

THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE LAW SOCIETY
AT VERMONT LAW AND GRADUATE SCHOOL (VLGS) PRESENTS

CANNABIS & THE LAW



FRIDAY, MARCH 17
9 A.M. TO 5 P.M.

SATURDAY, MARCH 18
9 A.M. TO 12 P.M.

CHASE COMMUNITY CENTER

OR VIRTUALLY AT [VERMONTLAW.EDU/LIVE](https://vermontlaw.edu/live)

FRIDAY, MARCH 17 • 9 A.M. TO 5 P.M.

8:30 TO 9 A.M. • BREAKFAST AND CHECK IN

9 TO 9:55 A.M. • INTRODUCTIONS

Alyssa Shea JD/MELP'24 and Samantha Ellis JD/MFALP'24, Co-Chairs of FALS at VLGS

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

David Zuckerman, Lieutenant Governor of Vermont

9:55 TO 10:45 A.M. • PANEL ONE • CULTIVATION INSIDERS

MODERATOR: Francine Miller LLM'17, Senior Staff Attorney and Adjunct Professor at VLGS

PANELISTS: Marlena Tucker-Fisherman, Co-Owner of Zenbarn

Angela Payette, Co-Owner of Forbins Finest

Dr. Carly Farmer, Head of Cannabis Lab at Bia Diagnostics

10:45 TO 11:35 A.M.

Energy Regulation and Consumption in the Cannabis Industry

LECTURE: Genevieve Byrne, Staff Attorney, Farm and Energy Initiative at VLGS

11:35 A.M. TO 12:20 P.M. • LUNCH

12:25 TO 1:15 P.M. • PANEL TWO • CANNABIS LABELING: REGULATIONS AND ISSUES

MODERATOR: Rodney A. Smolla, President, Vermont Law and Graduate School

PANELISTS: Jared Carter JD'09, Assistant Professor of Law at VLGS

Timothy Bryon Fair JD'12, Esq., Partner and Attorney at Vermont Cannabis Solutions

Will Read, Founder and CEO of CannaPlanners

1:20 to 2:10 p.m.

Cannabis Certification: The Challenges and Benefits of Standards and Certification of a New Product Category

LECTURE: Ben Gelt, Board Chair of Cannabis Certification Council

2:15 TO 3:05 P.M. • PANEL THREE • PRACTICING CANNABIS LAW

MODERATOR: Andrew Marchev JD'18, Legal Food Hub Fellow, Center for Agriculture and Food Systems at VLGS

PANELISTS: Timothy Bryon Fair JD'12, Esq., Partner and Attorney at Vermont Cannabis Solutions

Dave Silberman, Founder and Attorney at Silberman PLC

David Mickenberg, Attorney at Mickenberg, Dunn & Smith, PLC

3:10 TO 4 P.M.

Tribal Regulations: Medicinal Cannabis and Regulatory Impacts on Tribal Nations

LECTURE: Lisa Brunner (VIRTUAL), Chair, Medicinal Cannabis Control Commission for the White Earth Band of Ojibwe

4:05 TO 5 P.M. • PANEL FOUR • VERMONT CANNABIS LEGISLATION

MODERATOR: Jared Carter JD'09, Assistant Professor of Law at VLGS

PANELISTS: James Pepper JD'14, Chair of Vermont Cannabis Control Board

Kyle Harris JD/MELP'15, Commissioner of Vermont Cannabis Control Board

SATURDAY, MARCH 18 • 8:30 A.M. TO 12 P.M.**9 TO 9:10 A.M. • INTRODUCTIONS**

Alyssa Shea JD/MELP'24 and Samantha Ellis JD/MFALP'24, Co-Chairs of FALS at VLGS

9:10 TO 10 A.M. • PANEL ONE • DIFFERENCES BETWEEN STATES: COMPARING STATE CANNABIS LEGISLATION

MODERATOR: Benjamin Varadi, Assistant Professor of Law at VLGS

PANELISTS: Jason Ortiz, Executive Director of Students for Sensible Drug Policy
 Timothy Egan, Former New Hampshire Representative and Instructor of CannaBusiness at Castleton University
 Matthew Birong, Vermont Representative for District Addison-3

10:05 TO 10:55 A.M.**Cannabis Regulations: A Brief Overview**

LECTURE: Nicholas Schuermann, Founder and Director of Vermont NORML

11 TO 11:50 A.M. • PANEL TWO • ADVOCACY AND EXPUNGEMENTS IN CANNABIS LEGISLATION

MODERATOR: Jill Martin Diaz, Lead Attorney of Vermont Immigrant Assistance (VIA) and Assistant Professor and at VLGS

PANELISTS: Jessica Velazquez (*VIRTUAL*), Managing Partner and Founder Indiva Advisors LLP
 Mairead O'Reilly, Deputy Public Defender at the Vermont Office of the Defender General
 Bonita Money (*VIRTUAL*), Founder at National Diversity and Inclusion at Cannabis Alliance
 Jesse McFarlin, Co-Owner and Cultivator, Old Growth Vermont

11:50 A.M. TO 12 P.M. • CLOSING REMARKS

Benjamin Varadi, Assistant Professor of Law at VLGS

This event is intended to provide legal information and is not a substitute to speaking with a licensed attorney or tax professional. Possessing, using, distributing and/or marketing non-hemp cannabis and cannabis-derived products is prohibited by federal law. While the event may provide information relating to attaining and maintaining compliance with state law and regulation. It is not intended to provide any guidance or assistance in violating federal law and should not be relied upon for that purpose. You need to be 18 or older to attend. To ensure compliance with state regulations we ask that you disclose if you are below the age of 21 for our reporting purposes.

