

JOINT INITIATIVE HEARING

Marijuana Legalization. Initiative Statute. (#1762)

Assembly Business and Professions, Health, and, Revenue and Taxation
And, Senate Business, Professions and Economic Development Committees

Tuesday, May 24, 2016, 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Room 4202

Panelist Biographies

Overview:

Aaron Edwards, Senior Fiscal and Policy Analyst; Legislative Analyst's Office.

Aaron Edwards, M.P.P., is a Senior Fiscal and Policy Analyst with the California Legislative Analyst's Office. He is responsible for providing non-partisan and objective advice to members of the California Legislature on budget and policy issues related to state corrections and public safety. Mr. Edwards received his bachelor's degree in Economics and Sociology with honors from the State University of New York at Oswego and a Master's in Public Policy from the University of California at Berkeley.

Proponents:

Richard Miadich, Managing Partner; Olson, Hagel and Fishburn, LLP.

Mr. Miadich's practice focuses on litigation matters involving election and campaign finance law, education law, government and administrative law, and constitutional law. He also assists in the firm's political advising, primarily in areas of elections and initiatives. A member of the California State Bar, Mr. Miadich has litigated matters at the trial and appellate levels in California, including the California Supreme Court, and has represented clients before state administrative agencies. He has also participated in matters before the US Supreme Court, the US Courts of Appeals for the Seventh and Ninth Circuits, and the US District Courts for the Northern and Eastern Districts of California. Mr. Miadich is an At-Large Director on the Sacramento County Bar Association Board of Directors. He also serves on the Board of Directors of the Sacramento Law Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that serves as the charitable arm of the Sacramento County Bar Association. Previously, Mr. Miadich served on the Executive Committee of the Public Law Section of the California State Bar, where he served as the assistant editor of the State Bar's Public Law Journal.

Alice Huffman, President; National Association for the Advancement of Colored People California State Conference.

Ms. Huffman began her tenure as President of the California NAACP January 2000. Under her leadership, the organization has accelerated into one of the most sought after organizations in California's policy arena. She employs a small staff to advocate on key civil rights issues. She believes that the NAACP is the constant voice for low income African Americans and students trapped in low performing schools or the criminal justice system. She is a member of the National Board of Directors of the NAACP; President and CEO of her consulting firm A.C. Public Affairs, Inc.; and, a member of the newly elected Attorney General's transition team. She is also assisting the Governor in appointments in his administration; was appointed to University of California President's Advisory Council on Campus Climate, Culture, & Inclusion; is an appointee of Governor Swarzenegger's to the State Parks and Recreation Commission and the California Complete Count Committee for the 2010 Census; and, is a member of many other Democratic groups. Huffman devotes a significant amount of her time to the NAACP specializing in organizational development and leadership training. She enjoys outstanding relations with the NAACP local, community, state and national leaders.

Glenn Backes, Director; California Capital Office of Drug Policy Alliance.

Mr. Backes is a registered lobbyist who has worked in the field of public health and criminal justice reform since 1988. He has worked with Drug Policy Alliance since 1996, as both a staff member working on policies to reduce the deadly burdens of HIV, hepatitis, overdose and the suffering of substance abuse disorders in the US and abroad, and as a consultant and lobbyist. He, his wife and daughters live in Sacramento.

Nate Bradley, *Executive Director; California Cannabis Industry Association (CCIA).*

Mr. Bradley is the Executive Director and cofounder of the CCIA. He is responsible for public policy advocacy and political strategy at the state and local levels. Before joining CCIA, Mr. Bradley was the President of BCI Solutions, a Medical Cannabis Strategic Consulting firm. He is considered an “outside the box” strategist whose hard-driving style has earned him a reputation as one of the leaders in California’s cannabis industry. Mr. Bradley’s served as a spokesman and advisor to the Yes on Prop 19 Campaign and was a public policy advisor to the Committee for Safe Patient Access to Regulated Cannabis in Sacramento County, California. In 2010, Mr. Bradley founded Lawmen Protecting Patients, which is a 501(c)(3) non-profit advocacy organization consisting of retired and disabled members of the law enforcement community who have become medical cannabis patients and now advocate on their behalf. Mr. Bradley also brings with him 10 years of education and experience in law enforcement and defense investigation. He has worked as a city Police Officer, Deputy Sheriff and Criminal Defense Investigator.

