

Medical Marijuana

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 twenty-nine (29) 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.

In the meantime, more states are joining the debate to legalize medical marijuana, and economic studies project that medical marijuana will quickly become a multibillion-dollar industry, creating thousands of new jobs in a few short years. On the other hand, legal medical marijuana production and use raises new and complex issues about marijuana's effects on society, including the workplace or while driving. The legal complexities of Ohio's Medical Marijuana Control Program (MMCP) start with Ohio's Medical Marijuana Act and its regulatory scheme for cultivators, processors, dispensaries, medical doctors, caregivers and patients. It cuts across the interaction between federal and state laws, taxation, real estate, zoning, employment, environmental, health care and business law, to name but a few. Kegler Brown's team of attorneys, with its depths of experience in the areas of business, government, regulatory, health care, real estate and more, are able to provide specialized, comprehensive counsel for the diverse issues facing this burgeoning industry.

The MMCP is intended to be fully operational no later than September 8, 2018 and has developed rules applicable to cultivators, processors, dispensaries, testing laboratories, physicians participating in the program, patients and caregivers. Our attorney team provides guidance throughout the entire application process, taking clients from concept to completion and assisting them with numerous related issues in areas such as security, land use, financing and more.

Our Services

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

Our Clients

We assist businesses of all sizes, both domestically and internationally, with the protection of their most sensitive data, representing leaders in numerous industries and sectors, from midsize businesses to corporations, healthcare and banking, and retail and education. Current and past clients have included the country's largest independent digital marketing agency; a Boston-based provider of clinical, commercial and consulting services to health care businesses; and a global company focused on wireless mobile buyback, data protection and hardware recycling.

Contact Us

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

Our Team

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