CANNABIS & THE LAW

Thank you for attending! This conference will cover a broad range of topics relating to the cannabis industry, including Cannabis Production, Marketing and Labeling, Federal/ State Regulations, Expungements and Equity and Justice. As cannabis becomes legal across the country, this new and developing field of law is becoming more prevalent. The event is open to all students and the community, as well as practicing attorneys with the option to obtain CLE credits. The goal of the conference is to provide information on the legal trends in the cannabis field by learning from leaders in the legal and regulatory space. This event will be in person and virtually at vermontlaw.edu/live. Thank you for preregistering. CLE credits are available.

The conference is free for students and community members, and \$50 for those seeking CLE credits. If you have questions, please contact Samantha Ellis JD/MFALP'24 at samanthaellis@vermontlaw.edu or Alyssa Shea JD/MELP'24 at alyssshaea@vermontlaw.edu.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



DAVID ZUCKERMAN LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF VERMONT

Lt. Governor David Zuckerman is a father, husband, farmer, former legislator, and the 83rd Lt. Governor of Vermont. He currently lives on his farm in Hinesburg, Vt. with his wife Rachel and daughter Addie. Lt. Governor Zuckerman was born and raised in Brookline, Mass. He moved to Vermont in 1989 to attend the University of Vermont, where he earned his bachelor's degree in environmental studies. While attending university, he was inspired to get involved in politics in 1992 after hearing then-Representative Bernie Sanders speak about economic injustice, standing up for your values and fighting for what is right regardless of the odds. In 1996 he was elected to the Vermont

House of Representatives. During his 14 years in the House of Representatives, he served for six years on the Agriculture Committee with four years as committee chair, six years on the Natural Resources and Energy Committee, and two years on the Ways and Means Committee. In 2012, he was elected as a state senator for Chittenden County, where he served for four years. Lt. Governor Zuckerman served on the Education Committee and was the vice chair of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, where he brought his experience as both a legislator and a farmer to discussions about the future of Vermont Agriculture. As a legislator, he collaborated with activists, advocates, legislators, and everyday Vermonters to organize on a wide array of issues, including leading on marriage equality, cannabis reform, GMO labelling, raising wages, pay equity, renewable energy, medical aid in dying and more. For his work in the legislature, he was recognized as the 2013 Legislative Champion by Renewable Energy Vermont and as 2014 Legislator of the Year by Vermont Businesses for Social Responsibility. In 2017, he served for the first time as Vermont's Lt. Governor. After a two-year hiatus, he returned to the office of the Lt. Governor in 2023, where he plans to build on his previous work and find new creative way to engage Vermonters in the political process. Lt. Governor Zuckerman is particularly interested in addressing Vermont's housing crisis, our planetary climate crisis, universal healthcare, and many more issues relating to economic, social and environmental issues. Outside of his political work, he co-owns and operates his family's organic farm in Hinesburg where they grow and raise vegetables, pigs, eggs and chickens.

PANEL ONE • CULTIVATION INSIDERS

This panel will cover the ins and outs of growing cannabis for adult-use in Vermont, including cultivation practices, state certification, and testing. The panel includes dispensary owners and a doctor from Bia Diagnostics Cannabis Laboratories, which will give a first-hand knowledge of bringing cannabis to market from a business perspective. This panel will focus on the certification process in Vermont, give insight into operating a dispensary, and discuss advocacy initiatives for advancing equity in the cannabis space. Personal knowledge of growing a quality product will pair with the expertise of how to ensure the product is fit for market through bringing to the cannabis industries a well-established protocol for testing found in the environmental, food, pharmaceutical, water, and petrochemical industries.

MODERATOR



FRANCINE MILLER LL.M.'17
VLGS SENIOR STAFF
ATTORNEY AND ADJUNCT
PROFESSOR

Francine Miller LL.M.'17 is a senior staff attorney and adjunct faculty member at the

Center for Agriculture and Food Systems (CAFS) at VLGS, where she supervises students in the Food and Agriculture Clinic and leads a variety of projects. Professor Miller focuses predominantly on farmland access, overseeing the expansion of CAFS's **Farmland Access Legal Toolkit** to better serve historically marginalized communities. She also serves private clients through CAFS and the clinic, particularly regarding collaborative and community land ownership and business formation. Professor Miller spent many years as a trademark and copyright lawyer, obtained her LL.M. in Food and Agriculture Law and Policy at Vermont Law School in 2017, and moved to Vermont from New York City in September 2019 to work at CAFS.

homelessness as well as working with young people with learning differences and autism. She also founded a wellness and healing studio **Zenbarn Studio**, founded and ran her own nature-based childcare center before joining forces with her husband Noah to launch **Zenbarn Farms**, a cannabis brand and retail store. She is co-owner at Zenbarn Farms and newly appointed director of environmental and social justice where she is positioned to advance the work of the Cannabis Equity Initiative, raise funds for programming, collaborate with other companies and nonprofits and ensure her own company is aligned and cohesive in its mission and values.



