



Six National Drug Policy Organizations Call on President Obama to End Unnecessary Assault on Medical Marijuana Providers

Coalition to President Obama: "It is time for a new approach on marijuana policy."

Washington, DC, USA -- In the wake of recent attacks on medical marijuana providers and patients by multiple branches of the federal government, including Monday's raids on Oaksterdam University in Oakland, CA, a coalition of six national drug policy reform organizations is appealing to President Obama and his administration to follow its own previously stated policies respecting state medical marijuana laws. In the letter, posted in full below, the organizations call on the Obama administration to bring an end to the federal government's ongoing campaign to undermine state efforts to regulate safe and legal access to medical marijuana for those patients who rely on it.

The Obama Administration's National Drug Control Strategy Report 2012, reportedly being released in the coming days, is

<continued on page 3 >



Obama Not Going "To Turn The Other Way" Regarding Medical Marijuana Dispensaries

Washington, DC, USA: President Barack Obama is [defending](#) his administration's recent [crackdown](#) upon medicinal cannabis providers in states that allow for its use in a just-published *Rolling Stone Magazine* interview.

<continued on page 4 >

THC Seldom Detected In Injured Dutch Drivers Study; Ghent, Belgium:

Belgian drivers injured in traffic accidents are far more likely to possess drugs and alcohol in their systems than are Dutch drivers, according to [data](#) to be

<continued on page 5 >

Drug Czar Reiterates Government's Opposition To Domestic Hemp Production

Washington, DC, USA: The federal government continues to oppose allowing licensed farmers the opportunity to cultivate [industrial hemp](#) for fiber and other agricultural purposes, according to [statements](#) posted this week by Drug Czar Gil Kerlikowske on the [whitehouse.gov](#) website.

<continued on page 4 >

Rasmussen Poll: Plurality Of Americans Support Legalizing And Taxing Cannabis

Asbury Park, NJ, USA: A solid plurality of Americans now support legalizing and taxing the production and sale of cannabis, according to nationwide Rasmussen [poll](#) of 1,000 adults. According to the telephone poll, 47 percent <continued on page 5 >

About MERCY – The Medical Cannabis Resource Center

The MERCY News Report is an all-volunteer, not-for-profit project to record and broadcast news, announcements and information about medical cannabis in Oregon, across America and around the World.

For more information about the MERCY News, contact us.

Via Snail Mail:

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www.MercyCenters.org

Check it out!

MERCY On The Tube!



in Salem, Oregon area thru Capital Community Television, Channel 23. Call In – 503.588-6444 - on Friday at 7pm, or See us on Wednesdays at 06:30pm, Thursdays at 07:00pm, Fridays at 10:30pm and Saturdays at 06:00pm. Visit –

<http://mercycenters.org/tv/>

MERCY is a non-profit, grass roots organization founded by patients, their friends and family and other compassionate and concerned citizens in the area and is dedicated to helping and advocating for those involved with the Oregon Medical Marijuana Program (OMMP). MERCY is based in the Salem, Oregon area and staffed on a volunteer basis.

The purpose is to get medicine to patients in the short-term while working with them to establish their own independent sources. To this end we provide, among other things, ongoing education to people and groups organizing clinics and other Patient Resources, individual physicians and other healthcare providers about the OMMP, cannabis as medicine and doctor rights in general.

The mission of the organization is to help people and change the laws. We advocate reasonable, fair and effective marijuana laws and policies, and strive to educate, register and empower voters to implement such policies. Our philosophy is one of teaching people to fish, rather than being dependent upon others.

Want to get your Card? Need Medicine Now?

Welcome to The Club! MERCY – the Medical Cannabis Resource Center hosts Mercy Club Meetings **every Wednesday** at - **1469 Capital Street NE, Suite #100, Salem, 97301** – from **7pm to 9pm** to help folks get their card, network patients to medicine, assist in finding a grower or getting to grow themselves, or ways and means to medicate along other info and resources depending on the issue. **visit** – www.MercyCenters.org - or Call **503.363-4588** for more.

The Doctor is In ... Salem! * MERCY is Educating

Doctors on signing for their Patients; Referring people to Medical Cannabis Consultations when their regular care physician won't sign for them; and listing all Clinics around the state in order to help folks Qualify for the OMMP and otherwise Get their Cards. For our Referral Doc in Salem, get your records to – **1469 Capital Street NE, Suite #100, Salem, 97301**, NOTE: There is a \$25 non-refundable deposit required. Transportation and Delivery Services available for those in need. For our Physician Packet to educate your Doctor, or a List of Clinics around the state, visit – www.MercyCenters.org - or Call **503.363-4588** for more.

