing, bot classifies these articles by over 375 topics, enabling them to be finely categorized and graphically displayed.

The DrugSense newsbot is an advanced concept based on 'persuasive classification.' It can be used in conjunction with automated Web crawlers to produce a 24/7 stream of geographically and/or topically specific breaking news that can be

Please turn to page 24

logical health by osteopath and cannabis specialist Dr. Dustin Sulak. "As we continue to sort through the emerging science, one thing remains clear: a functional cannabinoid system is essential for health," writes Dr. Sulak.

See [norml.org/index.cfm?Group\\_ID=7002](http://norml.org/index.cfm?Group_ID=7002). Hard copies available for purchase. Earlier editions available at a reduced bulk rate.

## Jackson free on bail to appeal Answerdam conviction

By Eugene Davidovich, San Diego ASA

San Diego cannabis patient, Navy veteran, and former operator of the Answerdam collective Jovan Jackson is out on bail pending appeal of his conviction after being tried twice in less than a year on the same charges of possession and sale.

After one jury split on the verdict, he was convicted by another Sept. 28, 2010 in a second trial after being denied his medical marijuana defense by Judge Howard Shore, who held that although they were legal patients, since all 1600 Answerdam members did not express that their "purpose" was to cultivate, Jackson did not qualify for a medical collective defense.

Jackson was sentenced to 180 days in jail plus a fine, and scheduled to report on Feb. 1, 2011 when Chief Legal Counsel Joe Elford of Americans for Safe Access (ASA), the country's largest medical marijuana advocacy group, joined the case.

Elford was in front of Superior Court Judge Shore Jan. 27, along with Lance Rogers, arguing to keep Jackson out of jail pending his appeal. At the hearing, Deputy DA Chris Lindberg demanded that no bail be accepted from the defense unless a judge or magistrate finds that no portion of the payment was feloniously obtained, per Penal Code 1275, and Shore imposed the requirement on Jackson.

Elford got the bail reduced from \$180,000 to \$50,000. Jackson has the help of ASA, Excalibur Bail Bonds, *Nug Magazine* and others, in his fight to present his medical marijuana collective defense to a jury.

San Diego Americans for Safe Access [SafeAccessSD.org](http://SafeAccessSD.org)

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SCROG: A Blue City Diesel plant in a Screen of Green that yielded over 2 pounds.

## Book to reveal secrets of growing green giants

*Is low California safe harbor limiting ‘master growers?’*

By Dru West\*

Medical cardholders in Oregon and Washington can possess up to 24 ounces of usable marijuana. However, California patients can be arrested for exceeding the safe harbor of eight ounces. While this may be enough for some patients’ short term medical needs, it impedes growers.

Researching my upcoming grow book, *The Secrets of the West Coast Masters*, I found that growers in Oregon and Washington were utilizing this advantage to grow monster plants yielding well over a half- pound of bud per harvest.

While most medical growers are content with a yield of two to four ounces per plant, there are techniques that consistently yield a pound and a half per plant, so as to keep each harvest just within the legal limit. Some caretaker growers consistently get more than two pounds per plant using these techniques.

One such secret to huge yields and giant plants is the use of a Screen of Green (SCROG), a structure that suspends a net over the budding plant and is used to train

the plant to develop an oversized, level canopy, offering support to branches so they can develop big, heavy buds that would otherwise break the branch.

The book discusses techniques being refined by Northwest growers who legally possess the resulting yields, whereas an individual California cardholder using the SCROG technique to grow one plant might be three times or more over their legal safe harbor as soon as they harvest. Several master growers who contributed to the book had moved from California to overcome this hurdle.

\* West is author of the forthcoming book, *Secrets of the West Coast Masters: The ultimate techniques for growing medical marijuana*; 4/20/11. westcoastmasters.com

## Mendo sheriff’s advice

*Continued from page 7*

focused on 99-plant gardens but acknowledges the reality of federal laws. “If I do end up in prison [by following county rules], at least I’ll have somebody I like for a roommate,” smiled Johnson, referring to his boss.

“This is about trust, feedback and education,” said Johnson. “I learn from you in order to change the program.”

## Standardization assures safety in marketplace

By Christine Wagner

Regulations for standardization and testing will soon be part of the criteria for medical cannabis cultivation and distribution of products destined for retail sale.

This means using uniform and recognized testing protocols, followed by laboratories like Botanical Analytics; best cultivation and handling practices, such as those developed by MendoGrown, a trade association of Mendocino County-permitted producers and processors; and appropriate labeling criteria for medical cannabis in all its forms.

Testing can quantify cannabinoid content (potency) in medicine, and screen for pesticide and microbiological contamination (molds, bacteria, yeasts, pathogens).

Potency testing will allow for accurate and reliable labeling and dosage information, and provide a mechanism for tracking specific strains that are found to alleviate particular symptoms.

Pesticide screening seeks to detect toxic chemicals used by growers to treat microbe or insect infestations, although adoption of best cultivation practices may avoid the need for this type of screening in the future. Microbiological screening provides insight as to levels of microbial flora, which may have bearing on product quality and patient tolerances in varying degrees.

While testing is available, its advantages have yet to be fully realized because testing is currently voluntary and not part of a regulatory framework. It is incumbent upon the cannabis industry to develop quality control standards that work and allow it to do what is right for patients, communities and the environment. Standards will demonstrate to those outside of the industry that it is thoughtful in its approach to regulating this medicine.

Wagner is President of Botanical Analytics, Inc., attorney of cannabis law, and member of the Legal Committee to the San Francisco Medical Cannabis Task Force.

## Overheated lamps cause fire in bedroom garden

By Michael Saturno\* medicplumber@gmail.com

Lights allegedly used to grow marijuana overloaded an electrical circuit and sparked an early morning blaze at a duplex in Santa Rosa Feb. 9, 2011. The fire started in a small bedroom grow, destroyed that room and damaged the rest of the unit.

This type of accident can be averted if a professional electrician is involved in planning the garden. Prohibition has caused inexperienced people to build grow-rooms without insight or oversight on safe design. They risk property damage, jail time, and personal injury. The electrical system in a typical house or apartment is designed to operate vacuum cleaners, microwaves, a refrigerator, TV, lights and toasters, not for

multiple 1000-watt, high-intensity-discharge (HID) grow lamps. A residence without an upgrade lacks the infrastructure to handle the electrical load. That is why so many home growers are turning to professional grow-design specialists.

Calculations must be made on aggregate lighting loads and all the accessory equipment such as air conditioners, heaters, fans and pumps. Electrical panels, breakers and wire must be sized appropriately for safety and longevity. Every part of the electrical system must be installed properly to maintain a safe indoor grow-room that will be ergonomic, productive, problem-free and fun.

\* An electrical/plumbing contractor with 11 yrs experience.

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# Form and function fulfill the indoor garden

By Samuel Janovici

Whether large or small, designing and implementing an indoor grow operation requires a contractor with the skills of an electrical engineer and the agility of a juggler to keep growers from painting themselves into easily-avoidable corners.

Space and interior dimensions can belie the amount of light and ventilation a specific circumstance demands. To avoid mold, disease, and fungi, the air must circulate frequently.

Good ventilation can prevent mold and mildew from setting in; it allows for easy temperature adjustments and maximum plant respiration. Negative air pressure with good filters in place means no odor will get out into the neighborhood. The rated cubic feet of air flowing through your system must be calculated so that all interior air is drawn out through charcoal scrubbers and is not leaking out through passive vents or unsealed areas.

If using the flood-and-drain method, allow room to get around the reservoirs for water changes and cleanings. Allow enough head and shoulder room to make the subtle adjustments that will make the difference between success and failure.

Proper lighting requires ceilings high enough to allow adjustments and avoid burning crops. Positioning lamps takes constant tinkering, so growers need to allow space to accomplish that. Full 1000-watt HID lights are not right for all situations and a grower needs to know when 600-watts are a better choice. Is it better to

use 110 or 240 volts? Be sure the system can handle the power load before throwing the first switch.

Water and power cannot be tossed together without careful planning. Pulling thousands of watts of electricity into a room with flowing water requires some thought and a practiced hand. Get help if you're in over your head. Never steal power from a neighbor or at the pole. It's a bad way to do business, and there's no medical-use defense for stealing power.

Using insulation and soundboard to suppress industrial noise pays off in the long run. An extra layer of protection can make a crucial difference.

Be careful out there.



## The changing face of the medical marijuana patient population

Amanda Reiman, PhD

Director of Research, Berkeley Patients Group

Most new patients in the first few years of Proposition 215 had been using cannabis as a medicine for decades; now they were just doing it legitimately. However, 15 years later, the patient population is changing. This means the current patient population represents new groups of medical cannabis users.

Two groups have emerged amid this population shift: people who become 18 and can legally become patients, and patients who are novices to using cannabis as a medicine. Those who provide medical cannabis should adjust to the needs of this new breed of patient.

# Ancient Egyptian roots of the cannabis tradition

## The Lab Bench:

By Jahan Marcu

Egypt is one of the great ancient civilizations that had an advanced medical system. There is ample evidence of cannabis use as a medicine in ancient Egypt, with indications for use and instructions for preparation written in some of the oldest medical texts in existence.

Hemp pollen has been detected in ancient mummies and soil samples. Although the extent of cannabis use in ancient Egypt is debatable, traces of cannabis have been detected in mummies by archeologists, as have cocaine and nicotine; but these findings were subjected to intense debate.

The *Papyrus Ramesseum III* contains one of the oldest mentions of cannabis. Instructions on preparing cannabis and guidelines for treatment can also be found in the *Chester-Beatty VI (Medical) Papyrus*

(1,300 BC), the *Berlin Papyrus* (1300 BC), the *Hearst Papyrus* (1550 BC), the *Vienna Papyrus* (220 AD), and many others. An internet search will yield pictures of some of these, along with an example or two of specific references to the plant.