ANGELA PAYETTE
CO-OWNER OF
FORBINS FINEST

Forbins Finest Co-Founder and Director of Compliance. Angela Payette, has worked with cannabis for many years.

Previously, she was working in medical billing and hoping for the day to come when she and her partner, Nick Mattei, could cultivate and sell cannabis legally. Her wish came true in 2018 when Vermont legalized the adult-use sale of cannabis. Over the past few years, Angela has worked behind the scenes to ensure that Forbins Finest is poised to become Vermont's favorite cannabis. When she's not representing Forbins Finest at competitions like 'The Headies' or ensuring that all aspects of the business are compliant with Cannabis Control Board regulations, Ms. Payette enjoys running and playing with her two French bulldogs.

PANELISTS



MARLENA TUCKER-FISHMAN
CO-OWNER OF ZENBARN

Marlena Tucker-Fishman was born in Queens, N.Y. and grew up in Piscataway, N.J. She spent her early career as an educator and youth mentor

working with some of the hardest to reach young people facing hardships such as poverty and



CARLY FARMER
HEAD OF CANNABIS LAB
AT BIA DIAGNOSTICS
LABORATORIES

Carly Farmer is currently the chemistry laboratory manager for **Bia Diagnostics Laboratories**

located in Colchester, Vermont. She received her PhD in sustainable agriculture and food systems from the University of Rhode Island where her

research was focused on the use of phytochemicals to combat parasitic diseases. She also completed her post-doctoral fellowship with the United States Department of Agriculture where she continued this research investigating terpenes. Dr. Farmer now oversees cannabis testing at Bia Diagnostics' chemistry laboratory where she directs all analytical testing and method development.

LECTURE
ENERGY REGULATION AND CONSUMPTION
IN THE CANNABIS INDUSTRY

State legalization of recreational cannabis has led to a boom in cannabis commerce, as well as a significant increase in electricity consumption by indoor cannabis cultivators—up to and potentially exceeding 1% of total U.S. electricity consumption. Consequently, state and local lawmakers have begun to seek and test policy solutions to improve energy management in the cannabis industry. This presentation explores examples of the regulatory requirements enacted by state and local governments to manage or mitigate the electricity consumption of licensed cannabis cultivators. It considers these regulations in the context of social equity, including potential barriers to entry into the cannabis market, and energy equity, including how grid management costs are allocated between cultivators and other ratepayers.



GENEVIEVE BYRNE
VLGS STAFF ATTORNEY, FARM
AND ENERGY INITIATIVE,
INSTITUTE FOR ENERGY AND
THE ENVIRONMENT (IEE),
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

Genevieve Byrne is an assistant professor and staff attorney for the **Farm and Energy Initiative** in the **Institute for Energy and the Environment (IEE)** at VLGS. Professor Byrne holds a JD from Lewis and Clark College of Law in Portland, Ore., where she also received a Certificate in Natural Resources Law. Her experience includes American Farmland Trust, where she worked on agricultural land conservation and legislative research, and the Vermont Office of Legislative Council, where she focused on energy legislation. She has spent the last five years in public interest environmental litigation, representing citizen and nonprofit plaintiffs in suits related to nuclear and solar energy permitting and regulation.



PANEL TWO

CANNABIS LABELING: REGULATIONS AND ISSUES

This panel will combine knowledge from a variety of expertise in the labeling space.

The panel will cover the potential first amendment issues with the regulation of advertising cannabis products, along with the creation of cannabis labeling and the legal regulations around it. The goal of this panel is to provide a overview of the current regulations around the labeling of cannabis products, the problems with these regulations and potential constitutional implications.

MODERATOR



RODNEY A. SMOLLA
PRESIDENT, VERMONT LAW
AND GRADUATE SCHOOL

Rodney A. Smolla became the first President of VLGS in 2022. He previously served as dean and professor of law at Widener

University Delaware Law School. He has been a faculty member at the William & Mary, DePaul, University of Illinois, and University of Arkansas law schools, and a visiting professor at law schools at Duke, University of Georgia, University of Indiana, Denver University, and University of Melbourne. Additionally, he has served as the director of the Institute of Bill of Rights Law at the College of William and Mary, and senior fellow and project director of the Washington Annenberg Program of Northwestern University. He currently serves as the chair of the AALS Committee on Academic Freedom

and Tenure and in 2011 he was appointed by the governor of South Carolina as a commissioner on the South Carolina Commission of Higher Education, which included within its mission the oversight of all of South Carolina's public universities and colleges, and licensure and programmatic approval for all public and private educational programs within the state. President Smolla has been and remains an active litigator. He is particularly well-known for his representation of American and international clients on matters relating to defamation and invasion of privacy. He is admitted to the Illinois, Virginia, and Delaware bars, and he has participated as counsel or co-counsel in many litigation matters, in state and federal courts throughout the nation.

