



US Supreme Court Rejects Challenge To State Medical Marijuana Laws

Washington, DC, USA: The US Supreme Court declined to hear an appeal brought by a pair of Southern California counties that sought to challenge the legality of the state's medical marijuana laws. The Court's order lets stand a unanimous 2008 Fourth District CA Court of Appeals ruling that determined that state laws allowing for the medical use of cannabis by qualified patients "do not create a 'positive conflict' [with federal law.]"

In 2006, lawmakers from San Diego and San Bernardino filed suit against San Diego NORML and the state of California, arguing that federal anti-drug laws preempt the state's medical marijuana laws. Both the California Superior Court and the Court of Appeals had rejected the counties' legal arguments.

According to the American Civil Liberties Union, which represented San Diego NORML in the suit: "The Court's order ... hold[s] that state medical marijuana laws are entirely valid despite the federal prohibition on marijuana. ... The Court's order leaves ample room for states to move forward with

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California: Governor Says It's Time To Debate Legalizing Marijuana

Sacramento, CA, USA: Republican Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger announced this week that he believes that California legislators ought to publicly debate the merits of taxing and regulating the production and sale of cannabis for adults.

"I think it's time for a debate (regarding taxing and regulating the sale of cannabis for adults)," Schwarzenegger said. (*Note: his comments come at the very end of the video.) "I think all of those ideas of creating extra revenues, I'm always for an open debate on it. And I think we ought to study very carefully what other countries are doing that have legalized marijuana and other drugs, what effect did it have on those countries? ... It could very well be that everyone is happy with that decision and then we could look at that."

The Governor's remarks came less than one week after a Field Research Corporation poll of 901 registered voters reported that 56

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Rhode Island: Legislature Approves Medical Marijuana Distribution Centers

Providence, RI, USA: Members of the state House overwhelmingly approved legislation on Wednesday that seeks to make Rhode Island the second state to regulate the establishment of 'compassion centers' to provide medical marijuana to state-authorized patients.

As passed, House Bill 5359 mandates the Department of Health to establish rules governing the licensing of non-profit facilities "to acquire, possess, cultivate, manufacture, deliver, transfer, transport, supply, or dispense marijuana, or related supplies and educational materials, to registered qualifying patients."

The House approved the bill by a vote of 63 to 5. The Senate previously approved a companion bill, Senate Bill 185, by a vote of 35 to 2.

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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

----- Making contact -----

You can Snail Mail:

The W-V-NORML Newsletter team by writing to -

**P.O. Box 10957
Eugene, OR 97440**

E-mailing:

newsroom@willamettevalleynorml.org

or phoning: **541-517-0957**

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**

Today Willamette Valley NORML joins 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 REJECTS CHALLENGE, page 1 > enacting and implementing independent medical marijuana policies."

Commenting on the outcome, NORML Executive Director Allen St. Pierre said: "San Diego and San Bernardino's protracted lawsuits — lawsuits that arguably cost county taxpayers hundreds of thousands of dollars and jeopardized the health and safety of thousands, if not tens of thousands, of citizens — were not about resolving legal ambiguity. These cynical efforts were about the arrogance and recalcitrance of a few who were willing to abuse their political power to hamstring the will of the voters, the state legislature, and the courts." *For more information, please contact Keith Stroup, NORML Legal Counsel, at (202) 483-5500. The case is County of San Diego et al. v. San Diego NORML et al.*

<continued from RHODE ISLAND APPROVES MARIJUANA DISTRIBUTION, page 1 > The General Assembly overrode a gubernatorial veto to legalize the use of medical marijuana by qualified patients in January 2006. Republican Gov. Donald Carcieri is likely to also oppose this effort. However, lawmakers appear to have the votes to once again override the Governor's veto. *For more information, please visit: ripatients.org.*

<continued from CALIFORNIA: GOVERNOR URGES DEBATE, page 1 > percent of Californians agree with the statement: "Legalize marijuana for recreational use and tax its proceeds."