A hieroglyph designated *shemshemet* literally means *cannabis*. Other ancient societies have left references to this plant, such as in ancient Sumerian, Chinese, Persian, Greek and Hebrew texts.

Some remain unconvinced that cannabis was widely used in ancient Egypt. Because references to it appear and disappear throughout Egyptian records, the term 'cannabis interruptus' has been coined. These disappearances are easy to understand, as papyrus is very delicate and hard to preserve amid wars, invasions, revolts and other conflicts.

During the ninth century AD, Egyptian medicine evolved into Islamic medicine. Despite Sharia law banning all intoxicants, the plant, in 'hashish' form, continued to be used as medicine. Adding another level of confusion, the term for the plant and its products changed over time. In Islamic medicine it was known as *qunnab* and its resin *hashish*, or *shadanaj*, "the royal grain."

Research on cannabis and cannabinoids continues in modern-day Egypt. Recent scientific publications discuss the metabolism of cannflavins from the plant, toxicity and abuse potential, potential impact of use on lifestyle, and the synthesis of new cannabinoid drugs.

For images and additional notes visit [antiquecannabis-book.com](http://antiquecannabis-book.com) or read *History of Cannabis and Its Preparations in Saga, Science, and Sobriquet*, by Ethan B. Russo (2007)

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# Controlling costs, marketing essential to farmers

## From the Field...

By Chris VanHook, CleanGreen

Two major issues affect both outdoor and indoor growers. First, production costs must be reduced in light of the decline in prices due to increased crop production. Second, product placement in the medical cannabis market must be secured.

One way to reduce outdoor production costs is to build natural soils on the farm rather than relying on expensive and sometimes variable-quality bagged soils. Composting onsite can save money and help build farm soils.

Competition from indoor gardens and light deprivation have shaken the logic of saving outdoor crops for a better price.

Compost teas can help reduce input costs. Google “ATTRA” to see many booklets helpful to the small scale/sustainable farmer. Taking good care of each plant so it produces high-quality product will both reduce farm costs (fewer plants, reduced labor costs) and help assure placement of the crop in the medical market, where the highest-quality cannabis is in greatest demand.

This is the time of year (when fire danger is low) to maintain the border areas of the growing area. Trim back or remove trees and shrubs that have grown larger and are blocking the sunlight needed for best growing conditions. The firewood can be used and the brush mulched to help build farm soils.

Indoor growers can reduce production costs and carbon footprint by taking the time to thoroughly review energy use. Lower-watt bulbs on movable tracks can

cut consumption. Recycling of potting soils reduces footprint. There are moral as well as economic reasons to do so.

It’s a good time to begin contacting a collective or dispensary regarding placement of future product. Growers should ask about strains dispensaries would like to have, and make plans around the timing of the harvest. Compliance is enhanced, and both sides benefit.

Not affiliated with a larger collective? ‘Farm-direct’ is becoming a popular alternative to retail collectives. More and more farmers are creating direct access to patients through existing groups or affiliations. Know of a sporting group, book club, or knitting guild? Any personal relationships can lead to patients for a small farm-direct collective. Contact a reliable attorney experienced in medical compliance to review the plans and papers.

There is a large and growing base level of high-quality indoor cannabis coming onto the market year-round. Outdoor-grown ‘light dep’ (deprivation) cannabis comes onto the market mid-season, increasing supply. This sheds light on the practice of storing outdoor crops throughout the year hoping for a period of low supply to increase the farm price.

One should consider moving product at whatever the current reimbursement values are. This is similar to all other perishable or overly supplied agricultural products. Move the product at current prices, but at least get it moved and prepare for your next crop — or relax. Older product will quickly become less valuable and you may move it at a price below what the reimbursement value was when it was fresh. Better to move it.

Chris Van Hook can be reached at [www.cleangreencert.com](http://www.cleangreencert.com)



## Student patients left hanging

By John Perri, SSDP

With more and more states having laws that protect patients from arrest for medical marijuana, one demographic is finding it nearly impossible to take advantage of these protections: college students.

School administrators in states like California, Arizona, Montana and Colorado have made it clear that medical marijuana is not allowed and student patients will not be exempt from punishment if caught using or possessing it on campus. All of these schools maintain that they would lose federal funding under the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act (DFSCA) if they were to follow state law and allow cannabis on campus.

The DFSCA is a federal mandate that states, “As a condition of receiving funds or any other form of financial assistance under any federal program, an institution of higher education must certify that it has adopted and implemented a program to prevent the unlawful possession, use, or distribution of illicit drugs and alcohol by students and employees.”

It is understandable that despite state laws making marijuana a legal medicine for qualified students, schools in such states are reluctant to make any policy

change that might put them at odds with the federal government. However, no school has ever lost federal funding due to a violation of the DFSCA and the Dept. of Education has not attempted to clarify how state medical use laws affect the rule.

Promptly after passage of Arizona’s medical use law last year, the University of Arizona and two other state universities

*Please turn to page 25*


## Population dynamics

*Continued from page 14*

novice users to help new patients understand the role of cannabis in their life and how their patient status might affect social interactions with their friends, family, employers, and teachers.

Basic education around safe consumption, strain and preparation differences, and effective methods of ingestion can help demystify the medical cannabis experience and empower new users to make educated and thoughtful decisions about cannabis use and their health.

Providing dispensary staff with training programs on working with new patients can impart basic clinical skills that will go a long way in making new patients feel comfortable with their choice to use medical cannabis



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# Researchers struggle with federal roadblocks

## Putting pressure on US to treat trauma with cannabis

By Stephen Morseman and Rick Doblin, Ph.D. MAPS

The Multidisciplinary Association for Psychedelic Studies (MAPS), with lead investigator Dr. Sue Sisley, sent a Nov. 11, 2010 study proposal to the FDA to investigate the safety and efficacy of marijuana for veterans with chronic, treatment-resistant post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

MAPS's goal is to develop cannabis into an FDA-approved prescription medication to help PTSD patients by reducing nightmares, improving sleep, and decreasing stress and anxiety.

The FDA approved two MAPS marijuana studies in the 1990s. The National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) holds a monopoly on the supply of cannabis for US research, and simply refused to provide any. Since then, MAPS has been trying to break the monopoly by suing the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) to force it to grant a license for a MAPS-sponsored marijuana farm, to be directed by Prof. Lyle Craker at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

Despite a DEA judge's ruling that granting the license would be in the public interest, the agency denied the application. Another brief will be filed, but the DEA is unlikely to be persuaded.

The study is designed to compare five different potencies of marijuana with varying levels of THC and CBD as well as the relative safety and efficacy of smoking and vaporizing. Comparing strains with and without CBD is especially important, since CBD is widely recognized for both its anti-anxiety properties and its ability to moderate some of the effects of THC.

The FDA put the protocol on hold in mid-December, asking MAPS to provide information about the cannabis cigarettes to be used. This won't be possible unless NIDA approves the study and agrees to provide the marijuana.

A month later NIDA told MAPS that it could provide the potencies required. NIDA's cooperation may indicate that MAPS's persistent efforts to obtain the DEA license have increased its willingness to provide research cannabis. NIDA may realize that unless it provides researchers what they need, the necessity of breaking its monopoly will become more clear.

In a possible roadblock, the FDA expressed concern that subjects might sell

or give away unused cannabis after the study, the first in 30 years to study outpatient medical marijuana use.

MAPS's solution was to give each patient a handheld video camera and have them film themselves taking out the marijuana, using it, and replacing unused material. Then, every week, researchers will review the videos and call designated friends or family members to verify that subjects haven't been diverting the marijuana. The FDA, which is generally supportive of MAPS's research, was satisfied.

However, just because this approach seems reasonable to the FDA doesn't mean NIDA and the DEA will agree.

For information or to contribute to MAPS, see [maps.org/](http://maps.org/)

## New national trade association formed to take case to DC and lobby for cannabis industry

By Etienne Fontan

Businesspeople in nearly every industry in the country — from pharmaceutical manufacturers to beer wholesalers to plumbers — benefit from organized trade associations advancing their interests in the national political arena. Late last year, the National Cannabis Industry Association (NCIA) stepped forward as the first and only trade association representing the cannabis industry.

The first NCIA board of directors meeting was held in Denver, Colorado Dec. 16, 2010. The board consists of professionals from across the country and from several sectors of the cannabis industry. One-third of its board hails from California, including representatives from Berkeley Patients Group, Harborside Health Center, and SPARC medical cannabis collectives. Future NCIA board members will be elected by the general membership in an election this spring.

Aaron Smith, former Marijuana Policy Project California director, is NCIA's executive director. Smith is confident that the fledgling trade association will become a significant force on the DC political scene.

Smith said he co-founded the organization after "seeing the industry blossoming into something really beautiful and realizing that it's about time that the industry and the professionals in it had representation at the national level just like any other legitimate profession."

The association aims to bring together hundreds of cannabis-related businesses to collectively exert their influence as an eco-

## New Jersey medical marijuana program at impasse with gov

By Ken Wolski, RN, MPA\* CMMNJ

The New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) issued a Request for Applications (RFA) for six Alternative Treatment Centers (ATCs) in January. The RFA had Feb. 14, 2011 as a closing date. DHSS received 20 applications, and claims it will have cannabis distributed to patients by mid-summer.

Patients, advocates and potential ATC operators told a legislative committee that the program might not work at all, or will be bleak, with only very few patients getting low-grade marijuana at an exorbitant price. Additional qualifying conditions will not be added for at least two years.

Late last year, the entire state legisla-

ture agreed that the rules set by Governor Chris Christie's DHSS were inconsistent with the intent of the law.

The Senate Health Committee held a hearing Jan. 20, 2011 to invalidate those rules in whole or in part. If the legislature votes to invalidate the rules it is not certain what effect this will have on the RFA process or who will set policy. DHSS set a March 7 public hearing on the proposed new rules at its Trenton headquarters.