PANELISTS



JARED CARTER JD'09
VLGS ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

Jared Carter JD'09 is an assistant professor of law at **Vermont Law and Graduate School** and formerly the associate director of the Cornell Law School First

Amendment Clinic. He is a graduate of Vermont Law School where, in addition to serving as an editor on the Vermont Journal of Environmental Law, he received an Equal Justice Foundation Fellowship to litigate a First Amendment challenge to U.S. Treasury Department Regulations prohibiting

travel to Cuba. A veteran attorney and advocate for social, legal, and economic justice, Professor Carter was a law clerk to Justices William Leaphart, Jim Rice, and Jim Nelson at the Montana Supreme Court. For more than a decade, Professor Carter has taught and practiced law. He has research and expertise in the First Amendment, Environmental Advocacy, Appellate Advocacy, Movement Lawyering, and Comparative Law.



TIMOTHY BRYON FAIR JD'12, ESQ.
FOUNDING PARTNER AND ATTORNEY AT VERMONT CANNABIS SOLUTIONS

Timothy Bryon Fair JD'12, Esq. is the founder of Vermont's first cannabis law and consulting firm, **Vermont Cannabis Solutions**. Mr. Fair has been a vocal advocate for both cannabis and overall drug policy reform for most of his adult life. Since becoming an attorney in 2012, he has been fortunate enough to be part of the statewide movement to legalize cannabis in Vermont. He has been featured on a number of podcasts and radio shows, including: two appearances on "The Ganjapreneur Podcast", Vermont Public's "Vermont Edition", Paris Marketing's "Creative Warrior" podcast, as well as a weekly segment on the "In The Weeds" livestream. Mr. Fair has been quoted in multiple national media sources including *The Washington Post*, *Marijuana Business Daily* and *High Times* magazine. He has spoken on the topic of cannabis law at numerous seminars and events across the New England region and was tapped to help design and teach Vermont's first continuing legal education course on Cannabis Business Law in Vermont. When not lawyering, Mr. Fair is an avid swimmer and occasional skydiver.



WILL READ
FOUNDER AND CEO OF CANNAPLANNERS

Will Read started CannaPlanners in 2016 with the goal of normalizing the cannabis industry through beautiful design and thoughtful marketing solutions. With ten years of prior employment in the tech and digital marketing fields, Mr. Read woke up primed to solve two of the biggest challenges facing the emerging industry. The first, a general misunderstanding of broad marketing tasks and the second, the removal of a long, sordid stigma. Now, with a staff of 13 and canna-clients around the globe, Mr. Read and his team at CannaPlanners are determined to create a meaningful impact on the evolving cannabis industry.

LECTURE

CANNABIS CERTIFICATION: THE CHALLENGES AND BENEFITS OF STANDARDS AND CERTIFICATION OF A NEW PRODUCT CATEGORY

This lecture will cover product certification in the cannabis industry, diving into the challenges and benefits of set standards in a new product category. Using the Organically Grown Cannabis Certification set by the Cannabis Control Council as a model, this lecture aims to explain what private certification currently looks like and compares with existing product standards like USDA's National Organics Program.



BEN GELT
BOARD CHAIR OF CANNABIS CERTIFICATION COUNCIL

Currently the Board Chair of the **Cannabis Certification Council**, Ben Gelt is a strategic communications and business professional with an extensive background in public policy, public affairs, political and marketing campaign strategy, elections, business development and management. Mr. Gelt supports his global mix of clients and businesses with executive level

strategic communications services and business development. He currently serves as an advisor at the law firm Greenspoon Marder and at the public affairs firm Rasky Partners in addition to supporting his many businesses and additional clients.

PANEL THREE • PRACTICING CANNABIS LAW

This panel combines a variety first hand knowledge of the experience of practicing cannabis related law, focusing mostly on the transactional and administrative side of cannabis regulations. This panel will also include a discussion on the current and anticipated regulatory landscapes.

MODERATOR



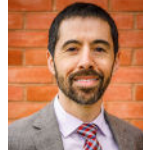
ANDREW MARCHEV JD'18
VLGS LEGAL FOOD HUB
FELLOW, CENTER FOR
AGRICULTURE AND FOOD
SYSTEMS (CAFS)

Andrew Marchev JD'18 is a Fellow with the **Vermont Legal**

Food Hub, a collaboration of CAFS at VLGS and Conservation Law Foundation. At the Hub, he is researching relevant topics in food and agricultural law and developing resources for attorneys who wish to assist farmers, food producers, and food non-profits with their legal needs. He received his BA from Warren Wilson College, and his JD from Vermont Law School. While in law school, he interned for the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board (VHCB) where he created a protocol for assisting VHCB staff to determine which regulations apply to forested land on a conserved farm based on his research into the topic. After law school, he worked for the firm Phillips Dunn Shriver & Carroll, before establishing a solo practice with an agricultural focus in Montpelier. Mr. Marchev now practices part-time, assisting farmers in lease negotiations, transitioning their businesses to the next generation, estate planning, probate administration, and business entity formation. Growing up first in Oaxaca, Mexico and then in Brattleboro, Vt., he is bilingual in Spanish and English. A close family friend operated a vegetable farm where he spent many weekends helping out with chores and caring for the farm animals, sparking his interest in agriculture. His dream is to have a little farm of his own and a thriving agricultural law practice.