A separate Zogby poll of approximately 4,000 voters released this week indicates that just over half of Americans nationally support legalizing marijuana.

Current estimates indicate that California's budget deficit will grow to \$28 billion by the end of the 2009/2010 state budget year. In February, California Assemblyman Tom Ammiano introduced legislation — Assembly Bill 390: The Marijuana Control, Regulation and Education Act — to tax the commercial production and retail sale of cannabis.

A fiscal analysis of this proposal by the State Board of Equalization estimates that AB 390 could raise more than \$1.3 billion yearly in tax revenue for the state of California. Last week Oakland City Council members approved a 1.8 percent tax on medicinal marijuana sold by the city's four licensed dispensaries. Lawmakers believe that the tax could generate between \$400,000 and \$1 million annually for the city. The citywide measure will be decided upon by voters on July 21, 2009.

For more information, please contact Allen St. Pierre, NORML Deputy Director, at (202) 483-5500 or Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director, at: paul@norml.org.

Minnesota: Governor Vetoes Medical Marijuana Measure

Saint Paul, MN, USA: Republican Governor Tim Pawlenty vetoed legislation on Friday that sought to allow for the limited use of medical marijuana by qualified patients.

As passed by the legislature, the measure would have exempted patients with a diagnosed "terminal illness" from state arrest and prosecution for the use of marijuana under a physician's supervision. Under the proposal, authorized patients would *not* have been allowed to cultivate marijuana for medical purposes.

Lawmakers voted to limit the scope of the measure late last week in an attempt to avoid the Governor's veto.

In his veto statement Gov. Pawlenty wrote, "While I am sympathetic to those dealing with end-of-life illnesses and accompanying pain, I stand with law enforcement in opposition to this legislation."

Proponents of the measure have indicated that they may try to enact medical cannabis legislation via the passage of a constitutional amendment next year. *For more information, please visit: <http://www.minnesotacares.org>.*

Marijuana Smoking Not Associated With Cancers Of The Head Or Neck

Lyon, France: Smoking cannabis is not associated with an increased risk of developing cancers of the head and neck, according to the results of a case-control study published in the journal *Cancer Epidemiology Biomarkers & Prevention*.

An international team of investigators from France, the United States, Brazil, and Argentina assessed whether the "ever use" of marijuana was positively associated with head and neck cancers (HNC). Researchers pooled self-reported interview data on marijuana smoking and known HNC risk factors on 4,029 HNC cases and 5,015 controls. They reported that "infrequent marijuana smoking" was not associated with increased incidences of cancer.

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"The risk of HNC was not elevated by ever marijuana smoking and there was no increasing risk associated with increasing frequency, duration, or cumulative consumption of marijuana smoking," investigators concluded.

Several previous studies have similarly failed to report a link between cannabis use and cancer. Last year, researchers in New Zealand reported in the journal *Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery* that marijuana smoking, even long-term, was not associated with incidences of head or neck cancers.

In 2006, a UCLA study of more than 2,200 subjects (1,212 cases and 1,040 controls) reported that marijuana smoking was not positively associated with cancers of the lung or upper aerodigestive tract – even among individuals who reported smoking more than 22,000 joints during their lifetime.

Finally, a 1997 Kaiser Permanente retrospective cohort study of 65,171 men and women in California found that cannabis use was not associated with increased risks of developing tobacco-use related cancers – including lung cancer, breast cancer, prostate cancer, colorectal cancer, or melanoma.

Commenting on the latest study NORML Deputy Director Paul Armentano said: "The inhalation of cannabis smoke appears to present, at best, a nominal cancer risk – particularly when compared to tobacco smoke. This study is not newsworthy because its findings are anomalous; it is newsworthy because its findings are consistent with the existing literature in this field."