\* Executive Director, Coalition for Medical Marijuana-New Jersey, Inc. [www.cmmnj.org](http://www.cmmnj.org)

## Cincinnati lowers pot penalty

By Lynne Wilson

Cincinnati, Ohio's city council voted 5-4 Dec. 28 for a 2011 budget that included the line item, 'Repeal city-only jailable offenses.' So died Ordinance 910-23. Anyone found to possess fewer than 100 grams will again receive only a ticket of \$150. Councilman Cecil Thomas pushed through a 2006 ordinance making possession an arrestable offense with a fine up to \$250 and up to 30 days in jail, and in 2007, despite proof that the law wasn't working, Council voted 7-2 to keep it on the books indefinitely.

In 2008, activists built [cincinnati-marijuana-law.com](http://cincinnati-marijuana-law.com) to gather statistics on guns found, shootings, etc., and prove that the law didn't work, cost too much and was neither finding all the guns nor stopping violence. Citizen's for a Safer Cincinnati led the fight to repeal 910-23. When deciding the 2011 budget, four new council members teamed up to convince Thomas to vote to overturn his own law.

Aka Happy Hempstress HempRock Radio & TV Citizen's for a Safer Cincinnati Cincinnati/Northern KY TeaPot Party

## Distributor regulation in RI

By Jesse Stout, RIPAC

Rhode Island is one step closer to licensing 'Compassion Centers' (CCs) to distribute medical marijuana. In 2010 the Dept. of Health rejected all 15 applicants for three licenses, and restarted the whole process. It held a hearing Feb. 7, 2011 for people to comment on the 18 new applications.

The DoH is scheduled to announce to whom the three center licenses will be awarded in mid-March. Some applicants say that, on that schedule, they can be open to supply registered patients with medical cannabis as early as June.

The cities of Providence, Pawtucket, and Warwick all endorsed various applicants, as did the Rhode Island Patient Advocacy Coalition (RIPAC).

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Editorials and Commentary

# Looking for that ‘Sweet Spot’

At the ‘Next Steps’ conference Jan. 29, we savored the words of Ethan Nadelman, director of the Drug Policy Alliance, as he referred to the “Sweet Spot” of cannabis reform. That is the point where the aspirations of the reform movement intersect with majority acceptance among voters or legislators. We heard a sampler of California reformers invoke a menu of goals that most seemed to hunger after: An end to criminal prohibition laws, protection and expansion of medical rights and access, taxation that is not prohibitive, nobody behind bars for a marijuana offense, the right to grow and share an untaxed personal supply, fundamental human rights to work, housing, education, etc. Meanwhile, voters, pundits and public officials have an appetite for new tax revenues, assurances about job and highway safety, and rules that keep non-medical marijuana out of the hands of minors and protect neighborhoods from nuisances. The recipe for success must satisfy these cravings.

The ideal voter initiative will serve up a passable casserole that the legislature can then flavor with positive reforms, but not ruin the dish. It’s so close, we can almost taste it.

## Schedule is tight to file, qualify for 2012 ballot

### Timeline for 2012 initiative

By Sam H. Clauder II\*

California advocates face a tight race. A successful ballot measure requires drafting, testing and filing wording, and then collecting and filing a large number of valid signatures within strict deadlines set by law. The first phase of the process must begin by June 2011 or there will likely be no cannabis initiatives on the 2012 ballot.

The voter initiative qualification process has settled into a two-year time cycle. Counting backward from Election Day, 2012, sets the timetable.

The third week of April 2012 is the best time to file signatures with the Secretary of State for the November ballot. So as to have the maximum time to collect signatures, approximately five months, petitions should start circulating the week before Thanksgiving 2011.

The Attorney General’s office wants eight weeks before that to write a title and summary, so the initiative should be filed by the second week of September 2011.

From now to September is the time for drafting and testing language. The broad political constituency with an interest in reform will require a wholly inclusive campaign. The process of drafting the wording must be fully transparent in order to develop a broad base of support from the reform movement. It is simpler than it appears, can be done in three phases, and costs about \$150,000.

Phase One: Collect all the different points and issues to be addressed in legalizing cannabis and test them with polls. This is the phase that can be inclusive of all the issues to begin with. The issues would be transformed into a general poll and executed by professionals.

However, for a provision to be included in the initiative, it must have at least 57% approval in the polls. This is the absolute minimum, because history proves five percent of liberal and progressive voters simply do not vote; so 57% support translates to a 52% win at the polls.

Phase Two: Submit all the top issues to a committee of lawyers with experience in constitutional, legislative, and cannabis law to draft four different initiatives. This would encompass a political spectrum from the greatest amount of reform to the least amount of reform that could pass.

Phase Three: Test all four drafts of the initiative with another set of polls, and this time use focus groups, too. One draft may be chosen, or the best results are rewritten into a final reconciliation ballot measure that is filed with the Secretary of State by the second week of September.

This is the challenge facing reformers.

\* Political consultant Sam Clauder has been active in cannabis reform for 40 years. He helped place hundreds of initiatives on ballots and authored Prop 66 (2004) to amend the three-strikes law.

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## How to talk to a cop about marijuana legalization

By Nate Bradley,  
Law Enforcement Against Prohibition

Yes, I know it sounds scary, but take it from me, a former cop: Talking to police officers about marijuana legalization is easy, fun and rewarding.

Believe it or not, a large portion of law enforcement either supports marijuana legalization or hasn’t made up its mind yet. Look at how few law enforcement unions came out and opposed Prop 19. Only three of California’s 58 sheriff department associations and four of more than 200 city police associations actually took positions officially opposing Prop 19.

The Yes on Prop 19 campaign featured many cops, judges and prosecutors who, based on their law enforcement experiences, absolutely and very publicly support legalizing marijuana.

So how do we talk to the police about marijuana legalization? First, here is what *not* to say. Don’t focus on tax revenues, racial disparities in arrest rates, how marijuana is ‘safer’ than alcohol, or how cops waste their time arresting marijuana users. Those arguments will most likely fall on deaf ears.

Most law enforcement officers who are against marijuana legalization oppose it because they are under the impression that the war on drugs is actually working and is somehow making society safer. They believe that if you legalize marijuana, society will become unsafe.

So, point out how prohibition is making cities and neighborhoods unsafe, and illustrate by politely stating facts the officer won’t be able to refute.

According to the state Board of Equalization, keeping marijuana illegal has created a \$14 billion-a-year underground market in California alone. That criminal market regularly uses violence to solve business disputes. That same underground market has killed and injured countless numbers of law enforcement and innocent civilians since marijuana was first outlawed in 1937. If we choose to regulate and control marijuana we could shrink that criminal market drastically.

Most officers believe that marijuana legalization will increase children’s access. That can’t be farther from the truth. In the current illegal market it’s easier for kids to gain access to marijuana than it would be in a regulated market. Why? Because the neighborhood drug dealer doesn’t check ID. He doesn’t care how old your kids are; all that matters to him is if they have cash. And that’s why federal surveys show that teens generally have had an easier time obtaining illegal marijuana than obtaining legal and age-regulated alcohol.

In conclusion, remember when talking

with officers about legalization to always be respectful of their opinions as well.

Some of the officers you will speak to have been ‘fighting’ in the drug war for decades. It’s not easy to get people to change their minds immediately, but planting a seed in a conversation now can go a long way toward getting them to look at this issue in a different light next time they catch someone with marijuana or find themselves in a voting booth to decide on a marijuana initiative.

## Mexico’s crisis demands cannabis legalization

By Daniel Robelo, Drug Policy Alliance

As security in Mexico deteriorates every day, calls for legalization grow louder and more urgent. In just four years, 35,000 people have been murdered in prohibition-related violence, including more than 1,000 children. Over 15,000 people were killed last year, making it the deadliest since President Felipe Calderon unleashed the army against drug traffickers.

This ongoing tragedy is a painful reminder of the failure of prohibition, which pushes the drug market into the hands of violent gangsters like those who emerged during Alcohol Prohibition.

Unfortunately, the situation in Mexico is far more deadly — and escalating. Last year’s death toll included the largest number of civilians yet, according to the Trans-Border Institute. Fourteen mayors and 11 journalists were assassinated in 2010, clear evidence that prohibition is destroying Mexican lives, and also its democracy.

The violence is spreading. Once confined to northern Mexico, it has reached formerly peaceful places like Mexico’s richest city, Monterrey, and even the nation’s capital. Regionally, cartels have also increased their presence in Central American countries, especially Guatemala and El Salvador.

Meanwhile, diplomatic cables released by WikiLeaks last December show rampant corruption in Mexico’s institutions and no clear strategy for over \$1.6 billion the US has pledged in military aid. The cables revealed that US officials don’t even believe the drug war can succeed.

Despite massive seizures, and the capture or killing of a few notorious traffickers, cartels remain extremely powerful. Each week they commit brutal massacres, shocking prison breaks, and brazen assassinations. Drugs flow into the US by every conceivable manner, including tunnels under the border and catapults to launch marijuana over it.

Please turn to page 19

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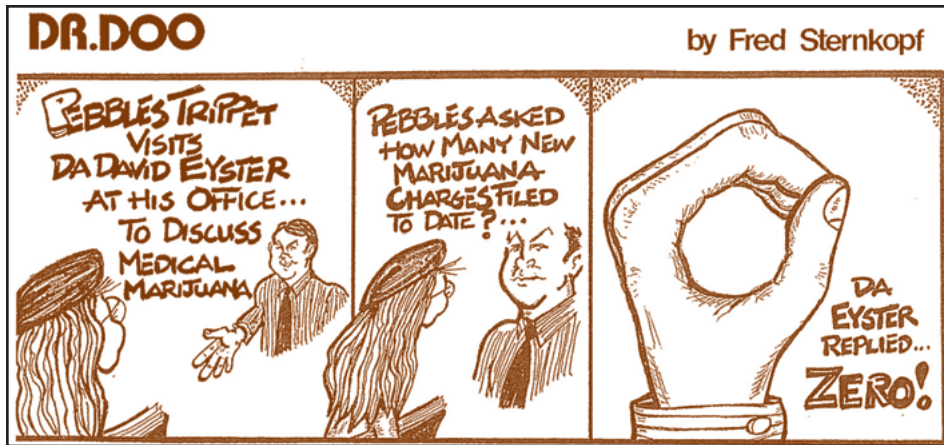
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## Mendo's new DA is OK

By Pebbles Trippet, Secretary, MMMAB

Newly elected Mendocino County DA David Eyster described his massive overhaul of the DA's office as "a work in progress" when he met with the Mendocino Medical Marijuana Advisory Board in early February and laid out his plans in common-sense, concrete steps.

