



NORML

Annual Report 2014

National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws
1100 H ST NW #830, Washington DC 20005
www.norml.org

Introduction

Letter from NORML Executive Director Allen St. Pierre

2015: NORML at Legalization Crossroads

Dear NORML members and supporters,

Thanks for providing this venerable 44-year old non-profit organization the support necessary—both financially and spiritually—in helping achieve its two stated public policy goals:

*End cannabis prohibition and replace with system of taxation and regulation similar to alcohol and tobacco products

*Help the victims of cannabis prohibition enforcement (from those busted for possession to workers being denied employment over drug testing to patients who need to access cannabis as a therapeutic)

To the former, the math is simple: four states down (AK, WA, OR and CO have legalized cannabis commerce and taxation), forty-six more to go.

To the latter, NORML and its 160 plus chapters are both sympathetic to and helpful outlets for the many hundreds of thousands of cannabis consumers, cultivators and sellers arrested annually on criminal charges.

Attached is an end-of-year synopsis of many of the projects and efforts put forward by the organization in 2014 to advance cannabis law reforms.

Important issues going forward post legalization present a myriad of public policy concerns for groups like NORML to advocate for adult cannabis consumers:

- To be able to imbibe in a licensed establishment in the same manner alcohol consumers do (in other words, it is not sufficient or prudent to banish cannabis consumers to use the herbal drug only on private property, which does not even include most public accommodations like hotels. Americans want Dutch-like 'coffeeshops' to buy and use the product responsibly on-site);
- Employment protections for cannabis consumers not impaired in the workplace;
- Child custody rights;
- Second Amendment rights (under federal law, cannabis consumer and state-sanctioned patients can't buy guns or ammunition);
- Reasonable taxes for consumers and businesses (so as not to encourage continuance of black market);
- Legal protections for cannabis consumers who currently fall under federal government's specter (military personal, government contractors, university students, federal workers and contractors)
- Scientific based drugged driving testing

The public's support since 1970 has aptly guided NORML thus far, looking into the political crystal ball for 2015, here are four items to be prepared for:

1) There will be in excess of fifteen states that debate legalization bills in their 2015 legislative sessions (a state, likely in New England, will pass cannabis legalization legislation for the first time as all previous legalization successes have come about via voter ballot initiatives)

2) The US Congress will have nearly twenty cannabis law reform bills introduced, ranging from legalization to rescheduling to sentencing to industrial hemp reforms.

3) Reform organizations, including NORML, will be increasingly focused on passing a voter initiative in California in 2016 legalizing cannabis

4) Non-partisan advocacy of presidential candidates for 2016 to support ending cannabis prohibition

Going into the New Year, possibly the penultimate year for cannabis law reform in the United States, please consider in 2015 the remarkable contrast occurring in the few states that have ended cannabis prohibition with the nightmare scenarios our fellow cannabis consumers still face in a vast majority of states in America.

Bittersweetly, here at NORML we're caught betwixt and between prohibition and legalization where we field as many daily inquiries from citizens still getting screwed by antiquated cannabis prohibition laws as we do now very eager entrepreneurs wanting to know how they can become a legitimate cannabis-related business.

Please help NORML continue to push forward with achieving our stated policy objectives with your continued financial support in 2015.**

Thanks in advance for both caring and sharing!

Kind regards,

Allen St. Pierre
Executive Director
NORML and NORML Foundation
Washington, D.C.

**Donations of cash, stocks, securities and property to The NORML Foundation are fully tax deductible.

NORML by the Numbers

Over **15 Million**

www.norml.org website views in 2014

130,000+

NORML News Email Subscribers

152

Chapters on

5 Continents

NORML staff published
Op/Eds and letters to the
editor in over

100 newspapers and
online journals in 2013

NORML was quoted in over

350 newspapers and
online publications in 2013

164,000

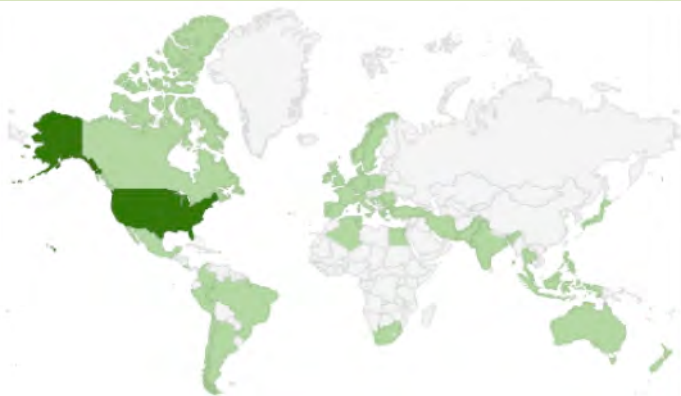
@NORML
Twitter Followers

725,000

Facebook.com/NORML Likes worldwide

135,000+

Emails Sent to Elected officials



**TAKE
ACTION**



2014 Highlights & Recognitions

-Launched the NORML Business Network

-Litigated first federal hearings in decades challenging constitutionality of marijuana's schedule I status

