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Lex Pelger

Cannabinoid Science Journalist

Delivers worldwide witticism on cannabis, skewering all the nonsense that is internationally infinite. 10/10

Kirsten Velasco, Author Cannabis Basics Textbook

Editorial

This week I publish the 6th edition of our Global Top 200 Cannabis Lawyers Directory. As I say on the site yes you can see a listing of cannabis lawyers at Chambers or you could trawl the INCBA site but I still believe the Top 200 is really the only publication that will give you overall access to the best cannabis lawyers around the world. Then again I would say that.

I write amongst many other things in the editorial....

Finally to our superstars. As I have already mentioned I don't rank lawyers in the Top 200 but there are a few superstars out there I would very much like to mention.

Although I have already named Rod Kight I'm going to highlight his work for a second time. He's decided not to ply his craft at a large law firm and there isn't a lawyer, client or cannabis advocate out there who isn't impressed by the work he is doing. The same also applies to Lauren Rudick who runs her own tight knit firm with some excellent supporting lawyers. I'd like also to mention Mitchel Chargo at Hinshaw who played a large part in formulating a world first in Michigan's cannabis pact with local indigenous communities that could well be the basis for a nationwide template.

In the UK the rise and rise of Ricardo Geada head of international at Lawrence Stevens who works with some of the world's leading medical cannabis outfits is more than noteworthy. As is the work in Germany that Peter Homberg now with UK firm GunnerCooke is doing as that country negotiates its way over the path of eggshells that is cannabis legalisation in the EU. I'd also like to mention Dr Teresa Nicoletti in Australia who has been a steady stalwart of the sector in that country for nigh on a decade now.

Congratulations to all the practitioners in the 6th Edition (2025-2026) of The Global Top 200 Cannabis Lawyers and thank you to all of you, especially those we haven't been able to mention by name.

Keep doing what you do.

Click on the image below to go to the [directory](#).

Global Top 200 Cannabis Lawyers Directory 2025/26

Welcome to the 6th edition of the Global Top 200 cannabis lawyers 2025-2026 published by Cannabis Law Report & Cannabis Law Journal.

We have compiled the lawyers and law firms we believe to be the top 200 cannabis practitioners and practices around the world via our annual survey of clients and lawyers in the cannabis legal services sector; this research is combined with our personal editorial decisions based on our daily reporting for the past decade or so. [Read More](#)

Thank you, Sean Hocking – Editor: The Global Top 200 Cannabis Lawyers

Contact Sean

Top 200 Cannabis Lawyers – Plus 2025/2026



Dan Harris – Harris Sliwoski

Dan Harris is widely recognized as a leading expert on legal issues related to conducting business in emerging markets. He is frequently sought after for his insights by major media outlets such as Forbes, Business Week, Fortune, The BBC, The Wall Street Journal, The Washington Post, The Economist, CNBC, and The New York Times. Dan is a prolific writer and speaker on international law, particularly known for his focus on ...

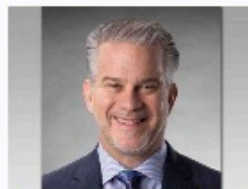
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Daniel Rathner – Indicated Legal

Daniel Rathner is the founder and Director of Indicated Legal based in Melbourne, Australia. Daniel works with many businesses across the supply chain, including sponsors, cultivators, manufacturers, importers, distributors, medical practitioners and clinics, pharmacists and testing laboratories. Offering practical and strategic advice, Daniel assists his clients throughout the life of their enterprises, from corporate structuring and establishment, licensing, commercial contracts and deal flow through to corporate governance, regulatory compliance and ...

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Mitchel C. Chargo – Hinshaw

Mitchel Chargo represents clients in a wide array of matters related to the state of Minnesota's newly enacted adult recreational use cannabis program, including regulatory and compliance matters, licensing, financing, commercial real estate, and corporate governance. He also represents a Native American entity in a Native American medicinal cannabis program and adult recreational use program, as well as clients in the hemp industry, including manufacturers of hemp products. Prior to ...