PANELISTS

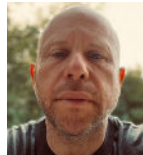
TIMOTHY BRYON FAIR JD'12, ESQ.
Please see page seven for Mr. Fair's full bio.



DAVE SILBERMAN
FOUNDER AND ATTORNEY
AT SILBERMAN PLC

Dave Silberman is a corporate attorney with 20 years' experience advising founders, executives, and financiers

of private and public companies across a wide range of industries and at every stage of corporate existence, from formation to private and public fundraising to sale. Mr. Silberman has long been a leading voice for legalizing and regulating cannabis in Vermont, and was a driving force behind the state's strict anti-monopoly protections for small cannabis businesses. In 2020, he founded **Silberman PLC** with an eye towards providing top-notch legal services to Vermont's emerging cannabis industry. He is also co-founder of FLORA Cannabis, Vermont's first adult-use cannabis retailer, located in the heart of downtown Middlebury. Mr. Silberman earned a JD at Columbia University School of Law in 2001, and a BA in economics and political science at Rutgers University in 1997. In his downtime, he enjoys skiing at the Snowbowl, practicing ashtanga yoga, and having his hopes crushed by the Mets every fall. He is admitted to the bars of New York and Vermont, and has served as the high bailiff of Addison County since 2021.



DAVE MICKENBERG
ATTORNEY AT MICKENBERG,
DUNN & SMITH, PLC

David Mickenberg is a partner at the Burlington law firm Mickenberg, Dunn & Smith, and has been actively involved

in drug policy reform since 1997. He started his career at the Drug Policy Alliance where he worked on political efforts to reduce the harms associated with the war on drugs, including a multiyear effort to allow Vermonters to access methadone treatment. He currently works on a variety of public policy campaigns including an effort to decriminalize drugs in favor of a public health approach; a push to decriminalize sex work; legislation to increase the rights of working

Vermonters; and efforts to increase benefits and protections for older Vermonters. David played an active role in the establishment of Vermont's medical cannabis program; legislation to decriminalize cannabis; legislation to legalize

home grow, possession of cannabis, and expungement of previous cannabis convictions; and legislation to establish a regulated system for cannabis sales.

LECTURE

TRIBAL REGULATIONS: MEDICINAL CANNABIS AND REGULATORY IMPACTS ON TRIBAL NATIONS

This lecture will explore the impacts of Federal Regulations on Tribal Nations. Using the White Earth Band of Ojibwe's Medicinal Cannabis regulatory scheme as an example, the lecture explores tribal Law, regulatory Issues, and the importance of Tribal sovereignty.



LISA BRUNNER
CHAIR, MEDICINAL
CANNABIS CONTROL
COMMISSION FOR
THE WHITE EARTH
BAND OF OJIBWE

Lisa Brunner is a citizen of the White Earth Ojibwe Nation and is Wolf Clan. Currently, she is chair of the **Medicinal Cannabis Control Commission** for the White Earth Band of Ojibwe. She is also a professor of Anishinaabe Culture at the White Earth Tribal and Community College. Ms. Brunner has worked in the domestic violence and sexual assault field for over 23 years and was the executive director of Sacred Spirits First Nations Coalition whose work addressed violence against Native American and Alaska Native women. Sacred Spirits First Nations Coalition is responsible for the creation of the Harm Reduction Program on the White Earth in its response to the heroin epidemic and has since become a model for Tribes and States. Ms. Brunner has advocated on the local, state, national and international levels to bring about change to public policy to address violence against Native women, men, and children. At the international and national level, she has served on numerous panels and groups addressing

jurisdictional issues that impact the safety of Native women, men, and children. This includes service at the United Nations, including five years at the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, participation in the Global Indigenous Women's Caucus, and a panel on violence against Indigenous Women of North America. Recently she was invited to the Addressing Hate Crimes against Indigenous Peoples: Expert Meeting on the Situation in the Office for the Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, in Vienna, Austria. She has testified on "Violence Against Native Women in the United States" before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. Ms. Brunner has also testified before the U.S. Congress on "Combating Human Trafficking: Federal, State, and Local Perspectives" for the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. Additionally, she is a founding member of the National Congress of American Indians, Violence Against Women Task Force and a Bush Foundation Fellow. She has been featured in publications such as "The Inter-American Human Rights System-Handbook", *National Museum of American Indians Magazine*, and *Restoration Magazine*, and is published in the journal, *Psychology of Violence*.

PANEL FOUR • VERMONT CANNABIS LEGISLATION

This panel will include two members from the Vermont Cannabis Control Board (CCB). The CCB in Vermont responsible for administering the adult-use and medical cannabis programs along with regulating hemp and CBD product manufacturing. This panel will provide an overview of Vermont's rules, regulations and the process for getting a license.