-Opened NORML Denver satellite office

-Official NORML Archives unveiled at the University of Massachusetts

-Produced Afroman "Because I Got High" positive remix with Weedmaps

Award Nominations

2014 Cannabis Business Awards

Activist of the Year

Sabrina Fendrick and Diane Fornbacher

Most Valuable Nonprofit (WINNER)

NORML

Most Valuable Cannabis Industry Organization

NORML

Most Valuable Cannabis Advocate

Rachel Gillette

MVP Award

Rachelle Gillette



2014 Dope Industry Awards

Best Cannabis Association

Washington NORML

NORML in the News

NORML staff published op/eds and letters to the editor in over 100 newspapers and online journals in 2014, including The Wall Street Journal, The Denver Post, The New York Times and US News and World Report. NORML staff members were also quoted in hundreds of newspapers and online publications and featured on dozens of television and radio shows.

Sample of NORML Quotes in Major Publications and Media Appearances

Chicago Tribune January 28th "Georgia bill would seek limited access to medical marijuana strain"

Politico January 29 "Banks still wary about marijuana business"

Washington Post January 31st "Maryland gubernatorial hopeful Mizeur wins backing of national marijuana reform group"

Reuters March 27th "Campaigners want vote to legalize pot in U.S. capital"

Roll Call June 9th "What's Next for Pot in Congress?"

The Nation July 1 "The Real Reason Pot Is Still Illegal"

Fortune July 2nd "After Six Months of Legal Pot, Colorado Seems Okay"

Legal Talk Network August 8th "Marijuana Use During Pregnancy and Child Abuse"

USA Today August 31st "Pot shops shunned by banks haul in the cash"

Rolling Stone October 15 "Afroman Releases 'Because I Got High' Remake to Support Pot Legalization"

NBC News (Tweet the Press) November 7th "The Fight for Legalizing Marijuana"

Daily Beast December 14 "Women are leading the way for Legalized Weed"

Television

CNN January 3rd "Crossfire"

MSNBC January 17 "Chuck Todd"

Fox News January 27th, "The Independents"

NBC July 11th, Meet the Press"

Russia Today November 7 "Legalization; What to Expect"

Sample Selection of Op/Eds and Letters to the Editor written by NORML

New Jersey Star Ledger February 10th, 2014 "Legalizing pot would be good for NJ"

US News & World Report February 26, 2014 "Alcohol is more dangerous than pot"

AlterNet April 13, 2014 "Violent crime drops where people have access to marijuana, study suggests"

Los Angeles Times, April 18, 2014 "Smoke weed, turn into a pothead? Not so fast"

New York Times June 30th, 2014 "A case for making marijuana legal and regulated"

Wall Street Journal July 12, 2014, "Marijuana as a therapeutic agent"

Denver Post August 23rd, 2014 "Teens aren't rats; Tell them the truth about pot"

Salon.com September 1st, 2014 "The government's giant marijuana deception"

Alaska Dispatch October 2nd, 2014 "Alaskans ought to vote 'yes' to regulate marijuana"

Vallejo Times Herald November 11, 2014 "The other mid-term election winner: Marijuana legalization"

Educational Outreach Efforts

NORML is the leading source for information on marijuana as a substance, its laws and related policy implications. In that capacity, NORML staff members are frequently invited to speak at National and local conferences, educational institutions, industry groups and legal panels, rallies and other forums, as well as to contribute content to peer-reviewed papers, and literary journals.