For more information, please contact Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director, at: paul@norml.org. Additional information on marijuana smoking and cancer risk is available in the online report, "Cannabis Smoke and Cancer: Assessing the Risk," at: http://www.norml.org/index.cfm?Group_ID=6891.

New Hampshire: Legislature Approves Physician-Supervised Use Of Medical Marijuana

Concord, NH, USA: Members of the state Senate approved legislation on Wednesday that seeks to make New Hampshire the fourteenth state to allow for the physician-supervised use of medicinal cannabis. As passed, the bill would allow qualified patients to possess up to two ounces of cannabis and/or six plants for medical purposes.

Because the Senate made minor amendments to the

proposal, it must be re-approved by the House before going to Gov. John Lynch – who has expressed reservations about the measure. *For more information, please visit http://nhcompassion.org or http://capwiz.com/norml2/issues/alert/?alertid=13244781.*

HIV/AIDS Patients Report Greater Subjective Relief From Cannabis Than From Legal Medications, Study Says

Boston, MA, USA: Patients living with HIV/AIDS report that medicinal cannabis is more effective at managing their symptoms than either prescription drugs or over-the-counter (OTC) medications, according to survey data published in the journal *Clinical Nursing Research*.

An international team of investigators assessed the use of cannabis as a self-care strategy for persons living with HIV/AIDS for six common symptoms: anxiety, depression, fatigue, diarrhea, nausea, and peripheral neuropathy (nerve pain).

Of the 775 subjects interviewed with HIV/AIDS over a two-year period, 27 percent said that they used marijuana therapeutically.

Researchers reported: "Marijuana use was rated slightly more effective than antidepressants for anxiety and depression, imodium for diarrhea, OTC medications for fatigue, and anti-epileptics and OTC medications for neuropathy."

Investigators said that patients rated cannabis as "slightly less effective for nausea than either prescribed or OTC medications."

Overall, HIV/AIDS patients reported experiencing slightly greater effectiveness from marijuana than they did legal alternatives.

"The results of this study indicate that marijuana ... is perceived by users as at least as effective as prescribed medications in symptom management," they concluded.

In 2007, investigators at Columbia University in New York published clinical trial data finding that inhaled cannabis substantially increased HIV/AIDS patients' food intake at rates comparable to or more effective than oral THC (Marinol).

Commenting on the latest study, NORML Deputy Director Paul Armentano said, "At a minimum <continued on next page>

<continued from previous page> inhaled cannabis is at least as effective at mitigating common HIV/AIDS-related symptoms as are legal medications, and in some cases, patients report obtaining superior relief from marijuana. Patients should not have to risk arrest and imprisonment for using this safe and effective therapeutic agent." *For more information, please contact Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director, at: paul@norml.org. Full text of the study, "Marijuana effectiveness as an HIV self-care strategy," appears in Clinical Nursing Research.*

Marijuana Viewed As An Alternative Treatment Option By Teens, Study Says

Vancouver, British Columbia, CAN: An estimated one-third of adolescents view their use of marijuana as therapeutic rather than recreational, according to survey data published online by the journal *Substance Abuse, Treatment, Prevention and Policy*.

Investigators at the University of British Columbia conducted structured interviews with over 60 adolescents age 13 to 18 about their cannabis use. Participants who said that they used marijuana "to help them feel better" were asked to elaborate further on their experience.

Approximately one-third of those surveyed "explicitly described experiences of using marijuana on a regular basis specifically to manage, reduce or eliminate unpleasant and uncomfortable feelings or other health problems. They constructed marijuana as a treatment for health problems, often suggesting that it had significantly greater benefit than other medical treatments they had been offered," such as prescription medications like Ritalin, Prozac, or sleeping pills.

Investigators noted that none of the young people surveyed in the study were legally provided marijuana for medical treatment.

Teens most commonly reported using cannabis therapeutically to counter symptoms of depression, stress and anxiety, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), physical pain, and sleeplessness.

