



Michigan: Supreme Court Rules That Medical Marijuana Act Exempts Patients From Zero Tolerance Per Se Driving Law

Lansing, MI: The Michigan Supreme Court has determined that state-authorized medical cannabis patients possess legal protections from criminal prosecution in cases involving the internal possession of THC while driving.

In a unanimous [opinion](#) (*People v Koon*), the Court determined that patients who are compliant with the [Michigan Medical Marijuana Act](#) (MMMA) may not be criminally convicted of being 'under the influence' absent evidence of behavioral impairment. Michigan traffic safety laws classify the operation of a motor vehicle with any amount of THC in one's system to be a criminal offense, regardless of whether or not they are impaired by the substance.

"The Michigan Vehicle Code's zero-tolerance provision, MCL 257.625(8), which is inconsistent with the MMMA, does not apply to the medical use of marijuana," the Court ruled. "If defendant is shown to have been under the influence of marijuana, then the MMMA's protections will not apply, and the prosecution may seek to convict defendant under any statute of which he was in violation, including MCL 257.625(8)." The state's [zero tolerance per se drug law](#) remains applicable to non-patients. Under these types of traffic safety laws,

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Annual Emerald Empire HempFest Happens in Eugene

The annual Emerald Empire Hempfest will be, as usual, on the third week-end in July (the w/e after the Oregon Country Fair: 19th - 21st, 2013. It happens this year on **Friday: High Noon - 10:00p, Saturday: 10 AM - 10:00p, Sunday: 10 AM - 10 PM** in Eugene at **Maurie Jacobs Park, 301 N Adams St, Eugene, OR, 97402** (navigational devices use the address **130 Fir Lane - or- 400 N Polk St**), across from the Valley River shopping center at the end of the footbridge over the Willamette River.

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Mayors Nationwide Urge Feds To Stop Interfering In States' Marijuana Laws

Las Vegas, NV: Attendees at the 81st annual United States Conference of Mayors [voted](#) this week in favor of a [resolution](#) urging the federal government to stop interfering in the affairs of states that have legalized the use of cannabis. Mayors from some 200 US cities nationwide participated in the vote.

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2013 Oregon Cannabis Law Reform Session Ends Well

1. PTSD and the OMMA

Compassionate Oregon's SB 281 adds PTSD to the list of qualifying OMMA conditions. The law becomes effective 1 January 2014, however, if patients apply before then they (and their grower and caregiver) are protected until the application is denied (ORS 375.309(9))(so long as they possess the application and proof of mailing, are within the limits, and don't do the things which cause one to lose the protection of the OMMA).

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Colorado Governor Signs Legislation Authorizing Retail Cannabis Production And Sales

Denver, CO: Democrat Gov. John Hickenlooper has [signed legislation](#) into law regulating the commercial production and retail selling of marijuana to those age 21 or older. Colorado is the first state to approve regulations authorizing a legal cannabis market for adult consumers.

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The Willamette Valley NORML News Report

is an all-volunteer, not-for-profit project to record and broadcast news, announcements and information about cannabis law reform.

The W-V-NORML News Report is produced by the Eugene, OREGON chapter of NORML, the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws

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Check 'em out on-line! *visit:*

WillametteValleyNORML.org

A Voice for Responsible Marijuana Smokers

Since its founding in 1970, NORML has provided a voice in the public policy debate for those Americans who oppose marijuana prohibition and favor an end to the practice of arresting marijuana smokers. A nonprofit public-interest advocacy group, NORML represents the interests of the tens of millions of Americans who smoke marijuana responsibly. During the 1970s, NORML led the successful efforts to decriminalize minor marijuana offenses in 11 states and significantly lower marijuana penalties in all others.

The oldest and largest marijuana legalization organization in the country, NORML maintains a professional staff in Washington, DC, and a network of volunteer state and local [NORML Chapters](#) across the country. Check 'em out, and find the one nearest you!

