



Marijuana Legalization Wins Big On Election Day Neither Measure Amends The States' Existing Medical Marijuana Laws

Washington, DC, USA: Voters on Election Day expressed unprecedented support for removing criminal penalties for cannabis consumers.

Voters in Colorado and Washington approved ballot measures allowing for the personal possession and consumption of cannabis by adults. In **Colorado**, [55 percent](#) of voters decided in favor of [Amendment 64](#), which allows for the legal possession of up to one ounce of marijuana and/or the cultivation of up to six cannabis plants in private by those persons age 21 and over. In **Washington**, [55 percent](#) of voters similarly decided in favor of [Initiative 502](#), removes criminal penalties specific to the adult possession of up to one ounce of cannabis for personal use (as well as the possession of up to 16 ounces of marijuana-infused product in solid form, and 72 ounces of marijuana-infused product in liquid form.) Both measures will take effect in approximately 30 days.

<continued on page 3 >

Prosecutors In Colorado And Washington Continue To Dismiss Marijuana Cases

Denver, CO, USA: Prosecutors throughout Colorado and Washington [continue to dismiss](#) hundreds of pending misdemeanor marijuana possession cases. Late last week, Denver District Attorney Mitch Morrissey and City Attorney Doug Friednash [announced](#) that they would cease pressing charges

<continued on page 3 >

New York City: Those Arrested For Minor Pot Offenses Unlikely To Subsequently Commit Violent Crimes

New York, NY, USA: Arresting and prosecuting low level marijuana offenders in New York City has little or no long-term impact on law enforcement efforts to reduce violent crime, according to a [study](#) released on Friday by [Human Rights Watch](#), an international advocacy

<continued on page 5 >

Massachusetts: NORML Files Friend Of Court Brief - Argues That Sharing A Marijuana Cigarette Is Not Criminal Distribution

Boston, MA, USA: Members of the [NORML Legal Committee](#) (NLC) have filed a friend-of-the-court [amicus brief](#) in the case of [Commonwealth v. Antonio Pacheco](#), scheduled for oral argument in the Massachusetts

<continued on page 4 >

Poll: Majority Of Americans Under Age 65 Support Legalizing Marijuana

Washington, DC, USA: A majority of Americans age 65 and under favor legalizing the personal possession of cannabis, according to a nationwide [poll](#) of 1,023 adults commissioned by *The Washington Post* and ABC News. Among respondents between the ages of 18 and 29, 55

<continued on page 5 >



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**

Willamette Valley NORML is your local network in 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 MARIJUANA LEGALIZATION WINS BIG ON ELECTION DAY, page 1 > Longer-term, both Amendment 64 and I-502 seek to establish statewide regulations governing the commercial production and distribution of marijuana by licensed retailers. State regulators have up to a year to complete the rulemaking process regarding the commercial production, sale, and taxation of cannabis.

Neither measure amends the states' existing medical marijuana laws.

Commenting on the historic votes, NORML Deputy Director Paul Armentano said: "Amendment 64 and Initiative 502 provide adult cannabis consumers with unprecedented legal protections. Until now, no state law has defined cannabis as a legal commodity. Some state laws do provide for a legal exception that allows for certain qualified patients to possess specific amounts of cannabis as needed. But, until today, no state in modern history has classified cannabis itself as a legal product that may be lawfully possessed and consumed by adults."

Armentano continued: "The passage of these measures strikes a significant blow to federal cannabis prohibition. Like alcohol prohibition before it, marijuana prohibition is a failed federal policy that delegates the burden of enforcement to the state and local police. Alcohol prohibition fell when a sufficient number of states enacted legislation repealing the state's alcohol prohibition laws. With state police and prosecutors no longer engaging in the federal government's bidding to enforce an unpopular law, the federal government had little choice but to abandon the policy altogether. History is now repeating itself."