Other Medical Cannabis Resource NetWork Opportunities for Patients as well as CardHolders-to-be. * whether Social meeting,

Open to public –or– Cardholders Only * visit: <http://mercycenters.org/events/Meets.html> ! Also Forums - a means to communicate and network on medical cannabis in Portland across Oregon and around the world. **A list of Forums, Chat Rooms, Bulletin Boards and other Online Resources for the Medical Cannabis Patient, CareGiver, Family Member, Patient-to-Be and Other Interested Parties. * Resources > Patients (plus) > Online > Forums** * Know any? Let everybody else know! Visit: <http://mercycenters.org/orgs/Forums.html> and Post It!

<continued from ORGANIZATIONS CALL ON PRESIDENT TO END ASSAULT ON MEDICAL MARIJUANA, page 1 > expected to cling to failed and outdated marijuana policies which further cement the control of the marijuana trade in the hands of drug cartels and illegal operators, endangering both patients in medical marijuana states and citizens everywhere. The members of this coalition stand together with [members of the Global Commission on Drug Policy](#), current and former Latin American leaders whose countries are being ravaged by drug cartels, [state officials from five medical marijuana states](#), and tens of millions of Americans in their call for a more rational approach to marijuana policy. **Contact:** Allen St. Pierre, NORML Executive Director, (202) 483-5500 -or- Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director, paul@norml.org

THE LETTER TO PRESIDENT OBAMA:

April 4, 2012
President Barack Obama
The White House
Washington D.C. 20500
Via Fax: 202-456-2461

Dear Mr. President:

Our coalition represents the views of tens of millions of Americans who believe the war on medical marijuana patients and providers you are fighting is misguided and counterproductive. As your administration prepares to release its annual National Drug Control Strategy, we want to speak with one voice and convey our deep sense of anger and disappointment in your lack of leadership on this issue.

Voters and elected officials in sixteen states and the District of Columbia have determined that the medical use of marijuana should be legal. In many of these states, the laws also include means for providing medical marijuana patients safe access to this medicine. These laws allowing for the cultivation and distribution of medical marijuana actually shift control of marijuana sales from the criminal underground to state-licensed, taxed, and regulated producers and distributors.

Instead of celebrating - or even tolerating - this state experimentation, which has benefited patients and taken profits away from drug cartels, you have turned your back as career law enforcement officials have run roughshod over

some of the most professional and well-regulated medical marijuana providers. We simply cannot understand why you have reneged on your administration's earlier policy of respecting state medical marijuana laws.

Our frustration and confusion over your administration's uncalled-for attacks on state-authorized medical marijuana providers was best summed up by John McCowen, the chair of the Mendocino County (CA) board of supervisors, who said, "It's almost as if there was a conscious effort to drive [medical marijuana cultivation and distribution] back underground. My opinion is that's going to further endanger public safety and the environment - the federal government doesn't seem to care about that."

The National Drug Control Strategy you are about to release will no doubt call for a continuation of policies that have as a primary goal the ongoing and permanent control of the marijuana trade by drug cartels and organized crime. We cannot and do not endorse the continued embrace of this utterly failed policy. We stand instead with Latin American leaders, members of the Global Commission on Drug Policy, and the vast majority of people who voted you into office in recognizing that it is time for a new approach on marijuana policy.

With approximately 50,000 people dead in Mexico over the past five years as the result of drug war-related violence, we hope that you will immediately reconsider your drug control strategy and will work with, not against, states and organizations that are attempting to shift control of marijuana cultivation and sales, at least as it applies to medical marijuana, to a controlled and regulated market.

Sincerely,

[Drug Policy Alliance](#) (DPA)
[Law Enforcement Against Prohibition](#) (LEAP)
[Marijuana Policy Project](#) (MPP)
[National Cannabis Industry Association](#) (NCIA)
[National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws](#) (NORML)
[Students for Sensible Drug Policy](#) (SSDP)

cc: Eric Holder, Attorney General, Department of Justice; James Cole, Deputy Attorney General, Department of Justice; Gil Kerlikowske, Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy

<continued from OBAMA NOT GOING "TO TURN THE OTHER WAY" REGARDING MEDICAL MARIJUANA DISPENSARIES, page 1 > In recent months, federal justice officials have [executed raids](#) on dozens of medical marijuana providers and related businesses, [including Oaksterdam University](#) in Oakland, in various states. In some cases, federal authorities have even [targeted establishments that were operating in accordance with a state license](#).