The NORML mission is to move public opinion sufficiently to achieve the repeal of marijuana prohibition so that the responsible use of cannabis by adults is no longer subject to penalty.

When marijuana is enjoyed responsibly, subjecting users to harsh criminal and civil penalties provides no public benefit and causes terrible injustices. For reasons of public safety, public health, economics and justice, the prohibition laws should be repealed to the extent that they criminalize responsible marijuana use. **NORML, the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws – is located at 1600 K Street, NW, Suite 501, Washington, DC 20006-2832. Phone (202) 483-5500, Fax: (202) 483-0057 or visit: www.norml.org**

Willamette Valley NORML is your local network in the fight to reform state and federal marijuana laws, whether by voter initiative or through the elected legislatures. W-V-NORML will serve as an informational resource to media on marijuana-related stories, providing a perspective to offset the [anti-marijuana propaganda](#) from the government; lobby state and federal legislators in support of reform legislation; publish a regular [newsletter](#); host an informative web site; and serve as the umbrella group for a regional network of citizen-activists committed to ending marijuana prohibition and legalizing marijuana.

Along with their parent organization, W-V-NORML will sponsor public advertising campaigns to better educate the public about marijuana and alternatives to current marijuana policy; provide legal assistance and support to victims of the current laws; and promote relevant research.

W-V-NORML supports the right of adults to use marijuana responsibly, whether for [medical](#) or [personal](#) purposes. All penalties, both civil and criminal, should be eliminated for responsible use. W-V-NORML also advocates the legalization of [hemp](#) (non-psychoactive marijuana) for industrial use. **To find out more, like how you can help, call, write or visit our website. You'll be glad you did!**

<continued from SUPREME COURT RULES THAT MEDICAL MARIJUANA ACT EXEMPTS PATIENTS FROM ZERO TOLERANCE, page 1 > motorists are guilty *per se* (in fact) of a criminal traffic safety violation if they engage in the act of driving while detectable levels of certain controlled substances or, in some cases, their inert metabolites (byproducts) are present in the defendants' blood or urine. Proof of actual impairment is not a requirement for a conviction under such laws.



Ten states - Arizona, Delaware, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Rhode Island, Utah, and Wisconsin - impose zero tolerance *per se* thresholds for the presence of cannabinoids and/or their metabolites. (State-authorized medical cannabis patients in Arizona and Rhode Island are exempt by statute from prosecution under these *per se* statutes unless the state can provide additional evidence of psychomotor impairment.) In May, Oklahoma lawmakers also [approved](#) zero tolerance *per se* legislation, [House Bill 1441](#), criminalizing the presence of THC and its metabolites in a driver's blood or urine. That law goes into effect on October 1, 2013.

Five additional states impose non-zero-tolerant *per se* thresholds for cannabinoids in blood: [Montana](#) (5ng/ml -- law takes effect on October 1, 2013), Pennsylvania (1ng/ml), Ohio (2ng/ml), Nevada (2ng/ml) and Washington (5ng/ml). Last month, [Colorado lawmakers also approved legislation](#), effective as of July 1, 2013, stating that the presence of THC/blood levels above 5ng/ml "gives rise to permissible inference that the defendant was under the influence."

However, [according to](#) the United States National Highway Transportation and Safety Administration (NHTSA): "It is difficult to establish a relationship between a person's THC blood or plasma concentration and performance impairing effects. ... It is inadvisable to try and predict effects based on blood THC concentrations alone."

In addition, a 2013 academic [review](#) of *per se* drugged driving laws and their impact on road safety found "no evidence that *per se* drugged driving laws reduce traffic fatalities." For more information, please contact Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director, at: paul@norml.org. 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>.

<continued from EMERALD EMPIRE HEMPFEST, page 1 > As always FREE TO THE PUBLIC / ALL AGES WELCOME in order to educate the general public about the plant Cannabis (HEMP).