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Jeffrey Hoffman

Jeffrey Hoffman is a cannabis attorney and legalization activist with over 25 years of experience starting, operating, advising, and selling businesses. His legal practice focuses entirely on cannabis, including licensees in the adult-use cannabis market, patients and practitioners in the medical cannabis space, and cannabis adjacent product and service providers. He has a particular interest in justice involved individuals as well as social and economic equity cannabis license applicants. In ...

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Jason Adelstone – Harris Sliwoski

Jason Adelstone is a seasoned business lawyer, international policy advisor, and problem solver. Based in Denver, Colorado, he provides domestic and international legal counsel to a diverse clientele, including entrepreneurs, corporations, religious organizations, and federal and international cannabis operators. His practice spans corporate law, international policy, and cannabis regulatory compliance, helping clients navigate the complexities of the global cannabis industry and beyond. A recognized authority in the U.S. on international ...

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Thomas Howard – Howard Law Group

Thomas Howard became a stockbroker after law school in 2008. The next year, he became licensed to practice law in Illinois and began a complex financial litigation practice with community banks and private equity funds as his clients. In 2010, he wrote a book about the nation's cannabis laws and began building an online audience that has grown to the hundreds of thousands. By 2015, Illinois had legalized cannabis and ...

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Susan Burns – S Burns Legal PLLC

With more than 30 years of experience, Susan Burns has forged a career as a no-nonsense business lawyer and global development consultant helping businesses in growth mode tactically use legal strategies to meet their needs. Serving a broad range of industries, Susan has been a partner to businesses tackling the burgeoning cannabis industry since the outset, supporting processors, manufacturers and retailers. She has also worked extensively with psychotherapy and health-related ...

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Craig Small – Clark Hill

Craig Small has more than 17 years of experience practicing cannabis law and litigation. His main practice areas include M&A transactions, intellectual property protection, and regulatory compliance but his work with domestic and international cannabis clients has allowed him to assist them in a variety of additional legal issues they face such as real estate transactions, labor and employment issues, and litigation. Craig also serves as Vice-Chair of the firm's ...

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Meanwhile

Roger Stone, yes Roger Stones believe he has something to contribute to the cannabis debate.

Read on here

[Just When You Thought Cannabis Rescheduling Debate Couldn't Get Worse Roger Stone Adds His 2 Cents Worth](#)

And also in DC now that there's the endless chatter about the king deciding when cannabis can be re-scheduled the Democrats have thrown the same hat (bill) in the ring for the umpteenth time. I think the OED may now have a another definition for the word pointless for their next edition.

[And Again.....Democratic Legislators File Bill To Federally Legalize cannabis](#)

This week's event for the industry to get excited about is the announcement that Switzerland has released the consultation draft of the Cannabis Products Act (CannPB).

It is the first full blueprint for a legal market that puts public health first and gives a real alternative to the illicit market.

MME Lawyer [Daniel Haymann](#) went through the document and summarised accordingly.

What's new? Retail is not for profit. Any surplus above a reasonable return on equity funds prevention, harm reduction and addiction support. Cantons hold the retail right and must limit the number of concessions. Sales happen on site only. No delivery from physical shops. The federal government may award one online concession with strict registration and counselling rules. Plain packaging with clear warnings are mandatory. Each retail pack is capped at 5 g total THC. Ready to smoke cannabis cigarettes must use activated carbon filters. Product ceilings apply. Flowers are capped at 20 percent THC. Products with additives and extracts are capped at 60 percent THC. Access is narrow. Sales are only to adults who are Swiss citizens or residents. No tourist sales. Night sales ban from 22 pm to 6 am. Test purchases are mandatory. No alcohol or tobacco in cannabis shops. Home grow is allowed. Up to three female flowering plants. Private storage is capped at 75 g total THC, must be some big plants...(!!!). In public places adults may carry cannabis products with up to 5 g total THC, or up to 30 g flowers or 15 g hash/extracts from home cultivation. In other words: a consumer who buys flower in a shop can only carry a small retail pack (capped at 5 g THC). Someone bringing their own home-grown stash can carry a larger quantity, but only within the 30 g / 15 g limits (that's how I read it for now). Sharing without payment between adults is permitted, but only within the strict possession limits. Full advertising ban and seed to sale traceability across the chain. Consultation runs until 1 December 2025. This is the moment to engage with evidence and help make the legal channel safe, accessible and competitive.