Investigators concluded: "The findings of this study provide one of the first in-depth descriptions of youths' use of marijuana for non-recreational purposes, adding to the growing body of research on the use of drugs to self-medicate among young people. Teens involved in regular and long-term use of marijuana for relief constructed their use of marijuana as essential to feeling better or 'normal' in

situations. They added, "For these youth, the purpose of smoking marijuana was not specifically about getting high or stoned, nor was marijuana used for 'pleasure. Young people's descriptions of marijuana use for relief were imbued with language common to using pharmaceuticals. A number of these youth indicated how they carefully titrated their intake; others described their use as 'moderate,' involving a 'few puffs,' or just a 'certain amount.' ... In fact, participants tended to differentiate their own use from peers who were recreational users."

For more information, please contact either Allen St. Pierre, NORML Executive Director, at (202) 483-5500 or Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director, at: paul@norml.org. Full text of the study is available online at: <http://www.substanceabusepolicy.com/content/4/1/7>.

More Americans Misusing Illicit Painkillers For The First Time Than Trying Pot, Study Says

Washington, DC, USA: More Americans report misusing prescription opioids than trying pot, according to a study released last week by the National Drug Intelligence Center (NDIC) and the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA).

According to the report, a record 2.15 million Americans over age 12 reported misusing prescription pain relievers for the first time in 2007 (the last year for which data was available). By comparison, the study found that 2.1 million Americans reported using cannabis for the first time.

The study reported that the total number of unintentional deaths involving prescription opioids increased 114 percent from 3,994 in 2001 to 8,541 in 2005, the most recent year for which nationwide data was available.

Violent crime associated with the diversion and abuse of pharmaceutical painkillers has increased steadily over the past five years, the study's authors found. Researchers concluded that Americans' misuse of prescription opioids now costs taxpayers over \$72 billion annually.

Commenting on the new report, NORML Executive Director Allen St. Pierre said, "Were U.S. drug policy to be guided on science and objective harms rather than on ideology and cultural stereotypes, it is clear that the focus of America's so-called 'war' on drugs would be on Americans' widespread

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<continued from previous page> misuse of potentially deadly pharmaceuticals rather than on adults' occasional use of a relatively nontoxic plant that is incapable of causing human overdose."

For more information, please contact Allen St. Pierre, NORML Executive Director, at (202) 483-5500 or Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director, at: paul@norml.org. Full text of the report, *The National Prescription Drug Threat Assessment*, is available online at: <http://www.usdoj.gov/ndic/pubs33/33775/index.htm>

Last Chance To Register For NORML's Fourth Annual Aspen Legal Seminar

Washington, DC, USA: NORML is still accepting registrations from criminal defense attorneys and the general public for its fourth annual Aspen Legal Seminar. This year's event will take place **Friday, June 5** and **Saturday, June 6** at the Gant Hotel and Resort in downtown Aspen, Colorado – one of the nation's most marijuana-friendly cities.

Speakers at this year's conference include: Gerald Goldstein, past president of the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (NACDL) and legal counsel for the late-Hunter S. Thompson; famed San Francisco attorney Tony Serra; Jeralyn Merritt, television legal analyst for MSNBC and host of the popular website TalkLeft.com; paraphernalia law specialist Robert Vaughn; NORML Executive Director **Allen St. Pierre**; and NORML Deputy Director **Paul Armentano**.

Topics include: the use of cannabis as a religious sacrament, a review of cannabis pharmacokinetics and drug testing, and proper ways to establish a legal medical marijuana dispensary and other cannabis-related businesses.

Social events at this year's conference include an opening night reception and a Saturday night benefit party, catered by Chris Lanter, chef at the popular Aspen restaurant *Cache Cache*.

Due to the popularity of this year's event, rooms at the host hotel are now **sold out**. However, there are plenty of affordable alternative accommodations nearby.

Conference agenda, registration information and alternative accommodations for the 2009 Aspen Legal Seminar is available online at: http://www.norml.org/index.cfm?Group_ID=6823.