MODERATOR

JARED CARTER JD'09

Please see page six for Professor Carter's full bio.

PANELISTS



**JAMES PEPPER JD'14
CHAIR OF VERMONT
CANNABIS CONTROL BOARD**

James Pepper JD'14 currently chairs the Cannabis Control Board. Prior to joining the board, Chair Pepper served as a

deputy state's attorney for the Department of State's Attorneys and Sheriffs. In this role, he advocated for and helped implement many of the criminal justice reform initiatives of the past five years, including expanding expungement eligibility and automatic expungement for cannabis convictions, justice reinvestment, bail reform, use of force standards for law enforcement officers, and raising the age of juvenile jurisdiction. He helped to create systemic and sustained change in Vermont through his work on the Racial Disparities in the Criminal and Juvenile Justice System Advisory Panel, the CHINS Reform Advisory Panel, the Juvenile Justice Advisory Panel, the Act 148 Working Group, the Marijuana Advisory Committee, and the Sentencing Commission. Chair Pepper also worked for Governor Peter Shumlin as director of intergovernmental affairs and senior policy advisor. In this capacity, he developed the statutory framework of S.241 (2016), the first cannabis tax and regulate bill to pass either chamber of the Vermont legislature. Chair Pepper received his BA in Political Science from Johns Hopkins University and his JD from Vermont Law School. He met his wife Aly while working for the Democratic National Committee in Washington, D.C. After deciding they wanted to relocate to the best place in the world to raise a family, they moved back to her home state of Vermont where they currently live with their twin boys Beau and Wesley.



**KYLE HARRIS JD/MELP'15
COMMISSONER OF VERMONT
CANNABIS CONTROL BOARD**

Kyle Harris JD/MELP'15 comes to the Cannabis Control Board from the Vermont

Agency of Agriculture, Food and

Markets (VAAF), where he worked in agriculture development focusing on emerging issues and economic development. His work focused on dairy innovation, maple initiatives, and hemp business development. He was worked closely with Agency of Commerce and Community Development (ACCD) as a liaison between agencies to facilitate policy and economic discussion throughout Vermont's agricultural portfolio. Most recently, he aided in the development of Vermont's Agriculture and Food System Strategic Plan 2021-2030. Previous to his role with VAAF, Commissioner Harris served as the associate counsel for environmental affairs at the Corn Refiners Association in Washington, D.C. In that position he represented 14% of the U.S. corn supply, focusing on improving the environmental footprint at both ends of the supply chain, from grower relations to growth in plant-based products and 21st century uses for agricultural feedstocks. He has also spent time with Maryland's Office of the Attorney General for the Dept. of Natural Resources. Commissioner Harris has a BA from the College of Charleston in South Carolina, and JD and a master of environmental policy from Vermont Law School. He has a license to practice law in Maryland. He lives in Roxbury, Vt. with his wife Cate.

SATURDAY, MARCH 18

PANEL ONE • DIFFERENCES BETWEEN STATES: COMPARING STATE CANNABIS LEGISLATION

This panel combines a variety of expertise in order to give an inclusive summary of different states' rules and regulations on recreational cannabis. The panel will provide not only insights from a legal state but also prohibition states, in order to understand the entirety of the legal landscape. It will address the pros and cons of current legislation, focusing on potential learning opportunities for states that have not yet legalized. Along with addressing state legislation, this panel will cover how the recent DEA guidance on Delta-8 could impact the recreational cannabis industry.

MODERATOR



BENJAMIN C. VARADI VLGS ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

Benjamin C. Varadi is an assistant professor of law at **Vermont Law and Graduate School**. His current research focuses on social equity regulation in the cannabis

industry. Prior to joining VLGS, Professor Varadi was an attorney in private practice, primarily representing cannabis entrepreneurs as well as leaders in other emerging industries, regulated vices, and cultural outskirts. He was previously a partner at a New Orleans firm, a research fellow at the Tulane Center for Intellectual Property Law and Culture, managing attorney of the Common Ground Relief Legal Clinic, and a guest lecturer at the Loyola University New Orleans College of Law Technology and Legal Innovation Clinic. He has taught continuing legal education and industry workshops on a wide variety of legal and technical topics, received the New Orleans CityBusiness "Leadership in Law" Award, and was twice selected as a SuperLawyers "Rising Star." He is a member of the board of directors for Firefly Gathering, a permaculture and earth skills education resource. Professor Varadi holds a JD, cum laude, from Tulane University Law School, and a BA in social technology from Burlington College.

PANELISTS



JASON ORTIZ EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR STUDENTS FOR SENSIBLE DRUG POLICY (SSDP)

Jason Ortiz is the executive director for Students for Sensible Drug Policy. Mr. Ortiz has been on

the frontlines of the cannabis equity movement. He is a founder and president of the **Minority Cannabis Business Association**, where he led efforts to create model cannabis equity policies at the state and municipal levels. While he comes with extensive drug policy expertise, Mr. Ortiz has experience organizing on numerous issues including his role as director of campaigns with **Murder Victims' Families for Reconciliation**, where he worked to end capital punishment. He also served on the **National Puerto Rican Agenda**, where he helped with Hurricane Maria relief efforts and continues to address issues of economic justice for his island. Professionally, Mr. Ortiz has led over a dozen races for elected office as campaign manager and political consultant, and served as executive assistant to Minority Leader Wildaluz Bermudez of the Hartford Connecticut Court of Common Council, the city where he now resides.