Voters in several additional states also decided on various statewide and local measures specific to cannabis. In **Massachusetts**, [63 percent](#) of voters approved [Question 3](#), which eliminates statewide criminal and civil penalties related to the possession and use of up to a 60-day supply of cannabis by qualified patients. It also requires the state to create and regulate up to 35 facilities to produce and dispense cannabis to approved patients. Massachusetts is the 18th state since 1996 to authorize the physician-recommended use of cannabis.

Massachusetts voters in over 40 municipalities - representing approximately one-fifth of the

electorate - also voted [overwhelmingly](#) in favor of local public policy questions in favor of ending the criminalization of cannabis for adults. Voters in Burlington, Vermont also [passed](#) a similar non-binding legalization measure.

In **Michigan**, voters in four cities - totaling over a million people - also decided on Election Day to legalize or depenalize the adult use of cannabis. Voters in **Detroit** [approved Proposal M](#), removing local criminal penalties pertaining to the possession on private property of up to one ounce of marijuana by adults over age 21. In **Flint**, voters [approved](#) a citizens' initiative to amend the city code so that the possession on private property of up to one ounce of marijuana or cannabis paraphernalia by those age 19 or older is no longer a criminal offense. **Grand Rapids** voters [approved](#) Proposal 2 to allow local law enforcement the discretion to ticket first-time marijuana offenders with a civil citation, punishable by a \$25 fine and no criminal record. In **Ypsilanti**, voters [decided](#) on a municipal proposal to make the local enforcement of marijuana possession offenses the city's lowest law enforcement priority.

Not every marijuana law reform measure was successful at the ballot box. Only [45 percent](#) of Oregonians approved [Measure 80](#), the Oregon Cannabis Tax Act, which sought to allow for the state-licensed production and retail sale of cannabis to adults. In Arkansas, voters [narrowly](#) (49 percent to 51 percent) rejected [Measure 5](#), The Arkansas Medical Marijuana Act of 2012, which sought to authorize the state-licensed distribution of medical marijuana. In Montana, voters [approved](#) Initiated Referendum 124, which affirms legislative [restrictions](#) to the state's 2004 voter-approved medical cannabis law. *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. SOURCE = <http://norml.org/news/2012/11/08/marijuana-legalization-wins-big-on-election-day>*

<continued from PROSECUTORS IN COLORADO AND WASHINGTON CONTINUE TO DISMISS MARIJUANA CASES, page 1 > and would review pending criminal cases involving minor cannabis possession offenses. Their announcement came one day after Boulder County District Attorney Stan Garnett [announced he would dismiss](#) pending cases that involved less than an ounce of marijuana. Fifty-five percent of Colorado voters on Election Day approved [Amendment 64](#), which allows for the legal possession of up to one

<continued on next page>

<continued from previous page> ounce of marijuana and/or the cultivation of up to six cannabis plants in private by those persons age 21 and over. The law will likely take effect the first week of January.



Prosecutors throughout Washington are also dismissing criminal charges against minor marijuana offenders. Most recently, prosecutors in Thurston County and Olympia [announced](#) that they would be dismissing all pending criminal cases involving the possession of one ounce or less of marijuana.

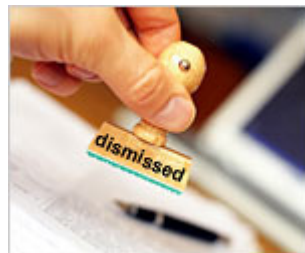
Thurston and Olympia County prosecutors join officials in several other Washington counties -- including two of the state's largest counties: [King County](#) and [Pierce County](#) -- as well as [Clark County](#) and [Spokane](#), all of which have dismissed or are preparing to dismiss pending cannabis cases from the docket. *For more information, please contact Allen St. Pierre, NORML Executive Director, at (202) 483-5500, or Keith Stroup, NORML Legal Counsel, at: keith@norml.org.*

Prosecutors Dismissing Cannabis Charges Ahead Of New Legalization Laws

Seattle, WA, USA: County prosecutors in Washington [dismissed several hundred](#) misdemeanor marijuana possession cases this week. Their decision came days after state voters approved [Initiative 502](#), which removes criminal penalties specific to the adult possession of up to one ounce of cannabis for personal use (as well as the possession of up to 16 ounces of marijuana-infused product in solid form, and 72 ounces of marijuana-infused product in liquid form.) The law is set to take effect on December 6, 2012.