Appearances

The following is a list of speaker appearances by NORML staff members (Not including NORML conferences):

- **Eighth National Clinical Conference on Cannabis Therapeutics:** May 8th -Portland, OR
- **California DUI Lawyers Association 2014 Conference:** August 23rd – Fresno, CA
- **University of Central Florida:** March 12, March 26th, and Nov 19th - Orlando, FL
- **International Symposium on Medical Cannabis Therapeutics** (sponsored by Dartmouth University): Nov 8th – Hanover, NH
- **United We Stand Festival:** May 10, 2014 – Los Angeles
- **Boston Freedom Rally:** September 13-14 – Boston, MA
- **International Cannabis Conference:** June 22-24 – Las Vegas, NV
- **Seattle HempFest:** August 15-17 – Seattle, WA
- **Students for Sensible Drug Policy International Conference:** Sept 26-29 – Arlington, VA
- **Florida Cannabis Conference:** April 13 – Tampa FL
- **Indo Expo:** Nov 15-16 – Denver, CO
- **University of Maryland Medical School:** March 4th – Baltimore, MD
- **George Washington University:** Feb 27, law school April 25 – Washington DC
- **Thomas Jefferson Society Lecture (University of Virginia):** Sept 26th – Charlottesville, VA
- **High Times Cannabis Cup:** April 20th – Denver, CO
- **American University:** March 13, law school April 4th – Washington DC
- **Catholic University Law School:** February 3rd – Washington DC
- **University of the District of Columbia Law:** March 27th – Washington DC
- **University of Tampa:** February 24th – Tampa, FL
- **Oxford University (invited):** June 12th – Oxford, Great Britain
- **California DUI Lawyers Association 2014 Conference; DUI Drugs in the State Capitol:** Feb 22nd – Sacramento, CA



INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON
Medical Cannabis Therapeutics

NORML Events

Texas NORML Libertarian State Convention (April 11-14th)

Florida Cannabis Conference – USF NORML (April 13th)

Texas NORML Marijuana March – Texas NORML (May 3rd)

Toronto Canada NORML Conference – Toronto NORML (May 23-24th)

Texas Regional NORML Conference – DFW NORML (June 6-8)

Talking Hemp and Cannabis Tour – Northern WI NORML (June 7th)

Texas NORML Veteran’s Conference – Texas NORML (July 19th)

MMJ Expo for Tucson – AZ4NORML (August 30th)

Boston Freedom Rally – MassCann NORML (Sept 13-14)

Ohio NORML Harvest Festival - California NORML (Sept 26-28th)

Legalize It, Minnesota! Political Action Conference – MN NORML (Oct 18th)

2014 Virginia Cannabis Conference – Virginia NORML (Nov 1-2)

Fall 2014 Cannabis Conference – Missouri NORML (Nov 15)



NORML Legal Seminar



National NORML has been hosting semi-annual legal conferences for more than 35 years. These excellent seminars always feature outstanding speakers, and are fully accredited by all states that require Continuing Legal Education (CLE) credits for practicing attorneys.

This year the seminars took place May 29-31 at the Gant in Aspen Colorado, and December 4th-6th at the Pier House Resort in lovely Key West, Florida.



NORML PAC



The NORML PAC is the political arm of NORML that permits us to provide campaign contributions to office holders and candidates for public office who support NORML-friendly public policy and legislation. The following are contributions given in 2014.

Donations

Distributions to Candidates: **\$8,440**

Federal Contributions: \$6,100

Bonnie Watson Coleman for Congress (NJ): \$500

- Fearless PAC (Jared Polis, CO): \$500
- Beto O'Rourke for Congress (TX): \$500
 - Heck for Congress (WA): \$500
- Blumenauer for Congress (OR): \$500
 - Cohen for Congress (TN): \$500
 - Booker for Senate (NJ): \$500
- Grayson for Congress (FL): \$500
 - Irvin for Congress (MO): \$500
 - Bellows for Senate: \$600 (ME)
 - Ebbin for Congress: \$500 (VA)
- Committee to Re-Elect Congressman Rohrabacher: \$500 (CA)

State Contributions: \$2,340

Working Families PAC (Diane Russell, ME): \$250

- Zuckerberg for AG (DC): \$250
- Shumlin for Governor (VT): \$500
- Hanger for Governor: \$840 (PA)
- Kitzhaber for Governor: \$500 (OR)

Endorsements

Bonnie Watson Coleman for Congress

Rep. Earl Blumenaer for Congress (OR-03)

Rep. Steve Cohen for Congress (TN-9)

Rep. Beto O'Rourke for Congress (TX-16)

Rep. Denny Heck for Congress (WA-10)

Shenna Bellows for Senate (ME)

Cory Booker for Senate

Connie Johnson for Senate (OK)

Paul Zuckerberg for Attorney General (DC)

Mark Cohen for Pennsylvania State House



-NORML staff met individually with staff from
24 members of the US Congress.