TIMOTHY EGAN
FORMER NEW HAMPSHIRE
REPRESENTATIVE AND
INSTRUCTOR OF
CANNABUSINESS AT
CASTLETON UNIVERSITY

Timothy Egan is a specialist in broadcast and web based video content services in marketing and media affairs practicing in New England and Canada. He is a board member and media advisor for Catalyst Story Institute/Content Festival in Duluth, Minn., guiding the development of digital video content. Mr. Egan is also a consulting executive producer of broadcast television programming at Moody Street TV in Waltham, Mass. He has two New England Emmy Awards as writer/director/producer, among his 28 Emmy Nominations during his 25 plus year career in New England. Since 2014, he has been serving as part-time faculty at sister schools in the Vermont Sate College system. In 2016 he was named co-director of NVU's incubator, Without Walls, that supports small business development with experienced student labor. Upon moving to N.H. in 2011, Mr. Egan was appointed as business representative/media advisor to The N.H./Canada Trade Council. In 2017 he was elected as VP for the New England Canada Business Council and named VP-programs chair in 2020; in 2018 he was appointed as treasurer of Catamount Arts in St. Johnsbury, Vt. In 2018 he was elected to the N.H. House of Representatives for Grafton District #2. In 2020 he was re-elected and formed the House Dems Communications Team supporting sitting legislators. Mr. Egan was a media services consultant to: Presidential Campaigns of Sen. Joe Biden (Del.) in 2008 and 2020, Gov. Jerry Brown (Calif.) in 1992, Lt. Gov. Tim Murray (Mass.) in 2010, Sen. President Therese Murray (Mass.) in 2011, and Jim King for U.S. Senate in 2012 (Mass.) and the N.H. House - Environmental Caucus from 2014-16. In his spare time he received a master of science in marketing ('15) magna cum laude at SNHU.edu and lives in/enjoys the White Mountains of N.H. with his wife Betty and daughter Maggie.



MATTHEW BIRONG
VERMONT REPRESENTATIVE
FOR DISTRICT ADDISON-3

Representative Matt Birong, D-Vt., of Vergennes, Addison County, was born in Burlington, Vermont and raised in the town of Essex. Rep. Birong graduated from New England Culinary Institute with a degree in culinary arts. Over his 25+ year career, he has worked in fine dining establishments in Manhattan, Boston and Burlington. Since 2007, Rep. Birong has been the chef/owner of 3 Squares Café, a casual eatery in downtown Vergennes. With an eye toward locally sourced food, he has spent his career helping build Vermont's Farm to Table movement. Supporting the state's strong agricultural heritage is a major part of his culinary philosophy. He is also a partner in Cacao Bosque/Reserva Zorral, an agricultural and environmental preservation project in the Dominican Republic. He was a member of the Vermont delegation to the Democratic National Convention in 2016. Also, in 2016, Rep. Birong was named a Rising Star/40 under 40 by *Vermont Business Magazine*. As a member of the House of Representatives since 2019, he has served as vice chair of the Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs, and co-chair for the National Guard and Military Affairs Caucus. He is supported by his wife, real estate broker Danelle Lello Birong, and they have one rescue pup, Luna.

LECTURE

CANNABIS REGULATIONS: A BRIEF OVERVIEW

This lecture will provide a brief history of cannabis on the federal level and where it stands today. It will focus on understanding the history and impact of cannabis, whether it has been weaponized or legalized, in order to better comprehend how we have reached this politically historic point in time.



NICHOLAS SCHUERMANN
FOUNDER AND DIRECTOR OF
VERMONT NORML

Nicholas Schuermann is the executive director and co-founder of Vermont NORML. As a social policy advocate and graduate of

the University of Vermont, he has directed the Vermont chapter of NORML since its founding in February of 2021. Mr. Schermann has testified in front of many high ranking committees at the Statehouse on various issues mainly centered around social equity policies. For example, he and his group were integral in securing waived license fees for Social Equity Applicants in Vermont. Mr. Schuermann has also been featured on various

podcasts such as “Cannasations w/ Kris Brown” and others as well as being interviewed on MyNBC5 regarding the onset of Vermont’s cannabis market. He has spoken on the topic of supply chain within legal cannabis as a guest lecturer at Castleton University and at various local events across the state. Mr. Schuermann is eager to lead a presentation on the history of cannabis on the federal level and where it stands today. He believes it is important to understand the history and impact of cannabis, whether it has been weaponized or legalized, to better comprehend how we have reached this politically historic point in time.

PANEL TWO • ADVOCACY AND EXPUNGMENTS IN CANNABIS LEGALIZATION

This panel will cover everything that is needed to know about advocacy in the world of recreational cannabis. This panel will include a variety of expertise and backgrounds, ranging from accounting, legal practice and nonprofit work.