"How many marijuana cases have I filed since I took office?" He held up two fingers in a circle: "Zero."

"[Former DA Meredith] Lintott filed at the rate of two cases per day. We're not going to do that anymore. The policy used to be that any deputy DA had discretion to file charges. That has ended. Now everything goes through me.

"Any defense attorney can make a request on behalf of a defendant and I'll pull that case file and review it. Before I file charges, I'll review each case myself, open my door to defense attorneys and defendants and hear their side of the story, and then decide which ones to prosecute."

This is in sharp contrast to Lintott's approach, which was to take up the court's time with many deputy DAs doing their own thing individually, in open court, in defiance of her policies and the attorney general's guidelines, whether or not there

was a collective defense.

Eyster presented this alternative strategy in his campaign at the MMMAB forum last year, and has been making good on it since winning the tight race.

His law enforcement approach is to break the logjam in the courts, clear out cases that should not be prosecuted before they are dragged through the courts only to be dismissed later (for lack of evidence, legitimate medical use, etc.).

## Obama: legitimizes debate

By Stephen Gutwillig, Drug Policy Alliance

President Barack Obama was finally forced to answer a question about drug policy during a Feb. 7 'town hall.' He called drug legalization an "entirely legitimate topic for debate," although he is opposed to it.

There were more than 1.6 million drug arrests in the US last year alone.

Obama's comments on legalization came in response to a question from MacKenzie Allen, a retired deputy sheriff who worked in Los Angeles and a member of Law Enforcement Against Prohibition (LEAP). Allen had the top ranked question of 193,000 submitted. Amazingly, 198 of the top 200 most popular questions to the President had to do with legalizing cannabis and drug policy reform.

## Flash point for medical advocates in Washington

By Martin Martinez, Lifevine

State Senator Jeanne Kohl-Welles of Seattle was the highest-ranking Washington state proponent for medical cannabis even before the Medical Use Act of 1998. She has introduced numerous bills to protect patients, having personally seen the benefits of medical cannabis therapy for close friends who suffer the ravages of cancer.

Following months of research, and a

wealth of public comment on no less than ten revised drafts, she introduced the ambitious Senate Bill 5073. It was intended to extend safe access in three separate categories: single-patient gardens, small community gardens, and large state-sanctioned production and distribution channels licensed by the Departments of Agriculture and Health, respectively.

Things change. Law enforcement did not testify at Health and Safety Committee hearings, but pushed through harmful amendments behind the scenes.

While having a sales tax on medical marijuana or retracting some sections protecting employees may be seen to have merit, three amendments to SB 5073 are deal-breakers with much of Washington's cannabis community.

First, dropping community gardens from a ceiling of 25 patients down to three is completely unrealistic. Secondly, the "voluntary" registration section excludes from arrest protection patients who do not register and removes penalties from police who abuse the registry with unwarranted investigations. Third, it places unreasonable demands on physicians, such as a quarterly filing procedure that would severely limit the number of recommendations written and reduce the state's qualified patient population by thousands.

Senator Kohl-Welles has pledged to remove the adverse sections, yet no one can be sure that she will be successful. Readers should voice their concerns with SB 5073 to the State Senate and to the House with its companion bill HB 1100.

Senate Bill 5073 must not reach the governor's desk in its current form. Please write a letter, email, or make a phone call to Washington legislators. Medmj-wa.com has updates to take action on SB 5073.

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*It is a period of propaganda wars. City Attorneys, striking from a hidden office, have won their first victory against the San Jose Pot Clubs. During the battle, cannabis activists managed to build strong community and legal support for their medication. The Attorney's ultimate weapon, MEASURE U, a sneaky tax designed to chase all cannabis clubs out of San Jose, with enough auditing power to destroy an entire planet, is about to begin. Pursued by the Cities sinister agents, Dave Hemp races to his attorneys, creators of the master plans that can save his people and restore cannabis freedom to the galaxy... Opening 3/1/2011, San Jose's NEWEST club, A²C², the All American Cannabis Club, the FUTURE OF CANNABIS*

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## Montana House repeals medical use, Senate next?

By **Tom Daubert**,  
founder/director, Patients & Families United\*

Montana reformers spent the winter working tirelessly against a backlash in the 2011 legislature. More than a year of steadily-building opposition, fueled by the outlandish, flashy behavior of 'ganjapreneurs,' coupled with 2010 elections that gave Republican ideologues overwhelming 68-32 control over the House of Representatives, has spawned a rash of proposals — some 25 bills introduced or requested, mostly targeting medical cannabis for sharp curtailment or outright extinction.

Zealous legislators, including the Speaker of the House, companies like Rimrock Foundation (a high-priced drug treatment facility in Billings), and a group that nearly qualified a repeal ballot measure after only a week of signature-gathering seek to make this the first medical use state to repeal its compassionate use policy.

A repeal bill sponsored by the Speaker passed the House in February by a 63-37 vote but had little support in the Senate, and it didn't appear the legislature could override an expected veto by Governor Brian Schweitzer if the bill were to pass.

A 'repeal bill lite,' HB 429, would allow a caregiver or grower to serve only one patient, unless they were an immediate family member, require a judge to ratify a physician's recommendation, and stiffly punish doctors for any "inappropriate" recommendation. Sponsoring Rep. Tom Berry (R-Roundup) said his aim was to reduce the state's number of legal patients to a few hundred, and terminate the new industry that employs thousands of otherwise jobless Montanans.

Those who proposed and promoted the medical initiative, passed in 2004 with 62% of the vote, have long agreed that gray

areas and loopholes enabled "abuses" and exploitation by opportunists who hurt the program. They called for 'sideboards' and regulatory oversight, and supported most of the provisions in HB 68, a 2010 bill by a bipartisan health committee of legislators. Initially, Senate leaders seemed to agree, but the House refused to act on it.

Senate Bill 154 was introduced to create licensing and oversight of growers and put a 10% tax on gross revenues. Sponsor Sen. Dave Lewis (R-Helena) sought to regulate a new industry whose value he recognized as fundamentally positive for the state economy. At the Senate hearing on the bill, he proposed a radical transformation of his initial proposal, supplied by the Montana Medical Growers Assn., a trade group that promotes high standards and professionalism among the state's caregivers.

Another Senate bill in the works was developed by patient and caregiver leaders to codify "science and quality standards" in the state's medical use program in ways that law enforcement and local governments would welcome.

The Senate also heard more punitive proposals, such as SB 170, targeting pain patients. Chronic pain was the condition of many patients who got recommendations from traveling 'caravan clinics' that began in 2010 (and wrote up to 1,000 recommendations in a single day, accounting for roughly two-thirds of the state's registered patients). SB 170 sought to make radical changes in the requirements for pain patients. Their pain would have to be "intractable" and unhelped by all other medical choices. A recommendation would then be subject to review and approval by an "independent" panel of three physicians who have never met the patient.

\*Daubert can be reached via doebare@aol.com

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## Hawai'i legislature facing a raft of proposals

By **Andrea Tischler**,  
Americans for Safe Access, Big Island Chapter

A cannabis decriminalization bill and a myriad of medical use bills are grinding their way through committees in the Hawai'i state legislature. There is a sense of urgency this year since the current medical use law, passed legislatively in 2000, has not changed since its inception. Numerous legislative attempts to update the antiquated cannabis program were all rejected by former conservative Republican governor Lisa Lingle in years past.

However, a 'New Day in Hawai'i' was born with the inauguration of Governor Neil Abercrombie, a former Democratic US representative who is more supportive of decrim and changes to the medical use law. In an interview by the *Maui Time* during the campaign, Abercrombie was asked if he believed philosophically that cannabis should be a criminal offense. He replied, "No, I don't think so." He has admitted to "enjoying cannabis."

Recently, joint Senate committees unanimously advanced a decrim bill, SB1460, which could make Hawai'i the 14th state to decriminalize possession of a small quantity. Medical use bills working their way through committees are finding easier passage, and activists hope this is a year for liberalized cannabis reform.

So far, five medical cannabis bills have advanced through committees in the Senate that include SB 174 rescheduling cannabis to a Schedule III drug, SB 1458 establishing compassion centers (dispensaries), SB 58 increasing the caregiver-to-patient ratio, SB 113 establishing a state research program, and SB 175 moving the administration of the medical cannabis program to the Dept. of Health from the Narcotics Enforcement Dept. All have

passed the Senate committees and four other bills remain to be heard in the more conservative House.

Matt Rifkin, co-chair of the Big Island Chapter of Americans for Safe Access in Hilo, said, "There has never been a better time to reform cannabis law and make medicinal cannabis more accessible to an ever-increasing number of patients."

During the past three years, the number of cannabis patients in the state tripled to nearly 9000, with their greater voice advancing demands for change. Legislators have received more testimony this year than ever. The Drug Policy Forum of Hawai'i, ASA, Patients Out of Time, Friends of Justice, Peaceful Sky Alliance and other activist groups, physicians, and individuals are contributing compelling testimony and lobbying legislators.