Cannabis media seems to be on the move again. First the High Times acquisition and this week there's been a Benzinga split.. and this has happened

[Media Executives Launch IgniteIt Inc., a New Media and Events Powerhouse Formerly Operated as Benzinga Cannabis](#)

But my favourite story of the week takes us to a West Hollywood dog concierge who received some unwanted mail from the UK . I'm still trying to unravel this one inside my rather tiny brain

[Parcel from the UK containing cannabis delivered to West Hollywood dog concierge service by mistake](#)

Before I go, those of you interested in international cannabis law & policy may be interested in this event I am putting on at Cape Town University Law School June 2026 . Click on the image below to learn more.

If you are interested in being an active participant please don't hesitate to get in touch at **hocking.sean@gmail.com**.

As well as the serious stuff we're going to make sure everybody has the opportunity to enjoy themselves in one of the most beautiful cities on the planet. The Cape Town Uni campus nestles at the foot of Table Mountain in beautiful grounds. We eschew the giant warehouse exhibition halls with people plying their wares and provide an environment to get some serious business done.

Until next week
Sean Hocking



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This Week

[Karma Koala Podcast 267 – Maya Dukmasova: “Opaque” How a rogue laboratory at University of Illinois Chicago got people convicted for driving high](#)

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In this episode I speak with **Maya Dukmasova** a senior reporter at [InjusticeWatch.org](#) who has just penned a great investigative piece about a rogue lab and cannabis DUI testing methodology and results in Illinois.

Maya writes

It would take more than six years for Thompson to be exonerated, along with more than a dozen other DuPage County defendants who had been convicted of low-level DUI-cannabis charges with the help of Bash’s lab work and testimony.

By then, Bash would resign and UIC would shut down her lab right as an accrediting agency’s audit uncovered a range of unacceptable problems in its operations. Prosecutors’ offices in some of the 17 counties for which the lab provided testing would also issue disclosures to defendants about Bash’s “inaccurate and unqualified testimony.”

In a months-long investigation — including more than 45 Freedom of Information Act requests, more than 100 interviews, and a review of some 8,000 pages of public records — Injustice Watch found more than 2,200 cases in which body fluids were tested for THC by the UIC lab between 2016 and 2024. In addition to improperly testing urine for DUI-cannabis investigations, these sources indicate the lab was for years unable to differentiate between legal and illegal types of THC in people’s body fluids. Worse, internal records examined by Injustice Watch suggest the lab was aware of some of the problems in its testing since at least 2021 but continued to perform tests and report results to law enforcement, mostly in DUI cases. Bash, meanwhile, repeatedly testified about the lab’s findings in inaccurate and misleading ways.

“I take great pride in my work and have always conducted myself ethically,” Bash said in written responses to Injustice Watch questions. “It is deeply upsetting to be falsely accused.”

Injustice Watch also found university officials charged with overseeing the lab were focused on the lab’s financial performance, and not on the quality of its scientific work. According to internal emails, officials’ eventual decision to shut down human testing at the lab came as a result of its failure to generate revenue.

UIC officials declined interview requests from Injustice Watch but recently [issued an internal investigation report](#) exonerating themselves from oversight failures. The report concluded the lab’s methods were “at all times appropriate and met accepted scientific standards” and none of its analysts “knowingly provided false testimony in criminal proceedings.”