"Although the effective date of I-502 is not until December 6, there is no point in continuing to seek criminal penalties for conduct that will be legal next month," King County Prosecutor Dan Satterberg [told](#) *The Seattle Times*. "I think when the people voted to change the policy, they weren't focused on when the effective date of the new policy would be. They spoke loudly and clearly that we should not treat small amounts of marijuana as an offense."

In Colorado, where voters on Election Day also



passed a marijuana legalization measure, [Amendment 64](#), some county prosecutors are [similarly dismissing](#) pending criminal cases specific to cannabis possession. Amendment 64 is anticipated to go into effect next month.

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.

<continued from MASSACHUSETTS: NORML FILES FRIEND OF COURT BRIEF, page 1 > Supreme Judicial Court (SJC) at [9:00 AM](#) on Thursday December 6, 2012 in Boston. NORML's brief was filed in response to the SJC's invitation for amicus briefs on the question of "whether the sharing of a non-criminal quantity of marijuana for the purpose of smoking it constitutes unlawful distribution of the substance." In its brief, NORML argues that cannabis prohibition is irrational and unconstitutional because it fails to achieve the legitimate objectives previously identified by the court in dismissing constitutional challenge.

Prepared and filed by NLC members Michael D. Cutler of Northampton and Steven S. Epstein of Georgetown, the amicus is a "Brandeis Brief." It presents the sociological and electoral data demonstrating that a growing majority of Americans and Bay State voters support replacing prohibition with regulations controlling it like alcoholic beverages. It also presents peer-reviewed research demonstrating that criminalizing cannabis has had no effect on the rate of marijuana or availability (by adults and adolescents), the rate of psychosis, the use of harder drugs, or dangerous driving.



States NORML's brief: "This case raises the issue of whether this Court should expand the scope of the evaporating policy of criminal marijuana prohibition, in the face of that policy's consistent rejection by a growing majority of state voters to threaten criminal prosecution for sharing a marijuana joint. NORML urges the SJC to reject the prosecution of adults sharing marijuana as a matter of rationality, history and voting public's unambiguous rejection of marijuana prohibition."

NORML's brief supplements the arguments of Antonio Pacheco's counsel as well as those presented in a separate amicus filed by the Civil Liberties Union of Massachusetts, which also urges

<continued on next page>

<continued from previous page> the SJC to conclude such sharing cannabis is protected activity under [the law](#). Also scheduled for argument on December 6 are two additional cases involving cannabis: [Commonwealth v. Clint Daniel](#) (Does odor of burnt marijuana furnish police reasonable suspicion of criminal conduct justifying exit order and search?) and [Commonwealth v. Kenneth Palmer](#) (Does decriminalized possession of one ounce or less of marijuana also criminal sanctions imposed for the cultivation of an ounce or less of marijuana?) For more information, please contact Michael Cutler of the NORML Legal Committee at (617) 816-6056 or via e-mail at: Cutler@EvansCutler.com.

<continued from NEW YORK CITY: THOSE ARRESTED FOR MINOR POT OFFENSES UNLIKELY TO SUBSEQUENTLY COMMIT VIOLENT CRIMES, page 1 > organization that focuses on human rights violations worldwide.

The study's authors reviewed data from the New York Department of Criminal Justice Services. They tracked the criminal records of nearly 30,000 people who had no prior convictions when they were arrested for marijuana possession in public view [NY State Penal Law 221.10] in 2003 and 2004. Researchers assessed whether those arrested for minor marijuana violations engaged in additional, more serious criminal activity in the years following their arrest.



They [reported](#): "[W]e found that 3.1 percent of [marijuana arrestees] were subsequently convicted of one violent felony offense during the six-and-a-half to eight-and-a-half years that our research covers; 0.4 percent had two or more violent felony convictions. That is, 1,022 persons out of the nearly 30,000 we tracked had subsequent violent felony convictions. Ninety percent (26,315) had no subsequent felony convictions of any kind."