**Japanese expatriate patient**

A Japanese patient battling Crohn's disease came to America for an alternative treatment, and now that he's found out that it works, he is afraid to return to Japan. Kenichi Nalita is trying to gain political and medical asylum in the US in a state that allows legal medical marijuana, because his homeland's government says cannabis is not a medicine.

The first cannabis user to fight for his medical rights in Japanese courts, Nalita was arrested for marijuana in Japan and has used up all legal avenues for protection. He calls this the fight for his life and hopes the US will take him as a political prisoner seeking asylum, since if he stays in the US he can obtain medicinal cannabis in California but in Japan he is facing hard time in prison. Readers can support his cause, Save-Kenichi-Nalita, on Facebook.



## Camera-free photography lets patient explore plant in a new light

**The vibrant art of Buelteman**  
By Sharon Dellamonica

Celebrated photographic artist Robert Buelteman has turned his unique creative vision towards a subject that is both personal and ubiquitous.

Since being diagnosed with Lyme disease in 2007, Buelteman has been unable to work, though the use of cannabis has provided relief from joint pain and some other debilitating effects of this disease.

Buelteman, whose cameraless, lensless, computer-free photographic artwork is exhibited throughout the US and Canada, calls his interpretive rendering of cannabis "a natural expression for an artist whose life has been deeply invested in the exploration of consciousness." His open exhibitions of these works have given him opportunities to speak to the public about decriminalization.

"By eliminating the traditional tools of my craft, cameras, lenses, and computers, I am able to see more deeply into nature's design, thereby transforming both the subject of the art and the viewer as well."

He uses a complex electro-process known as Kirlian photography.

His work has received international exposure over the last few years, in *Wired*, *PhotoWorld* (China), *American Photo*, *Geo* (Germany), *Outdoor Photographer*, and on *CBS News* and *BBC Worldwide*. Carol Greenhouse wrote in *New West* magazine, "Buelteman has stretched the outside edge of the photographic envelope so far that his work no longer has much to do with the conventions of the field — shutter speed, film exposure, lens aperture — and everything to do with concepts like the relationship of spirit and consciousness."

Buelteman's cannabis posters are available from California-Cannabis.biz, with original artworks available through SharonDellamonicaFineArt.com.

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## Colo patient, providers face privacy concerns

By Laura Kriho, [cannabistherapyinstitute.com](http://cannabistherapyinstitute.com)

Colorado is the first state in the nation to create a branch of law enforcement dedicated to policing medical use, and some patients are concerned about giving up their right to privacy to shop at one of these heavily monitored Medical Marijuana Centers (MMCs).

The MMCs were created by the state legislature in 2010 through House Bill 1284. Prior to this, patients were able to purchase from caregiving businesses called dispensaries.

However, HB 1284 forced caregivers to give up basic constitutional protections in exchange for the uncertain statutory privilege of applying to operate an MMC. Its stated intent was to put a lot of the existing dispensaries out of business.

The newly-formed Medical Marijuana Enforcement Division (MMED) of the Department of Revenue is the first time a medical program has been run by state tax collectors. Funded by MMC applicants with over \$10 million in application fees, the MMED has dozens of armed auditors, investigators and regulators with all the powers of regular law enforcement officers and the additional power to enter and search any MMC at any time, without a warrant or probable cause.

The MMED proposes to track all cannabis from "seed to sale." Their original plan would have eliminated privacy by requiring each patient to place a photo ID, medical marijuana registry card, and the amount of cannabis being purchased on a 12"x12" space on the counter of each MMC. Each purchase was to be photographed, videotaped and logged into a

database of transactions that would be open to law enforcement.

Since cannabis possession is still a federal crime, shopping at an MMC should not require state-legal patients to incriminate themselves federally by being photographed purchasing medicine. Patients who are concerned about these provisions need to make their voices heard.

Fortunately, HB 1284 is now being rewritten with public input, but until the new medical marijuana rules are finally revised, this situation is causing patients to avoid the program. Discrimination against cannabis already runs rampant in Colorado. Patients have lost their jobs, children, VA benefits and health insurance, merely because it was discovered they were on the registry. If confidentiality cannot be guaranteed, patients are not likely to sign up for the program or to shop at MMCs.

House Bill 11-1043 would extend the statewide moratorium on new MMC applicants for another year and require caregivers to register their garden's location with the MMED.

House Bill 11-1250 seeks to ban centers from producing or selling cannabis edibles.

House Bill 11-1261 seeks to ban patients from driving privileges by setting a limit on THC in the blood that most patients will always exceed. Any driver with an amount of THC over five nanograms/ milliliter in their blood will be considered impaired and guilty of DUI and subject to loss of their driver's license. Patients who use cannabis continuously will always be over five Ng/ml of THC in their blood.



## DEA going after Western Michigan providers

By Tim Beck

With a population of 10 million, Michigan is second only to California as the biggest medical marijuana state in the US. Its social and political culture varies widely from one region to another.

In Ann Arbor in southeast Michigan, practically anything goes when it comes to cannabis, medical or otherwise. The city has at least 20 dispensaries in operation, even though state law is silent on whether they are legal or not. In contrast, the prosecutor in rural Kalkaska County in northwest Michigan advised anyone with a medical marijuana ID card in his territory, to "turn in your drivers license."

Likewise, the DEA in Michigan seems to have assumed a geography-based split personality regarding medical cannabis investigations and prosecution.

In the highly populated eastern federal region composed of Detroit and its myriad suburbs, US Attorney Barbara McQuade has taken a hands-off approach to medical marijuana, and so far no major DEA enforcement activity has taken place.

With Grand Rapids as its epicenter, the western federal district is largely rural, Bible-belt country. The notable exception is the state capital, Lansing, where dozens of dispensaries line the major thoroughfares and operate with the blessing of the county prosecutor and mayor.

Western district US Attorney Rene Shekmer seems not to want the robust cannabis culture in Lansing to inspire the rest of the western region.

A DEA investigation begun in June 2010 resulted in raids on several grow sites, with the participation of Michigan State Police. Participation may soon be reduced if the DEA is successful in forcing the

Michigan Dept. of Community Health to release confidential registry data on seven suspects in the raids.

The matter is now tied up in federal court with a lawsuit filed by a consortium of medical cannabis advocacy groups, comprising Americans for Safe Access, Cannabis Patients United and the Michigan Assn. of Compassion Centers.

On Feb. 1, Lansing-area caregivers Randall Lloyd Darling, 24, and Joseph David Johnson, 23, were indicted in federal court in Grand Rapids for growing over 100 plants. It is unclear whether the two were in compliance with Michigan law per their plant counts.

"It seems like Lansing is under the DEA microscope," said Lansing attorney Timothy Knowlton, who is a member of Cannabis Patients United. "The western district of Michigan is very conservative and that seems to be the only logical reason for the DEA harassment going on."

## DEA arrests Nevada patients

By William Dolphin, [Americans for Safe Access](http://AmericansforSafeAccess.com)

Early January DEA raids in Las Vegas resulted in 15 arrests and the seizure of medicine, money and other property.

The arrests followed federal raids last September. Those arrested face a broad range of federal charges, including distribution of marijuana, conspiracy to distribute, conspiracy to commit money laundering, distribution near a campus, possession of a firearm in relation to drug trafficking, and failing to disclose or concealing information concerning Social Security benefits.

The federal actions in Nevada followed controversial raids near Lansing, Michigan that used National Guard troops.

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# Colo coalition forms for 2012 ballot measure

By Kirsten Roszel

A coalition is being formed in Colorado to promote and pass a 2012 ballot initiative making cannabis legal for adults and establishing a system of regulation similar to that for alcohol.

Local and national reform organizations, members of Colorado's cannabis industry, a wide variety of activists and supportive community members, and the leaders of several non-cannabis-specific organizations are at the table to plan for the initiative as the effort gets underway.

"There is more interest in legalization in Colorado than ever before," said SAFER Executive Director Mason Tvert.

"A great deal of attention is being paid to the state, thanks to a growing baseline of support and the overall success of a state-regulated medical marijuana industry."

Polls show support among likely voters for such an initiative at around 50%, with opposition around 43% to 48%. Colorado's current medical marijuana system is seen as a strong asset, since voters will not need to imagine what a legal, state-regulated marijuana market looks like.

"Coloradans have grown accustomed to seeing medical marijuana centers in their communities, and more and more they recognize they are not causing any problems," said Brian Vicente, executive director of Sensible Colorado, the state's most prominent medical use advocacy group. "Support for medical marijuana and a regulated market through which it is produced and distributed is becoming increasingly popular among the public."

The debate has shifted from whether marijuana should be made legal to how it should be made legal. The coalition is working to bring forward the best possible initiative in next year's election. Attorneys throughout Colorado are being consulted, as are legal experts nationwide.

The public is also being asked to weigh in throughout the state. Groups have been meeting with cannabis organizations and industry members to determine how best to cater the initiative to the entire community, including the state's 120,000-plus registered patients.

"We are going to great lengths to get as many people and groups as possible to buy-in on this initiative," Tvert said.

# Dutch coffeeshop policy safe ... for the moment

By Derrick Bergman, GONZO Media

In a major victory for the coffeeshop system, Dutch Minister of Justice and Security Ivo Opstelten has postponed his proposal to clamp down on cannabis use.

The Dutch government's repressive plans for coffeeshops were put on hold, at least temporarily, after meeting stiff opposition from local politicians over planned measures, such as a 'weed pass,' that would ban foreigners from coffeeshops.

Especially in Amsterdam and cities near the Belgian border, several city councils voted squarely against both the 'weed pass' and forced closure of all coffeeshops within 350 meters from schools. The results of this policy would be disastrous: about 60% of the 666 total coffeeshops in the country would have disappeared. In Amsterdam alone, 187 out of 223 coffeeshops would have had to close.