We discuss the lab and its processes, its relationship with the university, its results and as Maya succinctly says that word “opaque” pops up again and again



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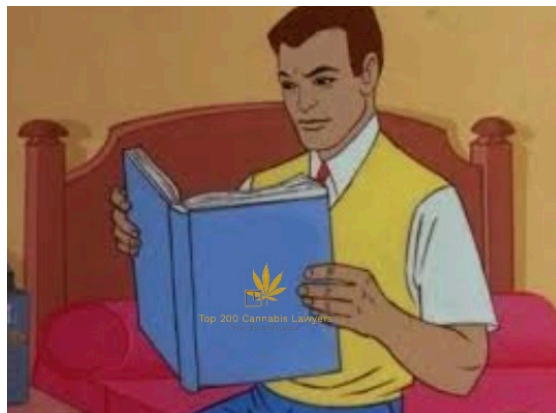
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6th EDITION

1 SEPTEMBER 2025





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[Michelle Bodian Lawyer \(General Counsel & Head of Regulatory Affairs NOWADAYS\)- Linked in Post 28 August 2025 – Hemp Litigation Roundup](#)

[Bavarian Court Confirms Ban on Use Against Cultivation Association](#)

[Oregon – THC Serial Cereal Adulterer Gets Sent Down For 12 Years](#)

[Paper: Navigating Cannabis Regulation in Morocco: Historical Context, Socio-Economic Impact, and Policy Gaps](#)

[Paper: Transitioning to Legality: How to Regulate the Adult Use Cannabis Market in Colombia](#)

[Press release: NCS Analytics Unveils Risk Index: A Game-Changing Tool for Cannabis Compliance](#)

[Article: Massachusetts Mother Detained by ICE Over 2003 Marijuana Case, Sparks Anger and Legal Battle](#)

[Court rules in favor of Florida medical cannabis patients who want to possess firearms](#)

[Michigan Cannabis Law Firm, Pollicella, Scammed By Nigerians Ordered By Court To Pay Back Bank \\$USD500K](#)

[New Title – Canada: Legalizing Cannabis Extracts, Owen E Smith](#)

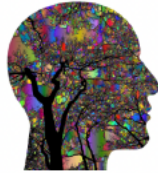
[Watch Webinar – Peter Homberg – Gunner Cooke – Cannabis in Germany: Legalization – Challenges & Opportunities](#)

[Dr Jessica Steinberg Joins Feldman Legal Advisors PLLC.](#)

[Variscite NY Four, LLC v. New York State Cannabis Control Board – Quick Reference To Everybody's Commentary](#)

CANNABIS CASE SUMMARY OF THE WEEK

[Case Summary Variscite NY Four, LLC v. New York State Cannabis Control Board](#)



Top 200 Global Psychedelic Lawyers and
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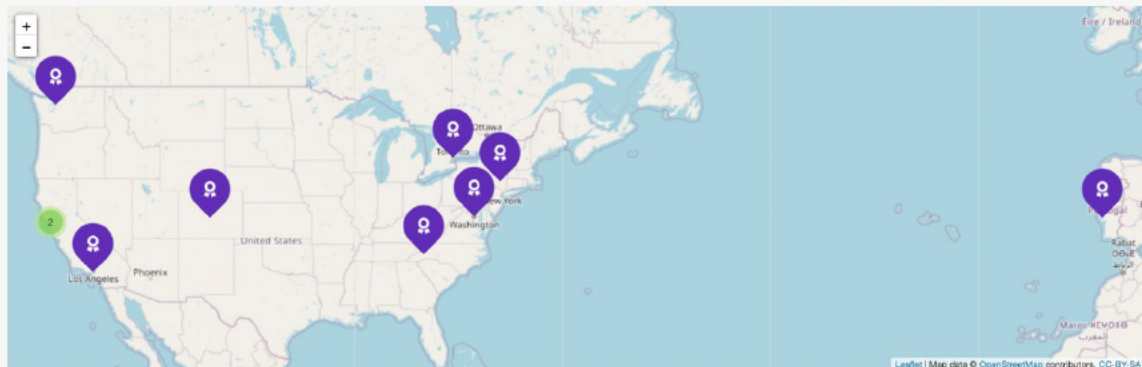
Welcome to the **"Global Top 200 Psychedelic Lawyers"**
Directory 2025 – 4th edition

The Top 200 Global Psychedelic Lawyers and Policy & Regulatory Experts 2025

For the past four years we have been publishing a **daily column** at our website Cannabis Law Report highlighting the latest in regulatory news and information for the world of psychedelics as an increasing number of cities and states in North America take a more enlightened view towards the medical and personal use of psychedelics.