While Education is the primary goal of this all-volunteer effort, there will be two stages with great musical bands, a food court featuring nutritious foods, art booths, and vendors featuring many hemp products, and nonprofit booths.

They're planning a gigantic three-day blowout celebration with all kinds of fun-filled activities, educational and exciting events, bands both electric and acoustic, a hemp apparel fashion show and new product demonstrations modeled by Ganja Goddesses, raffle and giveaways, cutting-edge speakers, information and education stations, and many fabulous food booths.

They see their mission as one of unite citizens in calling for sweeping reforms in America's laws against cannabis and hemp, to provide knowledge about the many uses of hemp in the home, field and factory: as a highly nutritious food whose seeds have prevented famines, as a fiber for cloth and paper, and as a safe source for making products like particle board, cement, fuel, plastic, and paint currently made from toxic fossil fuels.

This is a uniquely valuable plant: it provides high levels of key nutrients, relieves symptoms for patients suffering from an array of medical conditions, and can be made into environmentally positive products such as clothing, paper, paint, biodegradable plastics, and replacements for above mentioned fossil fuels.

Guest speakers will discuss the environmental benefits of hemp, medical uses of Marijuana and the futility and negative consequences of prohibition. As former organizer Eileen Erdelt once stated: "The HempFest is a family-oriented event celebrating a God-given plant that has been prohibited by man." They've planned and organized their festival as a family-friendly (alcohol-free and drug-free as required by the City of Eugene), where

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<continued from previous page> No illegal activities will be tolerated. Dogs are permitted on leashes. For schedule, list of bands, directions and more, go to > www.EmeraldEmpireHempfest.com

"We expect this year to be a banner year. A small group of VERY dedicated people have spent many hours working on decorations for EEH." says EEH Organizer Dan Koozer, "We've been working on recruiting and the better organization of our volunteer staff. We've had to extend our hours due to all of the great entertainment provided pro bono." "We are fashioned after the Seattle HempFest, a free-to-the-public event held in a city park educating the public on Cannabis/Hemp issues." continued Mr. Koozer, a/k/a "Dank the Bagman" of Eugene's own Cannabis TV. "Seattle HempFest followed our lead and have expanded to a three-day event. We've been a three-day event since 2007. Also, our event is 100% non-profit and volunteer, and we run on donations. Many thanks to all our sponsors and volunteers!" For more CONTACT: Dan Koozer at 541-517-0957 * FAX: 888-420-1755 * or Website URL www.EmeraldEmpireHempfest.com

<continued from 2013 OREGON CANNABIS LAW REFORM SESSION ENDS WELL, page 1 > Additionally, simply having an attending physician's statement (and being within the limits, etc) creates an affirmative defense. (ORS 475.319(1)).

Oregon is the 8th state to recognize PTSD as a qualifying conditions of the therapeutic use of medical cannabis.

2. MCS and PCS rescheduling and misdemeanor mj (and hashish)

SB 40 has passed both chambers and is awaiting the Governor's signature next week. It has an emergency clause so it will be effective once signed.

OCDLA proposed reducing Unlawful Manufacturing of Marijuana from an A Felony to a B Felony and reducing Possession from a B Felony to a C Felony, to conform with Marijuana having been rescheduled from a Schedule I to a Schedule II Controlled Substance. One collateral effect of this is to make Manufacturing expungible, although there is a 20 year wait. /See /ORS 135.225. Compassionate Oregon proposed a misdemeanor marijuana

provision, between current violation and felony treatment of marijuana possession. SB40 makes possession of less than one ounce of marijuana a class B violation, reducing the fine to a maximum of \$650; makes possession of more than one ounce and less than 4 ounces a Class B misdemeanor and more than 4 ounces a felony (now Class C). Prior law limited less than an ounce to exclude hashish so that any amount of hashish was a felony. SB40 makes any amount under 1/4 ounce of hashish (or hash oil, or honey oil, or other extracts) a class B misdemeanor, any amount over 1/4 ounce a Class C felony.