In a letter to Opstelten, Amsterdam mayor Eberhart van der Laan wrote, "The proposed introduction of a pass system to ban tourists from coffeeshops will have consequences ... that are not in line with the achievements of the coffeeshop system in the city. On the contrary, the expected out-

come is that public nuisance near the remaining coffeeshops will increase. The coffeeshops in the center of Amsterdam cater to tourists for a large part, but do not cause the public nuisance that is experienced in the border area."

Amsterdam coffeeshops cater to tourists, and "do not cause" a public nuisance.

But even cities in this border area see only negative effects of the proposals from The Hague, where the national government resides. The city council of Maastricht, the border town that attracts the biggest number of so-called drug tourists apart from the capital, even went so far as to formally block any measure that is aimed at excluding foreign visitors. Breda and Eindhoven joined ranks, as well.

This may only be the second round with Opstelten, who has put the government on a collision course with local authorities, repeating his zero-tolerance mantras.

Activists plan a spectacular third edition of Cannabis Liberation Day celebration at Amsterdam's Westerpark May 8.

More info: [voc-nederland.org](http://voc-nederland.org), [cannabisbevrijdingsdag.org](http://cannabisbevrijdingsdag.org)

# Medical use laws at risk

Continued from page 1

lobbying lawmakers and the public that the medical marijuana law "is not a law that can be fixed."

New Mexico's four-year-old program, signed into law by former Governor Bill Richardson (D), is under threat of repeal from new Gov. Susana Martinez (R).

The Associated Press reported that Martinez "said during her campaign the state law puts state employees in the position of violating federal law and she'd like it repealed." She has since said pressing budget issues will likely forestall her wish for medical repeal for now.

Two more states face problems getting their programs running. New Jersey and Arizona both passed medical use laws in 2010 but regulations and taxes threaten the effectiveness of those laws.

Former Gov. Jon Corzine (D) signed New Jersey's medical use law as one of his last official acts. Incoming Gov. Chris Christie (R) opposed the law and has now promulgated strict regulations that would make the program unworkable.

Some of Christie's proposals would limit state dispensary production to only three cannabis strains, cap cannabinoid content at 10%, limit medical use to cases where all other medications have failed, ban medicated edibles, and require doctors to wean patients from cannabis.

In Arizona, Rep. Steve Farley (D) is proposing taxing medicine sold in dispensaries at 300%. This would force dispensary cannabis to be sold at rates higher than those on the underground market.

Learn about the cannabis politics in your state at The NORML Stash Blog, [stash.norml.org](http://stash.norml.org).



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- DEA Administrative Law Judge Francis Young, 1988





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## Calendar and Community Directory

**Mar. 12, Tony Serra Booksigning Events, Corte Madera & San Francisco, CA.** Book Passage, 51 Tamal Vista Bl., Corte Madera, 3 PM. The Green Arcade, 1680 Market St., San Francisco, 7:30 PM. For more events, see pier5law.com

**Mar. 19, Marijuana Reform: Next Steps Southern California, Los Angeles, CA.** Ricardo Montalban Theatre, 1615 Vine St, Hollywood. 9 AM to 6 PM. Sponsored by CaNORML, Drug Policy Alliance and Marijuana Policy Project, this conference builds on the success of a similar gathering in Berkeley in January and will feature a public discussion with drug policy reform leaders, medical marijuana advocates, legislators, attorneys, physicians and marijuana reform activists from across the state. All are welcome. For info and to register, see canorml.org

**April 2-3, High Times Medical Cannabis Cup, Denver CO.** Medical marijuana and

hemp expo. Prizes for best medicinal cannabis, hash, and edibles from Colorado's legal dispensaries. For details see medcancup.com

**April 16, MendoGrown Public Education Meeting, Ukiah, CA.** Saturday Afternoon Club, 107 South Oak Street, Ukiah. 1 PM. Local growers and interested parties are invited to learn about the latest in medical cannabis law, regulations and the local ordinance. For more info call 707-485-8070, mendogrown.org

**April 20, Oaksterdam Spring Cannabis Bowl, Oakland CA.** Oaksterdam University, 1600 Broadway, Oakland. 3 PM to 9:00 PM. For info and tickets, check out oaksterdamuniversity.com

**April 20, Overgrow the Government March and Rally, Washington DC.** Demand an end to marijuana prohibition. For details, see overgrowthegovt.com

**April 21-23, National NORML 40th**

### Medical marijuana at Metro Toronto Convention Ctr June 3-5

By Dani Stern

"Last year was the premiere of the Treating Yourself Expo (TYE)," said Marco Renda, patient, publisher, and show producer. "Its success confirmed the need for an annual event to raise awareness of the medical benefits of marijuana and the difficulties patients undergo to legally obtain it. Now that people have seen that this event is professional and promotes responsible medical use, we anticipate more visitors wanting to browse the increasing number of vendor booths."

Health Canada approved the use of cannabis in 1999 for certain health conditions. Since then, the agency has approved fewer than 5,000 permits and has compelled doctors to act as gatekeepers.

The Treating Yourself Expo (formerly the Medical Marijuana & Hemp Expo) is presented by *Treating Yourself, The Alternative Medicine Journal*, a magazine by patients for patients, and is sponsored by

KDK Distributors, Finest Medicinal Seeds, Green House Seeds, Herbal Aire, RooR Germany, Advanced Nutrients, Cannafresh, Formula 420, Apothecary Genetics, Bongs and Such, *Skunk Magazine*, CALM and the Michelle Rainey Foundation. TYE allocates a portion of its proceeds to helping medical patients in need. See TreatingYourselfExpo.com.

### Rise in THC, drop in CBD

Continued from page 1

including anti-cancer, anti-diabetic, anti-epileptic, and anti-bacterial.

A small number of growers has recently begun breeding 'CBD-rich' strains of cannabis (defined as 4% CBD or higher) for the medical market. Information on these strains, CBD content, and availability is posted online at projectcbd.com.

\* "Heterogeneity in the composition of marijuana seized in California" appears in *Drug and Alcohol Dependence*.

**Annual Conference: Coming of Age, Denver, CO.** Grand Hyatt Hotel, Denver. Join cannabis activists from around the country and world to network and learn about the latest information and research on our favorite topic in one of the most pot-friendly cities in the US. For info and to register, see norml.org

**April 23, Deep Green Fest: The Premier Earth Day Celebration of Cannabis, Health and Ecology, Richmond, CA.** Craneway Pavillion, Marina district of Richmond. Noon to 2 AM. From the creators of Earthdance, a full day of music and special guests, speakers and workshops, vendors and exhibits, hemp house, visionary art gallery, medical dispensary showcase, lounge and vending. Evening concert and dance party. For more info, see deepgreenfest.com

**June 2-4, NORML Legal Seminar, Aspen, CO.** The Gant Hotel. CLE sponsored by the NORML Legal Committee. Public welcome. For info, see norml.org

**June 3-5, Treating Yourself Second Annual Alternative Medicine Expo, Toronto, Canada.** Metro Toronto Convention Centre, North Building Hall A. Lectures, vendors, entertainment, vapor lounge for medical marijuana patients. For info, see treatingyourselfexpo.com

### NORML national conference in Rocky Mountain springtime

By Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director

The National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML) will hold its 40th annual conference this spring from April 21-23 in Denver, Colorado — one of America's most 'pot-friendly' cities. "We chose the Denver Grand Hyatt Hotel to recognize the prominent role that Colorado is now playing in the movement to end marijuana prohibition and legalize responsible use in America, both for medical reasons and for general use," said Executive Director Allen St. Pierre.

"Colorado has become the center of America's legalization fight, and NORML wants to both encourage that movement and learn how we might more effectively export that fight to other states."

West Coast Leaf readers are invited to join hundreds of likeminded marijuana law reformers at the nation's only annual conference dedicated to ending cannabis prohibition. More at norml.org, or send an e-mail to: conference@norml.org.



Jeff and Dale Sky Jones are proud to announce the birth of their son, Jackson Wolf Jones, born Tuesday, Dec. 28, 2010 at 10:25pm after 45 hours of labor. 'Jack' attended his first drug policy conference, the Next Steps for California even, at 4 weeks old. Because he spent his time in the womb traveling and listening to politics, debates and interviews he was strangely soothed by the not so gentle sounds of debate and applause. He's a natural sprout in the cannabis industry.

**June 25-26, High Times Medical Cannabis Cup, San Francisco, CA.** Medical marijuana and hemp expo. Prizes for best medical cannabis, hash, and edibles from California's dispensaries. medcancup.com

**Nov. 2-5, International Drug Policy Reform Conference, Los Angeles, CA.** Westin Bonaventure Hotel. For details, see drugpolicy.org

### Free bot for WCL readers

Continued from page 12

simultaneously analyzed for frequency, concept, and tone. For example, one could track a favorite drug policy topic, say cannabis, within a local community, such as Seattle, Oregon or Los Angeles.

Bot could prove particularly useful in tracking statewide ballot measure campaigns, city council debates, or local law enforcement raids. While doing so, it can also help track what is being said, how it is being said, and who is saying it — almost as it is happening.

To get bot or learn more information, please contact Doug Snead at doug@drugsense.org

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Roseanne Barr gives her blessing to cannabis

Praise the Lord and pass the Herb of the Goddess

By Ellen Komp, www.VeryImportantPotheads.com

Roseanne Barr’s latest book, *Roseannarchy: Dispatches from the Nut Farm*, explains that her failed attempt to sing the US national anthem in 1990 was fueled by psychiatric drugs and a lack of marijuana.

She writes: “Shortly after the national anthem horror, I started to feel as though I were waking up from a bad nightmare. The Prozac, Zoloft, Klonopin, and several other mood-altering drugs that had been prescribed for me by psychiatrists (whose destruction by Scientology I now welcome) for my “Multiple-Personality Bipolar Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder” were no longer doing the trick of shielding me from reality. I became even more depressed than normal, like a lot of people do after they take antidepressants.