Cannabis Use Associated With Greater Adherence To Heroin Treatment, Study Says

New York, NY, USA: Drug treatment subjects who use cannabis intermittently are more likely to adhere to treatment for opioid dependence, according to clinical trial data to be published in the July/August issue of the *American Journal on Addictions*.

Investigators at the New York State Psychiatric Institute examined a previously observed association between moderate cannabis use and improved retention in naltrexone treatment among subjects in an inpatient detoxification program.

Naltrexone is an opioid receptor antagonist that is commonly prescribed in the management of heroin dependence, as well as for the management of alcoholism.

Researchers reported: "Intermittent cannabis users showed superior retention in naltrexone treatment, compared to abstinent or consistent users. ... Intermittent cannabis use was also associated with greater adherence to naltrexone pill-taking. ... The association between moderate cannabis use and improved retention on naltrexone treatment was replicated."

Commenting on the study, NORML Deputy Director Paul Armentano said: "Rather than imply that marijuana is a 'gateway' to the use of other illicit drugs, this study shows that cannabis can be a useful tool to assist addicts kick their dependency to heroin, morphine, and other opioids."

For more information, please contact Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director, at: paul@norml.org. Full text of the study, "Intermittent marijuana use is associated with improved retention in naltrexone treatment for opiate-dependence," will appear in the *American Journal on Addiction*.

Former Mexican President Calls For Drug Legalization Debate

Mexico City, Mexico: Former Mexican President Vicente Fox has called for an international debate regarding the criminal prohibition of cannabis and other drugs.

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"I believe it's time to open the debate over legalizing drugs," Fox told CNN on Wednesday. "It can't be that the only way (to control illicit drug use) is for the state to use force."

Fox said that such a debate "must be done in conjunction with the United States."

Last month, Mexico's ambassador to the United States Arturo Sarukhan told CBS's Face the Nation that legalizing marijuana could potentially quell ongoing border violence. "This (legalization) is a debate that needs to be taken seriously – that we have to engage in on both sides of the border," he said.

Two weeks ago, Mexican lawmakers enacted legislation to decriminalize the possession of small quantities of controlled substances. The measure awaits approval from Mexican President Felipe Calderon.

According to the *Associated Press*, Mexican drug cartels now derive an estimated 60 percent of their income from illicit pot sales.

In February, a commission of former Latin American presidents – including ex-Mexican president Ernesto Zedillo – called for the removal of penalties regarding the personal possession and use of cannabis, stating, "The problem is that current (anti-drug) policies are based on prejudices and fears and not on results."

U.S. government officials have dismissed calls to debate the merits of regulating adult marijuana use, maintaining that the option is "not on the table." *For more information, please contact Allen St. Pierre, NORML Executive Director, at: (202) 483-5500.*

Legalizing Marijuana Tops White House 'Citizens Briefing Book'

Washington, DC, USA: Legalizing marijuana use for adults is the top policy question, as voted on by the American public, in White House's first-ever 'Citizens Briefing Book,' issued by the Obama administration on Wednesday.

The 'Briefing Book' tabulated Americans' online votes on over 44,000 different public policy questions. The proposals were posted on the Change.gov website (now whitehouse.gov) in January.

Some 125,000 Americans participated in the White Houses' online poll, casting over 1.4 million votes.

Proposals were awarded ten points for each positive vote.

Based on the total number of points received, ending the criminal prohibition of marijuana ranked as the most popular issue, receiving 92,970 points. Halting the use of "federal resources to undermine states' medical marijuana laws" ranked as the third most popular issue, receiving 66,170 points.

In response to a similar White House online poll question in December 2008, a spokesperson for the Obama administration commented, "President ... Obama is not in favor of the legalization of marijuana."