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Sean Hocking – Editor



Top 200 Global Psychedelic Lawyers and Policy & Regulatory Experts 2025

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[Industry Bulletin 22-06, to remind stakeholders of rule requirements regarding the advertising of Regulated Marijuana Concentrate.](#)

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[The New Jersey State Bar Association's Cannabis & Psychedelic Law Committee is back in session.](#)

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[Parcel from the UK containing cannabis delivered to West Hollywood dog concierge service by mistake](#)

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[Delaware legislators say they feel betrayed by Gov. Meyer's veto of cannabis zoning and labor bill](#)

[Alert : Rhode Island – Repeal of DBR's Medical Marijuana Regulations](#)

[Alert: Legislative Fact Sheets / Summaries of new laws enacted in 2025 related to cannabis, alcohol, tobacco and vapor products are now available.](#)

[Alert: Cannabis Control Commission Announces Launch of Social Equity Applicant Status Certification Portal](#)

[Pennsylvania: Cannabis Firms Sue Over Unregulated "Hemp Loophole" Products Flooding Market](#)

[Just When You Thought Cannabis Rescheduling Debate Couldn't Get Worse Roger Stone Adds His 2 Cents Worth](#)

[Linked In Post- New York Lawyer David Feder Highlights OCM denial emails... He writes.... "The only path forward is through Article 78 challenges and industry-wide pressure—to hold OCM accountable for violating SAPA again."](#)

[Michigan Cannabis Regulatory Agency Issues Recall Bulletin \(Exclusive Brands\).](#)

[Update: Federal Class Action Transforms Ohio Cannabis Data Breach Into Industry-Wide Reckoning](#)

[Update August 28, 2025 In this issue: Governor Walz appoints Eric Taubel as executive director of OCM / New packaging and labeling guidance available / Register your hemp business by August 31](#)

[Media Report: SVG Cannabis industry attracted 60M in private investment](#)

[MULTI-PACKS In response to requests from licensees, the Cannabis Regulatory Agency \(CRA\) is pleased to announce it has developed a way for licensees to compliantly create multipacks of marijuana products, excluding marijuana flower, pre-rolls, and inhalable compound concentrates](#)

[Policy Commentary: The Blind Men and the Elephant: Measuring the Environmental Impact of Cannabis](#)

[UCLA Chemist Says Consumers Who Buy Cannabis Products Containing HHCs Could Be Getting Less Than They Hoped For](#)

[USA – NPR Article: Driving while high is hard to detect. States are racing to find a good tool](#)

[Summer 2025 – Cannabis-related Legislation Update – First Regular and Special Sessions of the 132nd Legislature / Supplemental Instructions for Accessing and Using the Metro Industry Sandbox / Guidance to Clarify Existing Requirements for Different Adult Use Cannabis & Cannabis Product Sample Types](#)

[CCB Weekly Update: August 25, 2025 – Board Meeting – New Training Videos – Peer Networking Event on Employment Law](#)

[Press Release: The Cannabis Regulatory Agency Adds Sherri Overfield to Michigan's Marijuana Industry Exclusion List](#)

[Massachusetts – Governor Maura Healey, Attorney General Andrea Campbell, and Treasurer Deborah B. Goldberg vote Bruce Stebbins for 2nd term on CCC](#)

EUROPE & UK NEWS STORIES



[University of Bath & Kings College London \(UK\) – Largest-ever study into cannabis use and mental health unveiled](#)

[avaay Medical to sponsor FC Berlin](#)