New York City police arrest more people for possessing small amounts of marijuana in public view than for any other offense, the study found. Between 1996 and 2011, police made more than half-a-million (586,320) arrests for this misdemeanor, including a total of around 100,000 in just the 2 years of 2010 and 2011. Of those arrested, the [overwhelming majority](#) are either Black or Latino and under 25 years of age.

Investigators concluded: "[T]he rate of felony and violent felony conviction among this group of first-time marijuana arrestees appears to be lower than

the rate of felony conviction for the national population, taking into account age, gender, and race. ... Neither our findings nor those of other researchers indicate the arrests are an efficient or fair means for identifying future dangerous felons."

Under New York state [law](#), the private possession of up to 25 grams of marijuana is a non-criminal civil citation, punishable by a \$100 fine. By contrast, the possession of any amount of cannabis in public view is a criminal misdemeanor.

In June, Democrat Gov. Andrew Cuomo [urged lawmakers](#) to close the 'public view' loophole. That effort was ultimately quashed by, Senate majority leader, Republican Dean Skelos, who [argued](#), "Being able to just walk around with ten joints in each ear, and it only be a violation, I think that's wrong."

In October, Gov. Cuomo reiterated his support for amending the state's marijuana laws. Speaking at the New York State Trooper Class of 2012 graduation ceremony, Cuomo [said](#) that he "would not consider" convening a special legislative session unless lawmakers were willing to consider reforms to reduce New York City's skyrocketing marijuana arrest rates.

For more information, please contact Allen St. Pierre, NORML Executive Director, at (202) 483-5500. Full text of the study, "A Red Herring: Marijuana Arrestees Do Not Become Violent Felons," is available online at: <http://www.hrw.org/reports/2012/11/23/red-herring-0>.

<continued from POLL: MAJORITY OF AMERICANS UNDER AGE 65 SUPPORT LEGALIZING MARIJUANA, page 1 > percent favored legalization (versus 45 percent opposed). Among those ages 30 to 49, 51 percent approved of legalizing cannabis (versus 47 percent opposed). Of those respondents between the ages of 50 and 64, 52 percent supported legalization (versus 47 percent opposed).

By contrast, only 30 percent of those surveyed age 65 or older said that they believed that small amounts of cannabis ought to be legal. Sixty-seven percent of those age 65 and older opposed legalization.

Overall, the survey reported that 48 percent of respondents backed legalization while 50 percent opposed the idea. Commenting on the poll results, NORML Deputy Director Paul Armentano said, "The generational nature of these poll results indicates

<continued on next page>

<continued from previous page>

that overall public support for ending cannabis prohibition will only grow greater in the years ahead. Those political officials who continue to support the criminalization of cannabis and cannabis consumers are, in the not so distant future, going to find themselves on the wrong side of history."



Gender and ethnicity also influenced one's support for legalization, the poll found. Men were more likely than women (by a margin of seven percent) to endorse legalizing cannabis, while Hispanics were largely unsupportive of the idea - with 65 percent opposing legalization.

The Washington Post/ABC News poll was conducted November 7 to 11 among a random national sample of 1,023 adults, using conventional and cellular phones. The survey results have a margin of sampling error of plus or minus 3.5 percentage points.

Separate nationwide polls by [Gallup](#) and [others](#) have previously reported greater public support in favor of legalizing and regulating cannabis. Most recently, an October 2012 national [poll](#) conducted by Huffington Post and YouGov reported that 59 percent of Americans endorsed legalizing marijuana. *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.*

and 64 were most likely (57 percent) to say that cannabis was less harmful than booze. Overall, respondents were [evenly divided](#) on the question of whether cannabis should be legalized. Forty-five percent of those surveyed answered affirmatively and forty-five percent opposed the idea. (Ten percent were undecided.) Male respondents (51 percent) were far more likely to support legalization than females (39 percent). Male respondents also were more likely than women to admit to having consumed cannabis. According to the survey, 15 percent of men versus only six percent of women acknowledged having "smoked marijuana within the past year."