The Justice Department has also [ordered](#) lawmakers in various states - including Delaware, Rhode Island, and Washington - to suspend plans to authorize cannabis providers under state law. To date, three states - Colorado, Maine, and New Mexico - have issued licenses to allow for the state-sanctioned production and distribution of cannabis. Similar licensing legislation approved in Arizona, New Jersey, Vermont, and Washington, DC has yet to be implemented by local lawmakers.

[Stated](#) Obama in *Rolling Stone*: "What I specifically said was that we were not going to prioritize prosecutions of persons who are using medical marijuana. I never made a commitment that somehow we were going to give carte blanche to large-scale producers and operators of marijuana - and the reason is, because it's against federal law. I can't nullify congressional law. I can't ask the Justice Department to say, 'Ignore completely a federal law that's on the books.'"

He added: "The only tension that's come up - and this gets hyped up a lot - is a murky area where you have large-scale, commercial operations that may supply medical marijuana users, but in some cases may also be supplying recreational users. In that situation, we put the Justice Department in a very difficult place if we're telling them, 'This is supposed to be against the law, but we want you to turn the other way.' That's not something we're going to do."

Obama's statements appear to [contradict](#) those he made in March 2008, as a Presidential candidate, when he [pledged](#) to cease utilizing "Justice Department resources to try and circumvent state laws" regarding medical cannabis.

More recently, in December, US Attorney General Eric Holder [told](#) members of Congress that the Justice Department would only target medical cannabis operators that "use marijuana in a way that's not consistent with the state statute."

For more information, please contact Allen St. Pierre, NORML Executive Director, or Keith Stroup, NORML Legal Counsel, at (202) 483-5500.

<continued from DRUG CZAR REITERATES GOVERNMENT'S OPPOSITION TO DOMESTIC HEMP PRODUCTION, page 1 > Hemp is a [distinct variety](#) of the plant species cannabis sativa that contains only minute (typically less than .03 percent) amounts of tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), the primary psychoactive compound in marijuana. According to a Congressional Research Service (CRS) [report](#), "The United States is the only developed nation in which industrial hemp is not an established crop." Farmers in Canada and the European Union grow hemp commercially for fiber, seed, and oil for use in a variety of industrial and consumer products, including food.

Stated Kerlikowske on the White House's '[We the People](#)' website: "Federal law prohibits human consumption, distribution, and possession of Schedule I controlled substances. ... While most of the THC in cannabis plants is concentrated in the marijuana, all parts of the plant, including hemp, can contain THC, a Schedule I controlled substance. The Administration will continue looking for innovative ways to support farmers across the country while balancing the need to protect public health and safety."

A [white paper](#) published by the North American Industrial Hemp Council counters: "The THC levels in industrial hemp are so low that no one could get high from smoking it. Moreover, hemp contains a relatively high percentage of another cannabinoid, [CBD](#), that actually blocks the marijuana high. Hemp, it turns out, not only (isn't) marijuana; it could be called 'anti-marijuana.'"

In recent years, lawmakers in several states - including North Dakota, Montana, and Vermont - have enacted [legislation](#) seeking to allow state-licensed farmers the opportunity to grow

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<continued from previous page> hemp crops. However, [according to the CRS](#), "The US Drug Enforcement Administration has been unwilling to grant licenses for growing small plots of hemp for research purposes," even when such research is authorized by state law, because the agency believes that doing so would "send the wrong message to the American public concerning the government's position on drugs."

In 2007, 2009, and again in 2011, federal lawmakers have introduced in Congress, "The Industrial Hemp Farming Act," to exclude low potency varieties of cannabis from federal prohibition. If approved, [this measure](#) would grant state legislatures the authority to license and regulate the commercial production of hemp as an industrial and agricultural commodity. The present version of this Act, [House Bill 1831](#), has [33 co-sponsors](#), but has yet to receive a Congressional hearing. The measure is before the US House of Representatives, Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security.

During World War II, the US Department of Agriculture actively promoted the domestic cultivation of hemp during a campaign known as '[Hemp for Victory](#).'

For more information, please contact Allen St. Pierre, NORML Executive Director, at (202) 483-5500 or visit: <http://votehemp.com>.