-NORML staff assisted in the bill drafting of SB
686: Virginia Senate decriminalization bill.

NORML Testimony 2014

-Invited witness for the Nevada Advisory Commission of the Administration of Justice's Subcommittee on the Medical Use of Marijuana – August 21st, Las Vegas, NV.

-Philadelphia City Council: In support of 140001 (Decriminalization).

Passed 2014 Legalization Initiatives

Alaska

"An Act to Tax and Regulate the Production, Sale, and Use of Marijuana"

Allows a person age 21 and older to possess up to one ounce of marijuana and up to six plants. It also made the manufacture, sale and possession of marijuana paraphernalia legal.

*Passed with 53% of the vote.



Oregon

"Oregon Legalized Marijuana Initiative"

Allows possession, manufacture, sale of marijuana by/to adults, subject to state licensing, regulation, taxation.

*Passed with 56% of the vote



Washington DC

"Legalization of Possession of Minimal Amounts of Marijuana for Personal Use Act of 2014"

Allows for a person 21 years of age or older, under District of Columbia law to possess up to two ounces of marijuana for personal use, grow no more than six cannabis plants within the person's principal residence, and transfer without payment up to one ounce of marijuana to another person 21 years of age or older.

*Passed with 70% of the vote.



Enacted 2014 Legislation

Federal — 2014 Omnibus Farm Bill

Federal lawmakers included language in the 2014 omnibus Farm Bill authorizing states to sponsor industrial hemp research absent federal reclassification of the plant. The change in law allows for licensed farmers to legally grow hemp for the first time since World War II.

Federal – Federal Spending Bill (Rohrabacher-Farr Medical Marijuana Amendment)

Prohibits the Justice Department from spending any money to undermine state medical marijuana laws.

Colorado — SB 155

Earmarks up to \$10 million within the state's medical marijuana program fund to be utilized specifically to "gather objective scientific research regarding the efficacy of administering marijuana and its component parts as part of medical treatment." The law also establishes a 'scientific advisory council,' which may include expert participants from around the nation, to evaluate research proposals and make recommendations in regards to funding requests.

Connecticut — HB 5476

Calls on the three state agencies, the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Consumer Protection, and the Department of Economic and Community Development to evaluate the feasibility of legalizing the possession, production, and sale of industrial hemp "for the purpose of encouraging economic development and increasing the number of new businesses in this state.

District of Columbia - The Simple Possession of Small Quantities of Marijuana Decriminalization Amendment Act of 2013

Amends the District's marijuana possession penalties from a criminal misdemeanor (punishable by up to 6 months incarceration and a maximum fine of \$1,000) to a civil infraction (punishable by a \$25 fine).

District of Columbia - The Medical Marijuana Expansion Emergency Amendment Act of 2014

Amends the city's medical marijuana program so that DC-licensed doctors will be able to recommend cannabis therapy for any debilitating condition for which he or she believes the plant may offer therapeutic benefits.

Hawaii — SB 2175

Establishes a two-year pilot program at the University of Hawaii at Manoa to study the potential use of industrial hemp as a phytomediator (a plant capable of removing toxins from the soil) and as a biofuel.

Illinois — SB 2636

Amends the state's nascent medical marijuana law, initially approved in 2013, to allow for minors with intractable forms of the disease to be eligible to obtain and consume cannabis. Patients diagnosed with other qualifying conditions must be over the age of 18 to legally participate in the state's program.

Indiana – SB 357

Reclassifies cannabis possessing less than 0.3 percent THC as an industrial crop. It also seeks to establish licensing requirements and regulations governing the production of and commerce in hemp, as well as for the scientific study of the crop.

Maine – LD 1739

Expands the pool of those who can legally advise patients on the use of medicinal marijuana from physicians to 'medical providers' - a classification that includes certified nurse practitioners.

Maryland — SB 364

Amends existing penalties for marijuana possession offenses involving ten grams or less from a criminal misdemeanor (presently punishable by arrest, up to 90 days in jail, a \$500 fine, and a criminal record) to a non-arrestable, non-criminal fine-only offense (\$100 fine for first-time offenders, \$250 for second-time offenders).

Minnesota — SF 1641

State regulators intend to license two producers of cannabis and up to eight distribution centers. To be eligible to participate in the state's program, patients need to possess a physician's recommendation (or the recommendation from a nurse practitioner or a physician's assistant) and be diagnosed with one of eight qualifying conditions. The plan does not permit qualified patients to possess or obtain whole-plant cannabis. Instead, the law mandates that state-licensed distribution centers provide oils, pills, and/or extracts prepared from the plant. Patients are permitted to ingest or vaporize, but not smoke, these medical cannabis preparations.