A majority of respondents believed that cannabis policy is best left up to the individual states. Sixty percent of those surveyed said that state governments "should decide whether marijuana is legal in a state." Only 27 percent of those surveyed said that this decision should be left up to the federal government.

The Rasmussen survey was conducted on November 9 and 10. The survey results have a margin of sampling error of plus or minus 3.5 percentage points.

A May 2012 Rasmussen [telephone poll](#) reported that 58 percent of Americans believe that the personal use of marijuana should no longer be a criminal offense, and that 56 percent of Americans think the substance ought to be legalized like alcohol. *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.*

Rasmussen: Americans Believe Alcohol To Be More Dangerous Than Pot

Asbury Park, NJ, USA:

Twice as many Americans with an opinion say that alcohol is more dangerous than cannabis, according to a nationwide Rasmussen telephone poll of 1,000 adults.



Fifty-one percent of respondents said that they believed that alcohol "is more dangerous" than marijuana. Only 24 percent of respondents believed that cannabis posed greater dangers than booze. Another 24 percent of respondents were undecided.

By gender, 54 percent of men said that alcohol was more dangerous than cannabis, versus 49 percent of women. Male respondents between the ages of 40

Case Report: Inhaled Cannabis Controls Convulsions In Epileptics

San Francisco, CA, USA: Cannabis inhalation is associated with significantly reduced incidences of convulsions in a pair of epileptic patients, according to a forthcoming [case report](#) in the journal *Epilepsy & Behavior*.

Investigators at the University of California, Epilepsy Center summarized the cannabis use history of a 43-year-old subject and a 60-year-old subject, both of whom suffered from severe epileptic seizures.

In the first subject, cannabis inhalation reportedly reduced the frequency of nighttime seizures from an average of five-to-six per evening to an average of one-to-two.

<continued on next page>

<continued from previous page> After the subject ceased using cannabis, the subject experienced ten evening seizures. Following dosing with oral cannabis, the subject subsequently reported only a single nighttime seizure.

The second subject reported inhaling six-to-eight cannabis cigarettes daily. Upon cessation of his cannabis use, the subject experienced five seizures in a 12-hour period.

Neither subject responded favorably to conventional anticonvulsant treatments.

Authors concluded, "These cases ... suggest that, for at least a subset of patients with focal epilepsy, marijuana use may provide an anticonvulsant effect. We believe this possibility warrants further study."



To date, only two small double-blinded placebo-controlled studies are available in the scientific literature assessing the use of cannabinoids in patients with epilepsy. In both studies, the subjects received daily doses of oral [cannabidiol](#) (CBD), a non-psychoactive compound of cannabis. In one study, CBD administration over a 30-day period was associated with [a significant reduction](#) in convulsions in 7 out of 8 patients. However, a second study reported no significant change in seizure frequency among epileptic subjects. *For more information, please contact Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director, at: paul@norml.org. Full text of the study, "Seizure exacerbation in two patients with focal epilepsy following marijuana cessation," will appear in *Epilepsy & Behavior*.*

DC Court Hears Rescheduling Appeal, Requests More Info, ASA Submits Brief on Patients' Right to Sue in Landmark Federal Case

On October 16, the federal appeals court for the D.C. Circuit heard oral arguments in *Americans for Safe Access v. Drug Enforcement Administration*, a legal challenge to the government's contention that cannabis has no medical use.

The panel of three federal judges focused on the question of legal standing, whether the named plaintiffs in the lawsuit have a right to sue the government because they were directly injured by the current classification. Following the oral arguments, the court requested additional briefing

on the harm sustained by plaintiff and disabled U.S. Air Force veteran Michael Krawitz as a result of the federal government's policy on medical marijuana. Krawitz, a disabled veteran, was denied treatment by the US Department of Veterans Affairs because he was using cannabis on the advice of a physician to treat pain, trauma and an eye disease. That forced him to pay out of his own pocket for medical care to which he would otherwise be entitled through the VA. The VA has a policy of denying pain management care to anyone who uses cannabis.