[UK: Police statement on big cannabis farm blaze at Coventry house](#)

[Slovenian Medical Cannabis Bill Allows Prescription of Medical Cannabis For Any Condition](#)

[Announcement: Food Standards Agency launches consultation on first proposed CBD food product authorisations](#)

[Document: Guideline on Good Agricultural and Collection Practice \(GACP\) for starting materials of herbal origin Final – Revision 1 \(9 July 2025\).](#)

[EMA: No EU Monograph for Cannabis Flowers – New GACP Guidelines Expected](#)

[German Drug Commissioner highlights government concerns over medical, non-medical cannabis laws](#)

[Independent report Response letter from Dame Diana Johnson to the ACMD \(accessible\). Updated 20 August 2025](#)

[UK Medical Cannabis Company CB1 Confirms “it has identified a ‘data security incident’ when patients’ personal details, including prescription information, were found on a file hosting website.”](#)

[France Plans to “Fully Integrate” Medical Cannabis into its Healthcare System According To Doc Submitted to EU](#)

[German Federal Govt integrates the evaluation of the Cannabis Consumption Act \(KCanG\) into the ongoing EKOCAN project led by the University Medical Center Hamburg-Eppendorf \(UKE\) – interim report scheduled for 2025-10-01](#)

ASIA PACIFIC & AUSTRALIA NEWS STORIES



[The Aussie Way Isn't The Way Says Somai Head Honcho Michael Sassano](#)

[Australia: Montu calls for single prescriber framework in TGA submission](#)

[Opinion Article: Why Hong Kong's appetite for cannabis persists despite harsh laws and weekly airport busts](#)

[Australia: Alternative healthcare provider directed to cease cannabis ads](#)

[Australia Job Ad – VR GP / Authorised Cannabis Prescriber / Earn \\$180 – \\$220 per hour WFH Ensure Health \(Recruiter\)](#)

[Book review – The Hindu: India's cannabis paradox.. Ananda: An Exploration of Cannabis in India – Karan Madhok](#)

[Australia – Teresa Nicoletti Partner at Mills Oakley Law Firm Comments on Merger Plans of Medical Cannabis Assocs In Australia](#)

[Australia – Info Page: Consultation: Reviewing the safety and regulatory oversight of unapproved medicinal cannabis products](#)

[Philippines: Sotto to Escudero: Conduct mandatory random drug testing in Senate following the alleged cannabis use on its premises.](#)

CALIFORNIA



[Californian Senate Approves Bills To Pause Cannabis Tax For 5 Years And Revise State's Hemp Laws](#)

[Cannabis Money To Help Salmon In California](#)

[California State Senate confirms Dr. Karen Morrison as DPR Director](#)

[Linked In Post – California Cannabis Industry Association – The Department of Cannabis Control has released new draft regulations that could reshape how California cannabis businesses operate.](#)

[San Diego's first legal cannabis shop says an illegal rival operating out of a tent is threatening their business and that police won't act](#)

[Notification of Voluntary Recall August 22, 2025 Mr. Zips vape cartridge](#)

[Over the past week, a series of coordinated cannabis enforcement operations have taken place across Humboldt and Mendocino Counties, involving the Humboldt County Sheriff's Marijuana Enforcement Team \(MET\), the California Department of Fish and Wildlife \(CDFW\), and the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office \(MCSO\).](#)

[Notification of Multiple Voluntary Recalls August 15, 2025](#)

ROW



[Google Announces Trial for Advertising Cannabis Products In Canada](#)

[Colombian Lawmakers Advance New Marijuana Legalization Bill As President Criticizes Ongoing Prohibition](#)

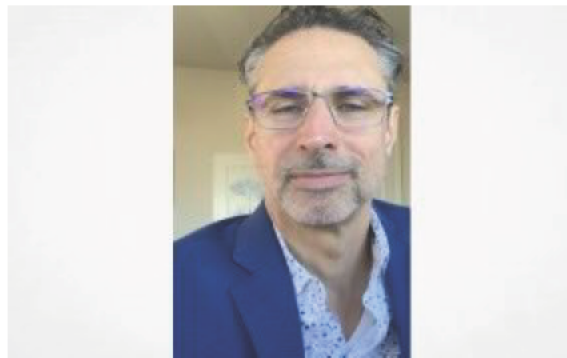
[Nepal: 112 kgs of cannabis seized from electric car, three arrested in Makwanpur](#)

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Maya Dukmasova: "Opaque" How a rogue laboratory at University of Illinois Chicago got people convicted for driving high.



