

Medical Marijuana + Hemp

On September 8, 2016, Ohio legalized the cultivation, processing and dispensing of medical marijuana within the state. Despite marijuana, in all forms, remaining illegal under federal law, Ohio is now one of thirty-three (33) U.S. states with a legal medical marijuana program. Strict federal enforcement within the legal medical marijuana states is held at bay by a tenuous political compromise that gives safe harbor when state-sanctioned activities are strictly limited by a state's regulations.

While Ohio's Medical Marijuana Control Program ("MMCP ") currently limits marijuana use to twenty-two (22) state-approved medical conditions, ten (10) U.S. states have legalized the recreational use of marijuana, a number expected to increase in calendar year 2019. Additionally, the 2018 Farm Bill authorized states to regulate hemp production and its derivative extracts, such as cannabidiol ("CBD") from cannabis sativa plants containing less than 0.3 percent THC. The 2018 Farm Bill also authorized interstate transportation and shipment of hemp and hemp products containing CBD. Currently, an Ohio bill, S.B.57, if passed, would create a formal hemp program under the Ohio Department of Agriculture.

Changing societal perceptions around cannabis, including hemp and CBD, combined with state driven legalization, has led to an explosion of new business and investment opportunities in Ohio, the United States and internationally, encompassing health and wellness, pharmaceuticals and new recreational and food products. The cannabis industry (including hemp and CBD-only products) includes all entities directly involved with the cultivation, processing and dispensing of marijuana products and/or hemp/CBD-only products, as well as all entities supplying the capital, equipment, devices, research and services required by the industry, patients and consumers.

Our Services

- + Applications
- + Regulations + Licensing
- + Litigation
- + Corporate
- + Employment Relations
- + Real Estate
- + Environmental
- + Administrative
- + Intellectual Property

Our Clients

We represent multinational, midsize and niche companies in all aspects of the business. This includes cultivators, processors, dispensaries, and prospective purchasers or acquisition targets through every aspect of business operation, interaction and compliance with MMCP rules and regulators, and transactions with businesses ancillary to the industry.

Every client associated with the MMCP – from licensed physicians, landlords involved with program-affiliated leaseholders, local municipalities, private funders and more – has unique questions and needs, which is why we've established a multitalented team to take on every specific legal challenge and find versatile solutions to them.

Contact Us

For more information on our services related to the MMCP and connected industries, please contact Luis M. Alcalde or Rachel Friedman Gold.

Our Team

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