Last week, a national Zogby poll of 3,937 voters commissioned by conservative-leaning O'Leary Report found that a slight majority of Americans – 52 percent – favor legalizing marijuana. The poll marks the first time that a majority of the public has expressed support for pot legalization in a nationwide telephone poll. *For more information, please contact Allen St. Pierre, NORML Executive Director, at: (202) 483-5500.*

Mexican Congress Passes Drug Decriminalization Measure

Mexico City, Mexico: Mexican lawmakers enacted legislation last week to decriminalize the possession of small quantities of controlled substances. The measure now goes to Mexican President Felipe Calderon for his approval.

As passed, the proposal would eliminate criminal penalties for the personal possession of up to five grams of marijuana, as well as minor quantities of other drugs.

The legislation also authorizes state and local police to enforce drug trafficking laws. Under current law, only federal police (about five percent of Mexico's law enforcement personnel) may arrest individuals suspected of selling drugs.

In 2006, Mexico's Congress passed a virtually identical measure, only to have it vetoed by former President Vicente Fox, who stated, "Congress ... [needs] ... to make it absolutely clear in our country [that] the possession of drugs and their consumption [is], and will continue to be, a criminal offense." Fox's veto came after political pressure from members of the US State Department who warned that enacting such a law could promote so-called "drug tourism."

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

<continued from previous page> Last month, Mexico's ambassador to the United States Arturo Sarukhan told CBS's Face the Nation that legalizing marijuana could potentially quell ongoing border violence. "This (legalization) is a debate that needs to be taken seriously – that we have to engage in on both sides of the border," he said.

However after meeting with Calderon days later, United States government officials said that the option of the US liberalizing its pot laws is "not on the table." The White House instead proposed increased efforts to curb domestic drug demand, and also called for expanding the use of 'drug courts' and coerced drug treatment.

According to the *Associated Press*, Mexican drug cartels now derive an estimated 60 percent of their income from illicit pot sales. *For more information, please contact Allen St. Pierre, NORML Executive Director, at (202) 483-5500.*

Maine: Lawmakers Expand Marijuana Decriminalization Law

Augusta, ME, USA: Democrat Gov. John Baldacci signed legislation on Friday expanding the state's longstanding marijuana 'decriminalization' law.

Under current law, possession of up to 1.25 ounces of marijuana is treated as an infraction, punishable by a fine of no more than \$600. Defendants who possess greater amounts are presumed to be engaging in the sale of cannabis and face criminal penalties and potential jail time.

The newly approved legislation (LD 250) states that the possession of over 1.25 ounces but less than 2.5 ounces of marijuana will also be defined as a civil offense, punishable by a fine of \$700 to \$1,000 dollars. (Civil fines for the possession of less than 1.25 ounces of marijuana will remain the same.) The new law also removes the inference that the possession of quantities of marijuana above 1.25 ounces but less than 2.5 ounces is presumed to be for sale.

*** NOTE! The Willamette Valley NORML Public meeting * Happens every 4th Sat. of the month and will be at h'ERb'S Toasted Subs, 1210 Willamette St, Eugene call: 541.517-0957 -or- visit: <http://WillametteValleyNORML.org>**



It's One Hell of A Joint!

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"Maine's new law will save prosecutorial resources and it makes common sense," NORML Executive Director Allen St. Pierre said. "It is expensive and illogical to presume that minor marijuana offenders are criminal traffickers. Kudos to the Maine legislature and to the Governor for supporting this effort to revise the state's longstanding cannabis decriminalization law."

The new law takes effect 90 days following adjournment of the state legislature.

To date, 13 states – including Massachusetts, Mississippi, Nebraska, and Ohio – have enacted versions of marijuana decriminalization, replacing criminal penalties and jail time for the personal possession of cannabis with the imposition of nominal fines. Only one state, Ohio, treats the possession of more than 2.5 ounces of cannabis as a fine-only (no jail) offense.

For more information, please contact Allen St. Pierre, NORML Executive Director, at, (202) 483-5500.