Oregon is the 35th state to have misdemeanor marijuana and the 8th state to have misdemeanor hashish.

3. (Mostly) no more drivers' license suspension for conviction of violation less than an ounce.

SB 82 has passed both chambers and is awaiting the Governor's signature next week. It has an emergency clause so it will be effective once signed.

OCDLA proposed removing the mandatory (with a 'substantial reason not to' safe harbor) 6 month drivers license suspension for conviction of the violation of less than an ounce of marijuana. After the Senate approved this change, the House continued to require suspensions of those under 18, however it also required there be a showing (and judicial findings) that the suspension is necessary for the protection of the public. The Senate concurred with this amendment.

On a concurring vote today, Oregon's Senate voted to send Senate Bills 40 and 82 to the Governor's desk for his signature.

Under SB 82 the driver's licenses of nearly 5,000 Oregonians a year will no longer be suspended for a conviction for possession of less than an ounce of marijuana.

Under SB 40, Oregonians will no longer face B felony charges for possession of small amounts of marijuana, (1 - 4 ounces). By adding misdemeanor provisions to the law and the restructuring of other fines and penalties relating to marijuana resulting from a 2010 re-classification of marijuana by the Oregon State Board of Pharmacy from a Schedule I to a schedule II controlled substance. In addition SB 40 will save the state nearly \$3M over the first biennium and nearly \$5M after that. SB 82, while not having a official fiscal impact statement, will save the state the expense of sending out notices

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<continued from previous page> of suspension. Both bills again received bi-partisan support and we look forward to the Governor's signature on these bills.

Both bills - SB40 and SB82 - have an emergency clause and will go into effect upon signature from governor.

4. Creating a regulated medical supply system

Lobbied primarily by the Sugarman Group (Geoff Sugarman and Sam Chapman), HB3460 has passed the House and is pending a Senate vote and the Governor's signature, both of which are expected.

HB3460 adds a 4th cardholder to the OMMA's registry identification cardholder system called a 'medical marijuana facility'. It permits patients (who own all produced medicine) to authorize their grower to sell (be 'fully reimbursed' for) any excess (medicine produced in excess of the patient's need) to any medical marijuana facility, which, in turn, can sell to (be 'fully reimbursed' by) any licensed patient or caregiver. There are many restrictions on facilities, including siting (more than 1,000 feet from a school or other facility) and the OHA is authorized to promulgate rules regarding them, which authority they are expected to exercise. The effective date is March 1, 2014, however, section 9(3) creates an affirmative defense, (a la 475.319(1)) for facilities which are otherwise in compliance with the provisions of this law.

At the very least, this bill creates questions about the continuing viability of prosecutions in Malheur, Jackson, Lane and unindicted cases in Washington Counties.

5. Limiting 'presumptive prison for pot'

The Governor's Commission on Public Safety's bill, H3194, emerged from the Governor's office significantly gutted, including the removal of some restrictions on the mandatory minimums for BM11 cases. For marijuana, however, some limited sentencing modifications remained. The Bill has passed the House and is pending a Senate vote and the Governor's signature, both of which are expected.

Essentially, the sentencing changes are these. Although the unlawful possession, delivery or manufacture of marijuana can still be prosecuted as a 'commercial drug offense', the possession factors (more than 110 grams of marijuana or more than 8 grams of hashish) are repealed. Additionally, the unlawful possession, delivery or manufacture of marijuana can no longer be prosecuted with the

sentencing designation of 'substantial quantities' as those provisions are repealed as well. These changes leave only 'within 1,000 feet of a school' and 'delivery to a minor' as presumptive prison sentences upon conviction as both remain level 8 offenses.

The effective date is August 1, 2013, as a first sentencing date, which is to say cases sentenced before then and scheduled for re-sentencing would not get the benefit of these changes.

