



Texas Marijuana

POLICY CONFERENCE

Sheraton Austin at the Capitol

701 E 11th St, Austin, TX 78701

August 30 to September 1, 2019

www.TexasMarijuanaPolicyConference.org

The laws surrounding medical marijuana and hemp cultivation in Texas, and the rest of the United States, have been changing rapidly. With an expanded Texas Compassionate Use Act for certain medical uses of cannabis and the legalization of hemp cultivation in the state, the legal landscape is in flux. The legal landscape, in turn, is embedded into broader questions of federal administrative regulations, medical research and forensic science issues, and public policies regarding public health, public safety, agriculture, and commerce. This program will bring together legal academics, lawyers, medical researchers, forensic scientists, public policy experts, and legislative lobbyists to bring lawyers up to date on the changing patchwork of legalization in Texas.

The five CLE-approved sessions are a joint product of the Texas A&M University School of Law and Texans for Responsible Marijuana, a Texas nonprofit association. While there are five hour-long sessions, two are running concurrently, so a maximum of four hours of CLE credit can be earned.

SESSIONS TO BE OFFERED FOR CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION CREDIT

Friday, August 30, 2019

11:15 a.m.--Federal Marijuana Prohibition: The Current Landscape and A Review of Proposed Legislation (1 hour)

The federal marijuana prohibition has been in place for decades, but laws and regulatory enforcement are changing rapidly. This session will provide an historic overview of current federal marijuana prohibition, regulation, and enforcement; an outline of changes in that framework in recent years; and a discussion of pending legislation and changes to regulatory enforcement by federal agencies, including the DEA and the FDA. Speakers:

Franklin G. Snyder, Esq., *Professor of Law, Texas A&M School of Law*

Michael Correia, *Director of Government Relations, National Cannabis Industry Association*

Justin Strekal, *Political Director, National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws*

Margot W, Ph.D., *Assistant Professor, Lamar University*



**TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF LAW**



**TEXANS FOR RESPONSIBLE
MARIJUANA POLICY**



Texas Marijuana

POLICY CONFERENCE

11:15 a.m.--The Texas Compassionate Use Program: What is Covered, Who Qualifies, and What's Changed? (1 hour)

Instituted by the Legislature in 2015 and expanded earlier this year, the Texas Compassionate Use Program (TCUP) has been fully implemented by the Department of Public Safety (DPS) allowing limited access to medical cannabis for those with specific debilitating health conditions. This session will provide a legal review of qualifications for entry into the program; an overview of the DPS regulatory framework for business and employee licensing, security standards, etc.; legal distinctions between legal over-the-counter hemp products and low-THC cannabis provided through TCUP. Speakers:

Lisa L. Pittman, Esq., *Tannenbaum, Trost & Burk, LLC, Austin, TX*

John R. Pitts Jr., *Principal, Texas Star Alliance, Austin, TX*

Chase Bearden, *Deputy Executive Director, Coalition of Texans with Disabilities, Austin, TX*

2:00 p.m.--Marijuana Prohibition from a Law Enforcement Perspective (1 hour)

Although marijuana continues to be illegal in Texas, local district attorneys and law enforcement officers have increasingly been using their discretion and declining to arrest or prosecute low-level marijuana possession cases. This has created a patchwork of policy and uncertainty around the state. Added to this are problems that arise from the legalization of hemp, and the lack of resources available to prosecutors to determine whether a particular substance is (illegal) marijuana or (legal) hemp. This panel will address statutory penalties for marijuana possession, including concentrated and infused products (i.e. edibles); policy issues regarding prosecutorial discretion, and problems arising with respect to the laboratory testing of cannabis. Speakers:

Peter Stout, Ph.D., *CEO, Houston Forensics Science Center, Houston, TX*

Shannon Edmonds, Esq., *Director of Government Relations, Texas District & County Attorneys Association, Dallas, TX*

Julie A. Stone, Esq., *Lecturer, Department of Criminal Justice, Texas State University, San Marcos, TX*



**TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF LAW**



**TEXANS FOR RESPONSIBLE
MARIJUANA POLICY**



Texas Marijuana POLICY CONFERENCE

3:15 p.m.--Hemp in Texas: Issues in Implementation (1 hour)

The Texas Legislature legalized the cultivation of hemp this year. Things are on hold, however, until the Texas Department of Agriculture establishes regulation for the new industry. One aspect of the new law is the legalization of hemp- derived products within the state as long as they are produced in accordance with federal regulations. In this session, presenters will offer an overview of new federal laws and requirements for state regulation; an analysis of Texas's new hemp law; a review of proposed state regulations, including business licensing, supply chain, and over-the-counter hemp product sales. Speakers:

Courtney Barnes, Esq., *Vicente Sederberg LLP, Denver, CO*

Richard Y. Cheng, Esq., *DLA Piper LLP, Dallas, TX*

Chelsie Spencer, *Ritter Spencer PLLC, Addison, TX*

4:30 p.m.--Legal and Scientific Issues in Increasing Medical Cannabis Research (1 hour)

In 2015, Congress authorized the DEA to allow cultivation of cannabis for medical research. To date, the agency has failed to respond to any of the applications made by researchers. A case pending in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit, *In re Scottsdale Research Institute, LLC*, asks the Court to order the DEA to process these applications. The order, if issued, would have a major impact on the quality of medical research by increasing the quality and availability of cannabis to researchers. In this session, Dr. Suzanne Sisley, a pioneer in U.S. medical marijuana research, will discuss the status of, and problems with, current availability of medical cannabis. The panel will analyze the current regulations barring cultivation and the legal issues surrounding the *Scottsdale Research Institute* litigation. Speakers:

Suzanne A. Sisley, M.D., Lead Investigator, *Scottsdale Research Institute, Scottsdale, AZ*

Shane Pennington, Esq., *Yetter Coleman LLP, Houston, TX*

Matthew C. Zorn, Esq., *Yetter Coleman LLP, Houston, TX*



**TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF LAW**



**TEXANS FOR RESPONSIBLE
MARIJUANA POLICY**