<continued from RASMUSSEN POLL: PLURALITY OF AMERICANS SUPPORT LEGALIZING AND TAXING CANNABIS, page 1 > of adults "believe the country should legalize and tax marijuana in order to help solve the nation's fiscal problems." Forty-two percent of respondents disagree, while ten percent are undecided.

The survey of 1,000 Adults nationwide was conducted on March 24-25, 2012 by Rasmussen Reports. The margin of sampling error is +/- 3 percentage points with a 95 percent level of confidence.

In 2011, a nationwide [Gallup](#) poll reported that 50 percent of Americans support legalizing the use of cannabis for adults. Forty-six percent of respondents said they opposed the idea.

The 2011 Gallup survey results marked the first time that the polling firm, which has [tracked Americans' attitudes](#) toward marijuana since the late 1960s, reported that more Americans support legalizing cannabis than oppose it.

Commenting on the latest poll results, NORML Executive Director Allen St. Pierre said: "For the second time in less than a year we have pollsters from a national, well-respected firm reporting that far more Americans now support legalizing marijuana than endorse maintaining criminal prohibition. It is high time for state and federal lawmakers to acknowledge this political reality and respond to the will of their constituents."

For more information, please contact Allen St. Pierre, NORML Executive Director, at (202) 483-5500, or Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director, at: paul@norml.org.

<continued from STUDY: THC SELDOM DETECTED IN INJURED DUTCH DRIVERS, page 1 > published in the journal *Forensic Science International*.

Investigators from Belgium and the Netherlands compared the prevalence of alcohol, licit and illicit drugs in the blood of seriously injured drivers over 18 years of age. A total of 535 drivers - 348 from Belgium and 187 from the Netherlands - were assessed in the study.

Researchers reported, "In Belgium, more drivers were found positive for alcohol and drugs than in the Netherlands. ... Alcohol was the most prevalent substance among the injured drivers in Belgium (42.5 percent) and the Netherlands (29.6 percent). ... In Belgium there were ... more positives for THC (8 percent). ... In the Netherlands, almost no positive findings for cannabis were recorded (0.5 percent)."



Investigators declared the findings "remarkable" because "the sample of drivers in the Netherlands (was) younger and included

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<continued from previous page> more men than in Belgium." They also noted that cannabis use was far more popular among the Dutch general driving population (2.1 percent) compared to that of the Belgian population (0.49 percent).

They concluded: "The lower prevalence of alcohol in the Netherlands is associated with a much lower number of crashes and killed and injured drivers. ... Despite the high prevalence of THC found in the general driving population, surprisingly almost no THC was found in the Dutch injured driver population."

For more information, please contact Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director, at: paul@norml.org. Full text of the study, "Prevalence of alcohol and other psychoactive substances in injured drivers: Comparison between Belgium and the Netherlands," will appear in the journal Forensic Science International. NORML's white paper, "Cannabis and Driving: A Scientific and Rational Review," is available online at: <http://norml.org/library/item/cannabis-and-driving-a-scientific-and-rational-review>.

Washington, DC: District Regulators Move Forward With Plans To Dispense Medical Marijuana

Washington, DC, USA: Washington, DC Health Officials on Friday [selected](#) six companies to provide medical cannabis in compliance with the District's nascent medical marijuana [law](#).

The companies must still apply for their business license and building permits from the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs. That process is expected to take less than two weeks.

All six of the successful firms will open their cultivation centers in the northeast quadrant of DC - five in Ward 5 and one in Ward 7 - although the latter applicant may ultimately have to move its site. As [reported](#) by *The Washington Times* newspaper, "The selected companies in Ward 5 are Abatin Wellness Center, a firm affiliated with [Montel Williams](#) that will set up operations at 2146 Queens Chapel Road; Holistic Remedies at 1840 Fenwick St.; Montana Apothecary doing business as Alternative Solutions at 2170 24th Place; District Growers at 2417 Evarts St.; and Venture Forth doing business as Center City at 2210 Channing St. Phyto Management LLC was selected to open up across the Anacostia River at 3701 Benning Road NE. However, it is expected to relocate."

District City Council members authorized the establishment of medical cannabis facilities in May 2010 when they [amended](#) the Legalization of Marijuana for Medical Treatment Initiative, a 1998 municipal ballot [measure](#) which garnered 69 percent of the vote yet was never implemented.