6. Bills which will die this session

Two bills which had hearings but were not voted on in either chamber are SB794 and HB3371

SB794 would have provided modest OMMA reform by allowing reciprocity up to an ounce and by ending the requirement that patients designate grow sites even when they have no intention of growing. Law enforcement had significant unaddressed concerns with the OMMA which may come back in an omnibus OMMA bill the short session in February, 2014, kind of like SB1085 in 2005.

SB3371, a well funded and well drafted comprehensive tax and regulate effort remains hopeful for a referral to the November 2014 general election from the February 2014 session, especially if the tax provision can be amended to make sure we would have a viable infused products industry. (The current proposal calls for a tax on the producers by weight which raises concerns about the cost effectiveness of marketing leaves lower quality plant products used for edible cannabis infused products.) Signature gathering efforts on a constitutional amendment and a revised tax and regulate proposal (both of which were vetted during the 2012 campaign) are also underway.

All in all, an EPIC session during an exciting transitional time. **Thanks to Leland Berger, Attorney, Portland, OR for the information and Compassionate Oregon for their work this session. PS For those interested in contributing to the Compassionate Oregon PAC, the address is: Compassionate Oregon, 1510 SW Friendly Ct., McMinnville, OR, 97128**

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> The measure resolves, "[S]tates and localities should be able to set whatever marijuana policies work best to improve the public safety and health

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<continued from previous page> of their communities," and calls for amending the federal Controlled Substances Act "to explicitly allow states to set their own marijuana policies without federal interference."

It further calls on the Obama administration "to reexamine the priorities of federal agencies to prevent the expenditure of resources on actions that undermine the duly enacted marijuana laws of states."



Mayors Bob Filner (San Diego, CA), Mike McGinn (Seattle, WA), Jean Quan (Oakland, CA), Steve Hogan (Aurora, CO), Marilyn Strickland (Tacoma, WA), Tom Bates (Berkeley, CA), Stephen Cassidy (San Leandro, CA), and Matthew Ryan (Binghamton, NY) submitted the resolution, which was approved unanimously.

The US Conference of Mayors had previously adopted a resolution at its 75th annual meeting declaring the war on drugs a "failure" and calling for a "health-centered reorientation of drug policy" that provides "cities, counties and states the flexibility they need to find the most effective way" to deal with drug control. *For more information, please contact NORML Communications Director Erik Altieri at (202) 483-5500 or visit: <http://www.marijuanamajority.com>.*

<continued from COLORADO LEGISLATION AUTHORIZING PRODUCTION AND SALES, page 1 >

GOVERNOR SIGNS RETAIL CANNABIS

State-licensed cannabis retailers are expected to be approved under the new law by early 2014. Marijuana retailers must be Colorado residents. Cannabis sales will be permitted to anyone over age 21, including non-residents. A majority of Colorado voters will decide on proposed tax rates for commercial cannabis production and retail sales this fall. Last November, a majority of Colorado voters [approved Amendment 64](#), which legalized the adult possession and cultivation of limited quantities of marijuana, and tasked the state with establishing regulations for the plant's retail production and sale of cannabis to the public. *For more information, please contact Erik Altieri, NORML Communications Director, at (202) 483-5500, or Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director, at: paul@norml.org.*



Colorado: Governor Signs Law Regulating Commercial Hemp Production



Denver, CO: Democrat Gov. John Hickenlooper signed legislation, [Senate Bill 241](#), into law creating a new program within the Department of Agriculture to oversee the regulation of commercial hemp

production. Hemp is a [distinct variety](#) of the plant species *cannabis sativa* that contains only minute (less than one percent) amounts of tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), the primary psychoactive ingredient in marijuana.