“I had stopped smoking the Herb of the Goddess that had forever kept me balanced enough to become successful and rich, in order to support my then-husband’s ‘sobriety,’ and that led to massive bipolar troubles that were all capped off with tons of psychiatrists and psychiatric drugs, none of which helped with my problems at all and, in fact, made them even worse.”

Barr’s hilarious 2006 HBO special, “Blonde and Bitchin,” contained her trenchant observation, “The War on Drugs is a war on poor people using street drugs waged by rich people on prescription drugs.” In *Roseannarchy*, she writes of “a natural substance called THC,” and says it’s “the only drug that should be legal. In fact, it should be mandatory.”

Tony Newman and Stephen Gutwillig of Drug Policy Alliance took notice of another benchmark in society’s acceptance of marijuana when a contestant on TV’s *Family Feud* answered the question “Name something that gets passed around?” with the obvious: “a joint.”

Not only that, but “joint” was on the *Family Feud* survey board with eight responses, causing the audience to go wild



and host Steve Harvey great consternation indeed. When the contestant’s opponent in the game guessed instead “the collection plate at church,” Harvey congratulated her for trying to save them all from Hell. But “collection plate” was the response of only four of those surveyed, so “joint” won the round! The YouTube “Devils & Angels” video of the episode went viral, counting over a million views in two days’ time.

President Obama said of drug legalization Jan. 27, “It’s an entirely legitimate topic for debate,” in answer to a question from a member of LEAP (Law Enforcement Against Prohibition). Obama was in top form on Feb. 7, addressing the US Chamber of Commerce, the group that had dumped in their dollars to defeat Prop. 19 in California with horrid ads scaring people about a stoned-out work force.

If we really want innovation in the work force, we should demand workers be properly “inspired — a word that means ‘you breathe in the god,’” said Sean Dorrance Kelly, co-author of *All Things Shining*, on Feb. 3.

Book illustrates a powerful voice for justice

Book Review: *Lust for Justice: The Radical Life & Law of J. Tony Serra*  
By Paulette Frankl,  
Lightning Rod Publications, 2010, 292 pp.

By Mikki Norris

Reading *Lust for Life: The Radical Life & Law of J. Tony Serra* is like going on an incredible, intellectual, philosophical, poetic, and artistic ride that engages the reader to think deeply about life and the concepts of freedom and justice.

It’s a gripping biography about one of the greatest criminal defense trial attorneys of the 20th and 21st centuries, who has represented many high profile clients including Bear Lincoln, a Native American activist accused of killing a cop, Huey Newton of the Black Panthers, Brownie Mary, and Ellie Nesler, amongst others.

Author, photographer and artist Paulette Frankl beautifully examines what makes the legendary San Francisco attorney tick: his beliefs, principles and “hippie” lifestyle; his motivation for going to battle in the courts in behalf of drug offenders, murderers, death penalty, and ‘Three Strikes and You’re Out’ cases. She paints the picture of a highly-skilled and respected “semantic warrior,” master of the law and courtroom performance art, who uses his words, his voice and body language, emotion, fine-tuned strategies and gifted intellect to fight and often win the most difficult cases.

Serra challenges the criminal justice system and questions authority as he pushes the envelope, and explains how to use the power of jury nullification when needed. He delves deep within himself to understand the psychology of crime and passionately seeks to elicit empathy and

compassion from jurors who have the fate of his clients in their hands. He refuses to represent snitches and rails against the informant system. His words and philosophy are eloquent and profound.

Frankl followed Serra around over the last 17 years as his courtroom artist. Her works have been shown on CNN, Fox, and major network stations. Her book includes many of her illustrations and portraits, which capture the essence of the animated Serra, the feeling and intensity of the moment of the trial. She frames the story and provides an intimate view of the courtroom drama that she has witnessed, the preparation and aftermath of the many trials she observed. She transcribes his rants and thoughts from the heights of victory to the depths of defeat.



Serra is a highly successful attorney who actively practices law and mentors a group of bright young attorneys at Pier 5 Law Offices in San Francisco. He took a

vow of poverty to never buy new things. He drives around in clunkers, appearing in court in crumpled, ill-fitting suits from thrift stores, his long white hair flowing.

Serra is a principled tax resister who served time in prison for tax evasion. He inspired the film *True Believer*. He was probably the first attorney to publicly come out of the closet and get a doctor’s approval for medical cannabis, which he uses for anxiety, inspiration and creativity in his work.

Read this book, and hear him speak if you get a chance. You will enjoy this ride. To find out where Serra will be speaking and signing books, see pier5law.com.

Student patients face discrimination on campuses, despite state laws

Continued from page 16

made it clear they would not allow students to use or possess their medicine on campus. In Colorado, a high school student / patient was told that he couldn’t even return to school if he was taking a cannabis lozenge to control seizures caused by a neurological disorder. After a disabled student at U Montana was caught and punished for growing cannabis in his on-campus housing, the school adopted a policy specifically prohibiting cannabis use by students with state-issued medical-marijuana

permits. The only positive policy change that some colleges have started to make is to allow cannabis patients to live in off-campus housing. That isn’t enough. Students using pharmaceuticals such as pain killers, amphetamines, or anti-anxiety drugs, which all have a much higher potential for abuse and addiction than cannabis, are allowed to live on campus.

The DFSCA was passed in 1989, seven years before California became the first state to allow medical use of cannabis. Policy needs to be clarified for students

and administrators. The Dept. of Education needs to make it clear that schools in states with legal medical marijuana will not lose funding if they allow patients to consume or possess medicine on campus.

More about SSDP’s campaigns: SchoolsNotPrisons.com

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Community Announcements

Matriarch inspired generations to volunteerism

Bernice Malin

Feb. 29,1920 — Dec. 19, 2010

Bernice Malin passed away peacefully on Dec. 19, 2010 surrounded by her family in Tarzana, CA. She was the beloved mother of Mikki Norris, publisher and managing editor of the *West Coast Leaf*.

Ms. Malin instilled in her four daughters and her grandchildren the strong values of volunteerism and equal rights. She helped to form and raise money for the Jewish Home for the Blind in Chicago in the 1940s and the Louis G. Norris chapter of the City of Hope upon her husband's passing in the 1960s. She always stressed the importance of treating people equally, starting with her family, which influenced her 'Hemp Kid,' Mikki, in creating the Cannabis Consumers Campaign to encourage people to come out of the closet and stand up for equal rights.

Norris attributes her activism and compassion for social justice and individuals to her parents' upbringing. At a young age, they taught her about the horrors of the Holocaust and the evils of scapegoating groups of people who are unfairly blamed for problems in society. This inspired her to develop the Human Rights and the Drug War exhibit project and subsequent book, *Shattered Lives: Portraits from America's Drug War*, along with her husband and partner, Chris Conrad, and the late Virginia Resner.

Ms. Malin will be remembered for her warm smile and ready laugh, her love of life, dancing and travel. She was known for her wonderful baked goods. She will be missed by Mikki and her sisters, Dolly Norris, Andrea Wishnow, and Shelley Norris-Alvarez, sons-in-laws, grandchildren, and the people who had the opportunity to know her.

A leap-year baby who lived to be 90 years old and suffered a major stroke four and a half years ago on top of Alzheimer's, Bernice kept smiling to the end.



Bernice Malin with her 'Hemp Kid,' Mikki Norris in 2004. Photo by Chris Conrad

To make a donation to the Alzheimer's Association in her name, please go to [westcoastleaf.com/Bernice\\_Malin](http://westcoastleaf.com/Bernice_Malin)

Adele Bozzi Morgan

Founder of We Are Hemp cooperative  
Aug. 21, 1939 — Feb. 28, 2011

A native of Boston, Morgan moved to California as a teen, where she made her mark. In the early 1960s, 70s and 80s, she



managed R&B groups and spent 12 years as a probation officer. She had a career as a nurse for 30 years. In her retirement, she became a medical use activist who advocated strongly and repeatedly for patient access before the Alameda County Board of Supervisors.

Morgan founded We Are Hemp coop in Hayward, CA ten years ago, receiving a permit from the Sheriff's Dept. in 2004. In 2008, her collective was raided by the DEA. Patients protested this unjust closure, and it was reopened to continue servicing its patient members, despite ongoing threat of prosecution. Morgan was loved and will be missed by many.

Local and regional Americans for Safe Access meetings

**Central CA ASA**, second Tues/mo., 6 PM, C.A.F.E., 935 F Street, Fresno. [robertfromasa@yahoo.com](mailto:robertfromasa@yahoo.com)

**East Bay ASA**, third Tues/mo., 6:30 PM, Oaksterdam Student U, 1915 Broadway, Oakland. [eastbayasa@gmail.com](mailto:eastbayasa@gmail.com)

**Humboldt County ASA**, third Thurs/mo., 6 PM, Bayview Courtyard Senior Housing, Rec. Room 550 Union St., Arcata. 707-407-8522. [asa-humboldt@sbcglobal.net](mailto:asa-humboldt@sbcglobal.net)

**LA ASA**, 3rd Sat/mo., 1 PM, 1st floor of the West Hollywood Gateway Mall (at Santa Monica Blvd. & La Brea) Enter through glass doors between Jersey Mike's & BevMo stores. [Don@AmericansforSafeAccess.org](mailto:Don@AmericansforSafeAccess.org)

**Marin ASA**, second Wed/mo., 7:30 PM, Whistlestop, 930 Tamalpais Ave., San Rafael. [asa\\_marin@yahoo.com](mailto:asa_marin@yahoo.com)

**Napa ASA**, third Wed/mo., 6 PM, Round Table Pizza, 3331 Solano Ave., Napa. [edonval@yahoo.com](mailto:edonval@yahoo.com)

**Orange Co. ASA**, third Fri/mo., 7 PM, Giovannis Pizza, 922 W. Williamson, Fullerton. [ghostladyjames@gmail.com](mailto:ghostladyjames@gmail.com)