"The court's request for clarification is a sign that this case is being taken very seriously," said ASA Chief Counsel Joe Elford, who argued the case. "The experience of plaintiff Michael Krawitz being denied treatment by the Department of Veterans Affairs is real and emblematic of many other patients caught up in the federal government's harmful policy on medical marijuana."

ASA argues that the DEA acted arbitrarily and capriciously in ignoring scientific evidence of the commonly employed therapeutic uses of cannabis. The suit contends that the federal government's intransigence is keeping cannabis out of reach for millions of Americans who would otherwise benefit from its therapeutic value.

The previous legal challenge to the classification of cannabis was rejected by the D.C. Circuit in 2002 after the court concluded the plaintiffs lacked legal standing to bring the suit. No medical cannabis patients were part of that case. *Americans for Safe Access v. Drug Enforcement Administration* includes several patient plaintiffs, and ASA also argues that the organization has standing because it incurs significant costs countering the government's false claims with valid scientific information.



<continued on next page>



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

<continued from DC Court Hears Rescheduling Appeal, previous page> The landmark case marks the first time in nearly 20 years that a federal court has heard arguments on the classification of cannabis as a Schedule I substance, a category reserved for drugs with a high potential for abuse and no current accepted medical use that cannot be used safely even under medical supervision. A decision from the court on whether the case can proceed is expected within the next several months.

"The current classification of cannabis is based more on politics than science," said Elford. "This is an historic opportunity for patients and doctors to confront politically motivated decision-making with the scientific evidence that cannabis is a safe, effective medicine that can meet the needs of millions of patients." **More information:**

[ASA's supplemental brief on standing](#), [Affidavit of plaintiff Michael Krawitz](#), [ASA rescheduling appeal brief](#), [CRC rescheduling petition](#) * AmericansForSafeAccess.org

Harnessing Our Power for Victory - Americans for Safe Access National Medical Cannabis Unity Conference

ASA is pleased to announce Harnessing Our Power for Victory – Americans for Safe Access National Medical Cannabis Unity Conference, taking place February 22nd - 25th at the Mayflower Renaissance Hotel in Washington, D.C. Americans for Safe Access and our allies will fight even harder for safe access in 2013. This is our chance to show the Obama Administration and the new Congress our strength in unity – and to make our voice heard like never before in the nation's capitol! The conference is a chance to network with other activists from around the country,



attend panels and workshops to improve your skills and increase your knowledge, and to engage in direct citizen-lobbying efforts in the halls of Congress on Monday, February 25th. More information: <http://www.americansforsafeaccess.org/NationalConference2013>

NORML Attorneys Congregate at 30th Annual Key West Legal Seminar

Washington, DC, USA: As per their usual custom, NORML was accepting [registrations](#) right up to the last minute from criminal defense attorneys who wished to attend the organization's [30th annual Key West Legal Seminar](#). This year's seminar took place Thursday, November 29, through Saturday, December 1, 2012 at the [Pier House Resort](#) and Caribbean Spa in Key West, Florida. Many legal eagles from around the country joined NORML's staff, Board, and many of the nation's top criminal defense attorneys in one of America's most 'cannabis-friendly' cities.

[Speakers](#) included: **Gerald Goldstein**, past president of the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (NACDL) and legal counsel for the late-Hunter S. Thompson; **John Wesley Hall**, past president of the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers; **Norm Kent**, author of *The Pot Warrior's Manifesto* and a member of NORML's Board of Directors; **Lewis Maltby**, president of the National Workrights Institute (formerly the national employment rights project of the ACLU); 4th Amendment specialist **Adam Wolf**, named 2009 CA Lawyer of the Year; and NORML Executive Director **Allen St. Pierre**. Social events included an opening night reception and a NORML benefit dinner at [Camille's Restaurant](#). *Conference agenda and registration information for the 30th annual NORML Key West Legal Seminar is available online at:* <http://norml.org/about/norml-key-west-legal-seminar>. *The Key West Legal Seminar is fully accredited in every state that requires continuing legal education (CLE) for attorneys.*