Senate Bill 241 classifies cannabis possessing no more than three-tenths of one percent THC as an agricultural commodity and establishes a nine-member committee within the state Department of Agriculture to oversee the creation of regulations governing the licensed cultivation of hemp for commercial and research purposes. The Department must adopt regulations for the new program no later than March 1, 2014.

Unlike [similar laws](#) enacted in other states, SB 241 does not mandate farmers seeking state-issued hemp cultivation licenses to first gain federal approval. The US Controlled Substances Act makes no legal distinction between marijuana and industrial hemp.

Federal legislation, the [Industrial Hemp Farming Act of 2013](#), to amend the Controlled Substances Act to exclude industrial hemp from the definition of marijuana is currently pending before Congress. *For more information, please contact Erik Altieri, NORML Communications Director, at (202) 483-5500 or Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director, at: paul@norml.org.*

Study: Black Arrest Rate For Marijuana Offenses Four Times That Of Whites

New York, NY: African Americans are [far more likely](#) to be arrested for marijuana possession offenses than are whites, according to an American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) [report](#) released this week that analyzes arrest data from 945 counties nationwide.

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<continued from previous page> The report found that blacks were approximately four times as likely as whites to be arrested for marijuana possession in 2010, even though both ethnicities consumed the substance at similar rates. Authors reported that the racial disparity in arrest rates had grown significantly over the past decade and that in some states - including Iowa, Illinois, Minnesota, and Wisconsin - African Americans were nearly eight times as likely as Caucasians to be arrested for cannabis possession.



Overall, blacks were more likely than whites to be arrested for cannabis violations in 908 of the 945 counties reviewed by the ACLU.

"We found that in virtually every county in the country, police have wasted taxpayer money enforcing marijuana laws in a racially biased manner," said Ezekiel Edwards, the director of the ACLU's Criminal Law Reform Project and the lead author of the report.

Authors [also estimated](#) that states in 2010 spent an estimated \$3.6 billion enforcing marijuana possession laws, a 30 percent increase from ten years earlier. This total included \$1,747,157,206 in police time, \$1,371,200,815 to adjudicate marijuana possession cases, and \$495,611,826 to incarcerate individuals for marijuana possession.

In 2010, police made nearly [854,000 arrests](#) for marijuana violations. *For more information, please contact Allen St. Pierre, NORML Executive Director, at (202) 483-5500. Full text of the ACLU report, "The War on Marijuana in Black and White," is available online at: <http://www.aclu.org>.*

Vermont Becomes 17th State To End Criminal Sanctions For Marijuana Possession Offenses

Montpelier, VT: Democrat Gov. Peter Shumlin [signed legislation](#) into [law](#) eliminating criminal penalties for adults who possess personal use amounts of cannabis and/or hashish.

The new law amends penalties for the possession of up to one ounce of marijuana and/or marijuana paraphernalia by a person 21 years of age or older from a criminal misdemeanor (punishable by up to six-months in jail and a \$500 fine) to a civil fine only - no arrest, no jail time, and no criminal record. The

law also decriminalizes possession of less than five grams of hashish.

Vermont's new law is similar to existing 'decriminalization' laws in California, Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, Nebraska, New York, Oregon, and Rhode Island, where private, non-medical possession of marijuana is treated as a civil, non-criminal offense.



Five additional states - Minnesota, Mississippi, Nevada, North Carolina, and Ohio - treat marijuana possession offenses as a fine-only misdemeanor offense. Three states - Alaska, Colorado, and Washington - impose no criminal or civil penalty for the private possession of small amounts of marijuana. Vermont's new law takes effect on July 1, 2013. *For more information, please contact Erik Altieri, NORML Communications Director, at (202) 483-5500 or Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director, at: paul@norml.org.*

Drug Enforcement Agency seizes 11 Bitcoins from alleged Silk Road dealer

- By Adrienne Jeffries

The Drug Enforcement Agency has seized 11.02 Bitcoins worth \$814.22 from an accused drug dealer in South Carolina, according to a government press release [spotted by Bitcoin bloggers](#). It is the first known instance of the government seizing the virtual currency as if it were property or cash.