All of the selected applicants signed a waiver releasing the City from criminal liability if federal officials decide to take action against the facilities. In recent months, agents from the US Department of Justice, the Internal Revenue Service, and the Drug Enforcement Administration have [targeted](#) multiple medical cannabis dispensaries, including in some instances those licensed by state and local officials. *For more information, please contact Allen St. Pierre, NORML Executive Director or Keith Stroup, NORML Legal Counsel, at (202) 483-5500.*

Cessation Of Cannabis Smoking Associated With Declines In Chronic Respiratory Symptoms

Los Angeles, CA, USA: Chronic cannabis smokers who cease using the substance report experiencing fewer adverse respiratory symptoms compared to those who continue their use, according to a longitudinal cohort [study](#) to be published in *COPD, the Journal of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease*.

Investigators at the David Geffen School of Medicine at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) assessed the long-term impact of cannabis smoking on symptoms of chronic bronchitis. Researchers reported that cannabis smoking "significantly increased" the likelihood of having chronic bronchitis compared to both never smokers and former smokers. However, former smokers were "no more likely to have chronic respiratory symptoms at follow-up than never smokers."

Authors concluded: "Findings from this longitudinal cohort study indicate that continuing smoking of marijuana, either alone or with tobacco, is associated with a net persistence of symptoms of chronic bronchitis, similar to the findings in continuing smokers of tobacco alone. In contrast, complete cessation of smoking by former habitual smokers of either marijuana or tobacco alone or of marijuana plus tobacco was accompanied by

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<continued from previous page> substantial declines in chronic respiratory symptoms. ... These findings provide, for the first time, documented evidence of the benefit of marijuana smoking cessation with respect to the resolution of pre-existing symptoms of chronic bronchitis." Separate [studies](#) have previously linked long-term marijuana smoking to an increased risk of bronchitis, cough, phlegm, and wheezing.

A [2007 study](#) published in the *Harm Reduction Journal* found that cannabis consumers who vaporized the substance reported fewer adverse respiratory symptoms compared to those who smoked it. For more information, please contact Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director, at: paul@norml.org. Full text of the study, "Impact of changes in regular users of marijuana use and/or tobacco on chronic bronchitis," will appear in COPD.

New Jersey: NORML Lawyers File Constitutional Lawsuit Over State's Failure To Implement Two-Year-Old Medical Cannabis Law

Trenton, NJ, USA: Members of the NORML Legal Committee [filed suit](#) yesterday against the State of New Jersey over regulators' failure to implement the Compassionate Use of Medical Marijuana Act.



Signed into law by former Gov. Jon Corzine on January 18, 2010, [the law](#) - which establishes the creation of up to six state-licensed 'alternative treatment centers' to provide medicinal cannabis to qualified patients - was initially scheduled to take effect in July 2010. Since that time state regulators, at the behest of present Gov. Chris Christie, have [unduly delayed](#) the law's implementation.

In the 27 months since the measure was signed into law, no treatment centers have obtained the necessary licenses to open for business and [not a single patient in New Jersey](#) has been afforded legal protections under the Act.

On Wednesday, April 4, [NORML Legal Committee](#) attorneys William H. Buckman of Moorestown and Anne M. Davis of Brick filed a lawsuit on behalf of a New Jersey medical patient who qualifies for cannabis access under state law. The suit also represents a physician who has registered with the state to recommend medical marijuana. Named in the suit are the Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) Commissioner Mary O'Dowd and the newly appointed director of the Medicinal Marijuana Program John O'Brien. Stated attorney Buckman in a [press release](#),

"Today we are filing suit to require the DHHS to do what every other citizen must do - follow the law." Added Davis: "Our neighbors with AIDS, cancer, multiple sclerosis and the worst of medical conditions have testified before the legislature and changed the law. Now, patients and doctors have to go to court to win the rights that they should have already been afforded." State-licensed medicinal cannabis dispensaries are presently operational in [Colorado](#), [Maine](#), and [New Mexico](#). For more information, please contact Keith Stroup, NORML Legal Counsel, at (202) 483-5500. Attorney William Buckman may be contacted at (856) 608-9797. Attorney Anne Davis may be contacted at: (732) 477-4700.

Study: Baby Products Linked To False Positive Drug Test Results In Newborns

Chapel Hill, NC, USA: Commercially available baby soaps and other wash products that are commonly used with newborns may interfere with the accuracy of immunoassay drug screens, according to [data](#) published in the journal *Clinical Biochemistry*. Investigators at the University of North Carolina, Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, assessed the impact of various baby wash products on drug-free urine samples after a number of false positive cannabinoid screening results were suspected at their institution's newborn nursery.