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Karma Koala Podcast 266

Lisa Pittman – Hemp / Cannabis WTF Is Going On In Texas At the Moment?



Great to catch up with Lisa to find out what's going on in both the hemp & cannabis worlds in Texas.

Lisa explains the ongoing fracas between the senate, the Lt Gov & Gov Abbott on hemp.

Lisa has been involved with cannabis / hemp and law in Texas for over a decade now and knows the state inside out on the topic(s).
Did you know only 182 hectares of hemp is actually being grown in Texas at the moment!

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Karma Koala Podcast 265

Jesús Alonso Olamendi – ICEERS

**The International Center for Ethnobotanical Education, Research,
and Service**

**Who they are? What they do? and how they share their
information**



Great to speak to Jesus and to get an insight into ICEERS. Who they are? What they do? How they share their knowledge and how they are developing an education aspect to the work they do.

This is what they say about themselves on their site

The International Center for Ethnobotanical Education, Research, and Service (ICEERS) is a non-profit organization dedicated to transforming society's relationship with Traditional Indigenous Medicines. We do this by engaging with some of the fundamental issues resulting from the globalization of ayahuasca, iboga, and other ethnobotanicals.

Vision

We envision a future where psychoactive plant practices are valued and integrated parts of society.

Mission

ICEERS is dedicated to transforming society's relationship with Traditional Indigenous Medicines. We do so by engaging with some of the fundamental issues resulting from the globalization of ayahuasca, iboga, and other ethnobotanicals

Values

- Environmental sustainability
- Honoring cultural diversity
- Respect for indigenous and spiritual traditions
- Human rights approach
- Transparency and integrity
- Evidence-based decision making
- Reducing risks and harms, and maximizing benefits
- Respectful, engaged, and collaborative relationships

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Karma Koala Podcast 264

Jeffrey O'Brien Partner Husch Blackwell

Updates From Michigan & How The State Engaged Properly With THC Beverages



I talk to Jeffrey about how Minnesota has walked a steady & I would argue sensible path in dealing with cannabis, hemp for human consumption and how both have worked in conjunction with other industries and especially the state's craft brewing industry.

We discuss the sort of work he's currently doing for clients.

But .. remember the state regulator is still temporary so that's an issue that needs to be dealt with.

A snapshot in time that indicates Minnesota is making good progress.
Federal re-scheduling, "You Never Know"

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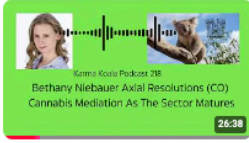
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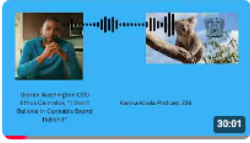
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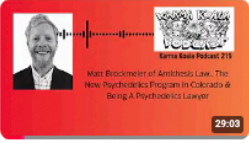
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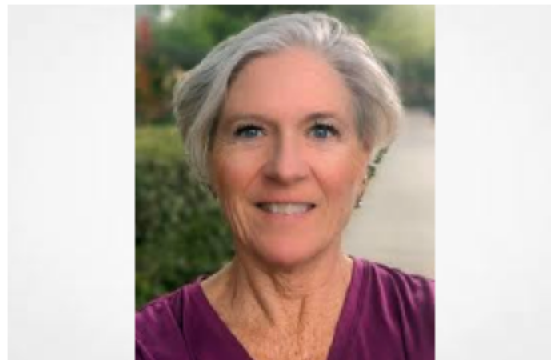
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