The DEA arrested Eric Daniel Hughes on April 12th, 2013. One Bitcoin sleuth [traced the user name](#) "Casey Jones" to user "Truckin" on the underground drug bazaar Silk Road, where he appears to have been an active buyer and seller. His posts refer to pharmaceutical drugs such as Adderall, Dexedrine, Vyvanse, Klonopin, Clonazepam, and suboxone. One user claims to have bought from Casey Jones and says he was trustworthy but a bit careless.

User DealerOfDrugs [wrote on the Silk Road forums](#):
The crazy thing is, he messaged me from his vendor account, and willingly gave me his entire personal address, not a drop address. I myself warned Casey at the time to be careful because anyone at anytime could blackmail him, and he

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News From *your* local affiliate of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws

<continued from previous page> pretty much dismissed the idea and said "no problem, I might start a alternate buyer account to start buying. I'm not worried about it."

It's unclear whether the agency seized the Bitcoins in a sting operation or through some other means. It's possible that the DEA set up a seller account and got Hughes's address under the pretense of sending him a purchase. However, it's also possible that the DEA seized a computer with the file containing the Bitcoins or got Hughes to hand them over.

So far, Silk Road has managed to facilitate criminal transactions while giving its users a fairly comfortable degree of impunity, thanks to the security of Bitcoin and the fact that users must connect to it through the anonymizing Tor network. However, the DEA has said publicly that it is [investigating Silk Road](#), and users are always wary of what feels like an inevitable crackdown. This bust doesn't necessarily mean the DEA is cracking down on Silk Road; it's possible that Hughes ran afoul of the agency entirely offline. But it does show that the agency is increasingly aware of the importance of the virtual side of the drug business. Visit - <http://www.theverge.com/2013/6/26/4468302/drug-enforcement-agency-seizes-11-bitcoins-in-south-carolina-bust-silk-road>

In Mistaken House Search, SWAT Team Rummages through Iraq Veteran's House and Shoots His Dog

Another raid on the wrong residence; another dead dog. [This time](#), Iraq War veteran Adam Arroyo says he came home on Monday to find his door busted down, and his beloved pup dead from bullet wounds. The Buffalo, NY police did not seem too concerned with cleaning up blood or anything like that, but nonetheless left behind a note of sorts: a search warrant for the apartment next door.

"They busted the door down, with a battering ram or whatever," he [told the Buffalo News](#). "They came in, and within a few seconds of entering the apartment, they murdered my dog. They shot her multiple times. They had no reason to do that." Arroyo says his dog, a two-and-a-half-year-old pit bull named

Cindy, was killed while chained up in the kitchen, which he discovered riddled with bullet holes.

http://www.alternet.org/comments/mistaken-house-search-swat-team-rummages-through-iraq-veterans-house-and-shoots-his-dog#disqus_thread

Also, Another cannabis prohibition-related death in NC... Police using children in drug stings...

<http://www.wbtv.com/story/22623749/officials-investigating-double-shooting-in-northeast-charlotte>

National Lawyers Guild Calls For Ending Cannabis Criminalization

by Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director

The criminalization and prohibition of cannabis has been an abject failure and should be ended as a federal public policy, according to the findings of a new report issued this week by the National Lawyers Guild.

States the report: "The NLG believes that ending the prohibition of cannabis would offer multiple benefits. Legalization would help transform the marijuana industry ... into a stable regulated one. It would significantly reduce infringements on civil liberties and lower the arrest and incarceration rates of people of color. Changing the criminal status of marijuana would lower the costs of law enforcement and protect people from entering the criminal justice system. Finally, legalization would remove restrictions currently impeding [the] study of medical marijuana and allow more users to acquire treatment if necessary. Each of these goals is consistent with sound economic, criminal justice, and public health policies."