MODERATOR



JILL MARTIN DIAZ
VLGS LEAD ATTORNEY OF
VERMONT IMMIGRANT
ASSISTANCE (VIA) AND
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

Jill Martin Diaz is assistant professor and lead attorney of

Vermont Immigrant Assistance (VIA) at Vermont Law and Graduate School. There, they support student clinicians to advance immigrants’ rights through direct legal services, systems advocacy, and community education. Prior to this appointment, Professor Martin Diaz was a Vermont Poverty Law Fellow at Vermont Legal Aid and an Immigrant Justice Corps Fellow at Sanctuary for Families New York. They are licensed to practice law in Vermont and New York.

PANELISTS



JESSICA VELAZQUEZ
MANAGING PARTNER AND
FOUNDER OF INDIVA
ADVISORS LLP

Jessica Velazquez is managing partner and founder of Indiva Advisors LLP, a CPA firm

focused on assisting cannabis and hemp businesses navigate the unique accounting, tax and financial industry challenges. Since 2018, she has served as treasurer of the Minority Cannabis Business Association (MCBA), the largest national trade association dedicated to serving the needs of minority cannabis businesses and our communities. Ms. Velazquez hails from traditional business, having worked for public accounting firms PricewaterhouseCoopers and Ernst & Young, as well having built and managed corporate tax departments at Zappos.com and SHFL

Entertainment, Inc. She holds a master of science in taxation from DePaul University, a bachelor of science in Accounting from Southern Illinois University and is a licensed Certified Public Accountant (Ill., Nev.) and Certified Fraud Examiner.



MAIREAD O'REILLY
DEPUTY PUBLIC DEFENDER
AT THE VERMONT OFFICE OF
THE DEFENDER GENERAL

Mairead O'Reilly is a Vermont public defender, serving Franklin and Grand Isle Counties. She

arrived in Vermont in 2016 as the Poverty Law Fellow, where she focused a her two-year fellowship project on the opioid crisis. Through that project, and for the next several years as a staff attorney at Vermont Legal Aid, Ms. O'Reilly mastered expungement law in Vermont, lobbied for legislative change to expand the scope of expungement law, and spearheaded the creation of statewide expungement clinics done in partnership with the Attorney General and local prosecutors. Additionally, she developed a collaboration with Code4BTV, a local coding brigade that streamlined the expungement petition-generation process, which ultimately allowed for exponential growth in the expungement filings in Vermont from 2018-2022. She is deeply passionate about access to justice and the rights of all Vermonters—especially those caught in the criminal-legal system. Ms. O'Reilly believes that our systems must do more to reintegrate into our economy and community those who have been involved in the criminal legal system and have served their sentences. Expungement of criminal records after sentence completion is a necessary precondition for meaningful reintegration.



BONITA MONEY
FOUNDER AT NATIONAL
DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION
AT CANNABIS ALLIANCE

Bonita Money is a long-time veteran of the TV and Film

industry and transitioned into

the Cannabis Industry in 2014. She is the founder of **National Diversity and Inclusion Cannabis Alliance (NDICA)**, which is the only cannabis organization to be funded by the State of California's Governor's office and contracted by the City of LA Dept. of Cannabis Regulations Social Equity Business Development program. Ms. Money is also the founder of the first international networking organization, **Women Abuv Ground**, with a focus on people of color. She is also the co-founder of **Men Abuv Ground**, a networking organization for men of color. A well-known speaker at cannabis related and mainstream events and conferences with a focus on social equity, social justice, economic empowerment, diversity in the cannabis field, and how to enter into the cannabis industry. Additionally, Ms. Money is co-founder of the amazing organic cannabis topical cream, That Glass Jar.



JESSE MCFARLAN
CO-OWNER AND CULTIVATOR,
OLD GROWTH VERMONT

Jesse McFarlan is the founder and co-owner of **Old Growth Vermont (OGVT)**, a licensed

Tier 2 outdoor cultivation facility.

She comes from a background in addiction recovery and is a third generation cannabis cultivator. Her biological father was imprisoned for cannabis cultivation and sentenced to 11 years in federal prison. With an attention to detail, there is nothing in this business that she does not do. From attending every CCB meeting, to locking in a permit, to getting her hands dirty in the field, to printing all of the labels. This ship of fools that is OGVT quite literally would not have left the harbor without her at the helm.

CLOSING REMARKS • BENJAMIN VARADI

Please see page 11 for Professor Varadi's full bio.



THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE LAW SOCIETY AT VLGS

would like to thank all of our guests for participating in the “Cannabis & The Law” Conference, as well as our attendees both in-person and virtual. Additionally, we thank our Sponsors listed below. Please visit their websites to learn more.



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NECANN has been developing engaging conventions for the Cannabis industry since 2014, expanding market opportunities for businesses, entrepreneurs, investors, educators, patients, advocates, and consumers. Their approach focuses on the current state and potential of each local market is a superior alternative to the generic national canna-convention franchises that are common. Rather than asking what the Cannabis Industry can do for us, NECANN takes a collaborative approach with the local industries and communities for our conventions, resulting in consistently more successful returns for participants and attendees alike.

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