**San Diego ASA** second Tues / mo., 7 PM, La Jolla Brew House, 7536 Fay Ave, La Jolla.

[eugene.davidovich@gmail.com](mailto:eugene.davidovich@gmail.com)

**San Diego North County/Oceanside ASA**, fourth Tues/mo., 7 PM, The Fish Joint, 514 South Coast Hwy, Oceanside. [eugene.davidovich@gmail.com](mailto:eugene.davidovich@gmail.com)

**San Francisco ASA**, second & fourth Tues/mo., 7:30 PM, Bowers Pizza, 371 11th St, SF. [dcgoldman@yahoo.com](mailto:dcgoldman@yahoo.com)

**San Jose - Silicon Valley ASA**, first Tues/mo., 7:30 PM, MedEx Collective, 2000 Senter Rd, SJ,[siliconvalleyasa.org](mailto:siliconvalleyasa.org)

**San Luis Obispo ASA**, third Tues/mo., 7 PM, Studio 23 Salon, 570 Higuera (in the Creamery), Suite 235, SLO, [mr.rich.donald@gmail.com](mailto:mr.rich.donald@gmail.com)

**Santa Cruz County ASA**, third Thurs/mo., 7 PM, Greenway Compassionate Relief, 140 Dubois St., Santa Cruz. [rmentch@santacruzasa.org](mailto:rmentch@santacruzasa.org)

**Solano ASA**, first Tue/mo., 8:30 PM, 650 Benecia Rd., Vallejo. [twstdlj@aol.com](mailto:twstdlj@aol.com)

**Sonoma ASA**, first Thurs/mo. 5 PM, Dept. of Health, So. City View Rm., 625 5th St, Santa Rosa, knock loudly. Contact [sarah@safeaccessnow.org](mailto:sarah@safeaccessnow.org)

Reform organizations of interest

**Americans for Safe Access**  
[safeaccessnow.org](http://safeaccessnow.org) / A patient advocacy and support network. 510-251-1856

**Axis of Love SF/ Activist Resource Center**  
Patients organizing for their rights, 415-797-3672

**California NORML**  
[canorml.org/](http://canorml.org/) Advocacy, directories, lobbying, research, news, alerts. 415-563-5858

**Can-Do Clemency**  
[candoclemency.org/](http://candoclemency.org/) advocates clemency for all non-violent drug offenders.

**Cannabis Defense Coalition**  
[cdc.ccop/](http://cdc.ccop/) Cannabis Resource Center. 888-208-5332

**Cannabis Consumers Campaign**  
[cannabisconsumers.org/](http://cannabisconsumers.org/) Come out of the closet to stand up for equal rights.

**Civil Liberties Monitoring Project**  
[civilliberties.org/](http://civilliberties.org/) Monitors police eradication abuses, etc, to protect civil rights in the CA northcoast. 707-923-4646

**Drug Reform Coordination Network**  
[stopthedrugwar.org/](http://stopthedrugwar.org/) [drcnet.org](http://drcnet.org), Global support network for drug policy reformers with weekly analysis.

**Drug Policy Alliance**  
[drugpolicy.org/](http://drugpolicy.org/) DPA works on drug policies based on science, compassion, health, human rights and a just society free from prohibition.

**Drug Policy Forum of CA**  
Listserve for Cal cannabis/drug war issues. Sign up at [drugsense.org/dpfca/list.htm](http://drugsense.org/dpfca/list.htm)

**DrugSense**  
[drugsense.org/](http://drugsense.org/) Daily compilation of news excerpts. Web site dev. and hosting. 501(c)3 tax exempt fiscal sponsor.

**Drug War Facts**  
[drugwarfacts.org/](http://drugwarfacts.org/) Just the facts.

**Families Against Mandatory Minimums**  
[famm.org/](http://famm.org/) Advocates an end to harsh, unjust sentencing laws affecting prisoners and their families.

**Family Council on Drug Awareness**  
[fcdca.org/](http://fcdca.org/) Accurate information on effects of drugs and drug policies. Downloadable PDFs to print and hand out.

**Green Aid Marijuana Legal Def. & Education Fund, Inc.** [green-aid.com/](http://green-aid.com/)

**Harm Reduction Coalition**  
[harmreduction.org/](http://harmreduction.org/) Works to reduce drug-related harm by programs such as clean needle exchange.

**Hemp Industries Association**  
[hempindustries.org/](http://hempindustries.org/) The HIA is a non-profit trade group representing hemp companies, researchers, supporters.

**Human Rights and the Drug War**  
[hr95.org/](http://hr95.org/) Photo display of Drug War POWs, analyzes human rights abuses.

**Humboldt Medical Marijuana Advisory Panel**  
[hummap.org/](http://hummap.org/) Community policy group. 707-223-4014

**Interfaith Drug Policy Initiative**  
[idpi.us](http://idpi.us) / Organizing people of faith to promote reform. 301-270-4473

**Law Enforcement Against Prohibition**  
[leap.cc/](http://leap.cc/) Current and former members of law enforcement

who support drug regulation rather than prohibition.

**Legal Services for Prisoners w/ Children**  
[prisonerswithchildren.org/](http://prisonerswithchildren.org/) Advocates for the human rights and empowerment of incarcerated parents, children, family members and people at risk for incarceration

**Marijuana Anti-Prohibition Project MAPP**  
[mpp.org/](http://mpp.org/) national membership

**Marijuana Policy Project MPP**  
[mpp.org/](http://mpp.org/) national membership org. Focuses on removing criminal penalties through initiatives and legislation.

**Mendo Medical Marijuana Advisory Board**  
[mmmab.net/](http://mmmab.net/) [info@mmmab.net](mailto:info@mmmab.net)

**Medical Marijuana of America**  
[medicalmarijuanaofamerica.com/](http://medicalmarijuanaofamerica.com/) directory, court reports, POW stories and contacts.

**Media Awareness Project**  
[mapinc.org/](http://mapinc.org/) MAP has generated millions of letters to the editor. Help gather news for their clearing house.

**Michigan NORML**  
[minorml.org/](http://minorml.org/) lots of chapters throughout the state

**Mothers Against Misuse and Abuse**  
[mamas.org/](http://mamas.org/) responsible drug education

**MAPS**  
[maps.org/](http://maps.org/) Multidisciplinary Association on Psychedelic Studies, studies on cannabis, psychedelics. 831-429-6362

**NORML**  
[norml.org/](http://norml.org/) National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws. 202-483-5500

**November Coalition**  
[november.org/](http://november.org/) National support group for Drug War POWs. Publishes The Razor Wire.

**Oregon Green Free**  
[oregongreenfree.net](http://oregongreenfree.net). Free OMMP info.

**Oregon NORML**  
[ornorml.org/](http://ornorml.org/)

**Patient Advocacy Network**  
[cannabissaveslives.com](http://cannabissaveslives.com)

**SAFER**  
[saferchoice.org/](http://saferchoice.org/) Safer Alternative For Enjoyable Recreation. [mail@saferchoice.org](mailto:mail@saferchoice.org)

**Sensible Colorado**  
[sensiblecolorado.org/](http://sensiblecolorado.org/) Non-profit resource for patients and those interested in reforming laws. 720-890-4247

**Sensible Washington**  
[sensiblewashington.org/](http://sensiblewashington.org/) organizing legalization initiative.

**Southern Oregon NORML**  
[so-norml.org/](http://so-norml.org/) Reform activities and OMMP support. Medford. 541-779-1448

**Students for a Sensible Drug Policy**  
[ssdp.org/](http://ssdp.org/) Students for reducing the harms caused by drug abuse and drug policies.

**VoteHemp**  
[votehemp.com/](http://votehemp.com/) Industrial, horticultural hemp.

**Voter Power, Oregon**  
[voterpower.org/](http://voterpower.org/) Advocating for fair, cannabis laws and policies. OMMP registration. 503-224-3051, 541-245-6634

To get listed, please email [info@WestCoastLeaf.com](mailto:info@WestCoastLeaf.com)

Local and regional meetings

**East Bay NORML**, third Thurs/mo., 7:30 PM (after Measure Z Oversight Comm.), OU Student Union, 1915 Broadway, Oakland. [canorml@canorml.org](mailto:canorml@canorml.org)

**El Dorado Co. American Alliance for Medical Cannabis**, 4th Sat/mo., 2:15-4:20, Garden Valley Grange, 4940 Marshall Rd. Garden Valley, CA, 530-621-2874

**El Centro/Imperial County Marijuana Anti-Prohibition Project (MAPP)**, third Tue/mo. 7:30 PM at Imperial Valley Collective, 119 N. 5th St., El Centro 92243. 760-799-2055

**Oakland Measure Z Oversight Committee**, third Thurs/ mo. 6 PM, City Hall, 1 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, Oakland.

**Orange County NORML**, third Fri./mo. 7 PM. OC ASA, 8 PM.Giovanni's Pizza, 922 W. Williamson, in Fullerton. Free pizza. [ocnorml.org](http://ocnorml.org)

**Palm Springs/ Coachella Valley Area MAPP**, first Sat/

mo. 3 PM, 266 N. Palm Canyon Dr., Palm Springs, 92262. 760-799-2055

**Sacramento County Patients & Collectives**, first & third Thurs./mo.7:30 PM if needed, 5207 Auburn Blvd. #H Sacramento, CA 95841. 916-361-1612

**Victorville MAPP**, third Thurs/mo. 7 PM, Coco's Restaurant, 15570 Park Ave. E, Victorville, 92392. 760-799-2055

**Western Inland Empire Area MAPP**, first Wed / mo., 7:30 PM, THCF Medical Clinic, 647 Main St. Riverside, CA 92501. Also hosts seminars on Anti-aging and medical benefits of cannabis, First Fri./mo. 8 PM. 951-782-9898

**Yucca Valley/Landers MAPP** third Wed/mo. 6:30 PM Castle Inn, 1388 N. Golden Slipper in Landers 92285. Lanny 760-799-2055

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