The authors of the report recommend rescheduling cannabis from its present Schedule I illicit classification, revisiting the United States' involvement in international drug control treaties, and ending the practice of civil asset forfeiture by law enforcement agencies. The report also call for the passage of additional statewide legislative and initiative efforts depenalizing marijuana use and possession. Full text of the report, "High Crimes: Strategies to Further Marijuana Legalization Initiatives," appears online here: <http://www.nlg.org/high-crimes-strategies-further-marijuana-legalization-initiatives> * SOURCE: <http://blog.norml.org/2013/06/26/report-national-lawyers-guild-calls-for-ending-cannabis-criminalization/>

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*** THE WILLAMETTE VALLEY NORML NEWS REPORT ***

Boasts Cannabis Campaigner who Forced Anti-Pot JP to quit: Drug is 'Safer than Peanuts'

A campaigner for the legalisation of cannabis has boasted of his role in forcing a magistrate to resign.

Peter Reynolds made one of four official complaints about Yvonne Davies, who had highlighted the dangers of the drug when sentencing a dealer.

Judicial officials upheld the complaints – a decision that eventually cost the 65-year-old great grandmother her job on the bench. Cannabis claimed the life of her brother at just 39.

But Mr Reynolds, who has smoked cannabis since turning 14, claimed the magistrate had been scaremongering and the drug was safer than peanuts.

'She was spreading scare stories about cannabis which are wholly unacceptable,' he said. 'There are only small risks with cannabis – it is nowhere near as bad as alcohol.'

'She made the right decision to resign and she has been brought to her senses because she was in an impossible position – she could not dispense justice fairly with such strong views against cannabis.'

Mrs Davies had issued a heartfelt plea to a cannabis grower to mend his ways, describing the devastating case of her brother.

She said she had told of her family's ordeal 'hundreds of times' during her 14 years on the bench.

However, she was officially reprimanded by the Office for Judicial Complaints and said she felt her position became untenable following a 'back-to-work' interview in which she was repeatedly asked to resign by senior colleagues.

Last August Mrs Davies, who is a psychotherapist and mental health counsellor, spoke out about her family tragedy while sentencing Christopher Duncan, 55, to 200 hours of unpaid work for growing cannabis.

She said her family went through a 'living hell' after her brother Glen Harding died. He developed epilepsy, schizophrenia and depression following

years of smoking cannabis and was found dead in a canal in 1997. Following the hearing – and Mrs Davies's interviews in local and national media – the OJC launched an investigation into the way she had expressed her personal views on the case.

This was triggered by four complaints including three from retired magistrates – former bench chairman Roger Hall and his two former deputies Barbara Holmes and Pauline Holt.

The retired magistrates used Mr Reynolds's pro-cannabis arguments when they stated their case against Mrs Davies.

All the complainants asked for Mrs Davies to be removed from her position immediately.

She was suspended but, following a ten-month investigation, the OJC opted only to reprimand her. The decision was signed off by the Lord Chancellor and the Lord Chief Justice.

She stood down on Friday after being asked to resign by a justice clerk and a liaison judge.

She said she felt 'disgusted and let down' by the system and had been 'pilloried' for speaking out.

'It is also doubly astounding that the views of a pro-cannabis campaigner were used to build a case against me. As far as I am aware, cannabis is still very much illegal in Britain,' she added.

Mrs Davies, who lives with her husband Ernie, 65, in Partington, Greater Manchester, said she ensured justice had prevailed in all her cases.

'But I still do not regret speaking out because I felt I was doing the right thing and helping people to stay away from a harmful substance,' she said.

'But I don't regret any of it and I would speak out again about the dangers of using drugs. My brother lost his life because of it and if I can save others from the devastation it causes I will.'

SOURCE

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2348572/Boasts-cannabis-zealot-forced-anti-drugs-JP-quit-Campaigner-complaint-says-drug-safer-peanuts.html>