Researchers determined: "Addition of Head-to-Toe Baby Wash to drug-free urine produced a dose dependent measureable response in the THC immunoassay. Addition of other commercially available baby soaps gave similar results, and subsequent testing identified specific chemical surfactants that reacted with the THC immunoassay." Overall, researchers reported that four out of seven of the commercial baby soaps tested caused false positive results when added to drug-free urine samples.

They concluded: "We have identified commonly used soap and wash products used for newborn and infant care as potential causes of false positive THC screening results. Such results in this population can lead to involvement by social services or false child abuse allegations. Given these consequences, it is important for laboratories and providers to be aware of this potential source for false positive screening results and to consider confirmation before initiating interventions." For more information, please contact Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director, at: paul@norml.org. Full text of the study, "Unexpected interference of baby wash products with a cannabinoid (THC) immunoassay," will appear in the journal *Chemical Biochemistry*.



Federal Agencies Target Oaksterdam University

Oakland, CA, USA: Agents from the US Marshalls, the Internal Revenue Service, and the Drug Enforcement Administration on Monday [raided Oaksterdam University](#) - a brick-and-mortar cannabis trade school - and several other properties rented by the facility's founder [Richard Lee](#). Lee, who was detained but later released without being arrested, bankrolled Proposition 19 in 2010, which [sought](#) to regulate the adult use, possession, and sale of cannabis to adults.

Spokespersons for the office of the US Attorney of Northern California, Melinda Haag, would [not comment](#) on the federal government's actions. The warrant executed in the raid was filed under seal in federal court.

Over a hundred citizens [protested](#) on Monday outside of Oaksterdam as the federal raid took place. Several hundred additional protestors, as well as six San Francisco City Supervisors, [gathered](#) on Tuesday at San Francisco City Hall and outside of the offices of the Melinda Haag.

Speaking to news media on Monday, Oakland City Councilmember At Large Rebecca Kaplan said that Lee's "involvement in Oakland has been overwhelmingly positive. ... He's been an exemplary community member." She added that the city of Oakland "was not involved" in the decision to target the Oaksterdam facility.

US Attorneys in California had previously stated that their offices would only become involved in instances where proprietors were in clear violation of state law or in cases where federal law enforcement were summoned at the behest of local officials.

In a [prepared statement](#) released following the raid, Lee said, "This was a senseless act of intimidation. But I've been an activist far too long to become intimidated."

Spokespersons for Oaksterdam University have [pledged](#) to reopen the school imminently.

For more information, please contact Allen St. Pierre, NORML Executive Director, at (202) 483-5500, or Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director, at: paul@norml.org.

Register Now For NORML's Seventh Annual Aspen Legal Seminar

Washington, DC, USA:

NORML is still accepting registrations from criminal defense attorneys and the general public to attend its seventh annual [Aspen Legal Seminar](#). This three-day event takes place from Thursday, May 31 through Saturday, June 2 at [The Gant Hotel](#) in downtown Aspen - one of the nation's most cannabis-friendly cities.



[Topics](#) of discussion at this year's symposium include: 'Medical Marijuana and the Workplace,' 'Transitioning from Medical Use to Full Legalization,' 'Defending Paraphernalia and Spice (K-2) Cases,' 'Jury Selection in a Marijuana Case,' and 'How to Use the Latest and Best Science to Defend Against a DUID Marijuana Prosecution.'

[Speakers](#) include: NORML Deputy Director **Paul Armentano**; **Gerald Goldstein**, past president of the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (NACDL) and legal counsel for the late-Hunter S. Thompson; **Jeralyn Merritt**, founder of TalkLeft.com and frequent television legal analyst for Fox News and MSNBC; **David Michael**, co-counsel for Angel Raich and Diane Monson before the United States Supreme Court in *Gonzales v. Raich*, **Marjorie Russell**, chair of the Litigation Skills Department at the Thomas Cooley Law School in Michigan, and NORML Executive Director **Allen St. Pierre**.

Social events include a Thursday night opening reception and a Saturday benefit banquet at the home of Gerald Goldstein. NORML's Aspen Legal Seminar is open to attorneys requiring continuing legal education (CLE) credits as well as to the general public.

"NORML is proud to make this once-a-year legal seminar open to the public," said NORML founder and Legal Director Keith Stroup. "Don't miss this rare opportunity to join NORML's staff and some of the nation's top marijuana lawyers and activists in this unique and intimate setting." *Registration information and this year's conference agenda are online at: <http://norml.org/about/aspen-legal-seminar>.*