Missouri — SB 491

Under the new law, the possession of ten grams or less of cannabis will be punishable by a fine only. The possession of greater quantities of cannabis will remain punishable by jail time.

Nebraska — LB 1001

Summary: Reclassifies industrial hemp as an agricultural product and allowing for state-sponsored research into the plant's cultivation. Under the new law, cannabis possessing not more than three-tenths of one percent THC is exempt from the state's controlled substances act.

New York — Compromised Medical Marijuana Measure

Under the plan, state regulators intend to license five producers of cannabis-based preparations and up to 20 dispensing centers. The plan does not permit qualified patients to possess or obtain whole-plant cannabis. Instead, the program mandates that state-licensed distribution centers provide oils, pills, and/or extracts prepared from the plant.

South Carolina — SB 839

Reclassifies cannabis possessing less than 0.3 percent THC as an industrial crop rather than a controlled substance. The legislation calls on the state Department of Agriculture to develop rules and regulations governing the licensed production of industrial hemp by South Carolina farmers.

Tennessee — SB 2495/HB 2445

Reclassifies cannabis possessing less than 0.3 percent THC as an industrial crop rather than a controlled substance.

Utah — HB 105

Under the program, the state Department of Agriculture may engage in the cultivation of cannabis containing no more than three-tenths of one percent THC for research purposes, including the study of whether extracts from the plant may be used as viable therapeutic agents. Separate provisions in the measure also seek to exempt qualified patients with intractable epilepsy from state prosecution if they possession extracted oils containing 15 percent or more of the nonpsychoactive cannabinoid cannabidiol.

Vermont — S 247

The measure increases the total quantity of cannabis these dispensaries may possess, and also removes a statutory provision limiting the number of patients that an authorized outlet may provide for. Other changes in the measure include allowing for naturopaths to recommend cannabis therapy and permitting licensed dispensaries to engage in home delivery to authorized patients.

Litigation in 2014

US v Pickard et al. US Federal District Court, Eastern District of California, Sacramento: October 25-30, 2014. NORML Deputy Director Paul Armentano served as principal investigator and trial consultant in this hearing. This was the first federal hearing in decades specific to the constitutionality of cannabis as a schedule I substance under federal law.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts v Matther Overmyer; Commonwealth of Massachusetts v Benjamin Cruz; and Commonwealth of Massachusetts v Anthony Craan. *Amicus Curiae* brief filed by NORML in each of these three cases consolidated on appeal. The issue was whether the smell of marijuana in an automobile, or the discovery of a small amount of marijuana in an automobile, provided probable cause for a search of the car or containers found in the passenger compartment, since the state adopted a non-criminal, civil fine only for possession of up to one ounce of marijuana.

Paul Gerlich and Erin Furleigh (ISU NORML) v Steven Leach, Warren Madden, Thomas Hill and Leesha Zimmerman (Iowa State University officials)

Two ISU students are currently suing ISU officials after the university denied the student NORML organization from using ISU logo in promotional materials, alleging a violation of their First Amendment rights.

State v. Osife and Darrah v. City of Mesa Prosecutor's Office, *Amicus Curiae* brief filed by NORML in both cases, challenging the constitutionality of the DUID marijuana *per se* law in Arizona.

Reed-Kaliher v. State of Arizona. *Amicus Curiae* brief filed by NORML, challenging the denial of medical marijuana to a registered patient while on release, parole or probation.

State v. Maestas. Filed Petition for Review with the AZ Supreme Court on the issue of whether a statute that amended the Arizona medical use law to prohibit possession by patients on university campuses is in violation of the Arizona Voter Protection Act, which is part of the Arizona Constitution.

Allard et al. v. Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada. NORML Deputy Director Paul Armentano filed an expert report in the case, which seeks to protect the rights of Canadian medical marijuana patients who choose to home cultivate their medicine.

NORML
LEGAL COMMITTEE

Links

Web: www.norml.org

Donate: www.norml.org/donate

Facebook: www.facebook.com/norml

Twitter: www.twitter.com/norml

YouTube: www.youtube.com/natlnorml

Know Your Rights: <http://norml.org/legal/your-rights>

Start a chapter: <http://norml.org/about/how-to-form-a-norml-chapter>

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By Sabrina Fendrick