Diane Goldstein, *Retired Lieutenant Commander, Redondo Beach Police Department; Law Enforcement Against Prohibition.*

After joining the Redondo Beach Police Department in 1983, Ms. Goldstein rose from a Patrol Officer and School Resource Officer to Sergeant in the Special Investigations Unit, finally retiring as a Lieutenant Commander in 2004. As Ms. Goldstein rose through the ranks of law enforcement, she coordinated multiple agencies in probation and parole searches and became a specialist in juvenile crime prevention, gang intervention, and a recognized leader in crisis management. She also developed national training guidelines and policies for use during critical incidents. Ms. Goldstein joined LEAP as a result of her own experiences and what she read in LEAP speaker Judge James Gray’s book, *Why Our Drug Laws Have Failed And What We Can Do About It: A Judicial Indictment of the War on Drugs*. As she puts it, our nation’s program of drug prohibition is fiscally unsound and fundamentally unjust. A member of the California Association of Hostage Negotiators, Ms. Goldstein received the organization’s Honorary Life Member Award, and earned the Herman Goldstein Excellence in Problem Solving Team Award (Honorary Mention) for her work on a gang interdiction task force.

Janus Norman, *Senior Vice President; Centers for Government Relations and Political Operations; California Medical Association (CMA).*

Mr. Norman is the CMA’s Senior Vice President and Chief Lobbyist. Prior to joining CMA, he served as Legislative Advocate for the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), where he was responsible for developing the legislative agenda for the organization and supervising day-to-day lobbying operations. He previously has worked for the Judicial Council of California, the Assembly Budget Committee, and the Assembly Appropriations Committee. His career began when he joined the office of then-Assemblymember Darrell Steinberg as a Jesse Unruh Assembly Fellow.

Opponents:

Shaun Rundle, *Government Affairs and Public Safety Specialist; California Peace Officers’ Association (CPOA).*

The CPOA was founded in 1921 and is comprised of nearly 3,000 members of almost every law enforcement rank from agencies across California. Mr. Rundle develops and executes the association’s legislative and policy platform, and serves as CPOA’s representative at the Capitol. He previously worked in legislative affairs for the State Assembly and U.S. House of Representatives. Mr. Rundle received his bachelor’s degree in Government & International Relations from Sacramento State University.

Lauren Michaels, *Legislative Affairs Manager; California Police Chiefs Association (CPCA).*

Lauren Michaels serves as the Legislative Affairs Manager for the CPCA. In her role, she is charged with determining the association’s legislative platform and ensuring the successful execution of the association’s legislative agenda. She began her work on medical marijuana in 2014 when CPCA co-sponsored SB 1262 (Correa) and continued to work in the policy area when CPCA co-sponsored and later supported AB 266 (Bonta, Cooley, Lackey, Jones-Sawyer) in 2015. Her current priorities include the implementation of the Medical Marijuana Regulatory and Safety Act and the execution of an opposition campaign to the Adult Use of Marijuana Act.

John Lovell, *Treasurer, Coalition for Responsible Drug Policies; and, Legislative Counsel, California Narcotic Officers Association.*

Mr. Lovell has been a Legislative Advocate for law enforcement at the Capitol for the last 32 years. He has represented the Los Angeles District Attorney, the California Police Chiefs Association, the California Peace Officers Association and the Chief Probation Officers of California. Mr. Lovell currently represents the California Narcotic Officers Association, the California Association of Code Enforcement Officers, the California College and University Police Chiefs Association, and the Los Angeles County Professional Peace Officers Association. He is the recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award from the California Police Chiefs Association.

Connie Delgado, Chief Legislative Advocate; California Hospital Association (CHA).

Ms. Delgado joined the CHA in 1999 as a legislative advocate. As the Chief Legislative Advocate on the Representation and Advocacy staff, Ms. Delgado represents the interests of CHA and its member hospitals. Her main areas of advocacy include trauma/EMS, privacy, nursing issues and hospital closures. Ms. Delgado has over 25 years of experience in California's political arena. She started her career working for a member of the Assembly and has worked for three major trade associations. Prior to joining CHA she served as manager of state government affairs for the American Electronics Association which represents the high-tech industry. Ms. Delgado received her bachelor's degree in political science from the University of California at Davis. She serves as a guest lecturer in political science at Cosumnes River College and served for five years on the Board of Directors for Capitol Focus, an organization that teaches bi-partisan political awareness to high school students. The CHA is the statewide leader representing the interests of hospitals and health systems in California and is one of the largest health care trade associations in the nation with more than 400 hospitals and health system members.

Bishop Ron Allen, President, CEO, Founder; International Faith Based Coalition.

Bishop Allen serves as the president, CEO and founder of the International Faith Based Coalition as well as pastor of the Greater Solomon Temple Community Church. He is a vital figure in the Faith Based and Real Estate Community. Bishop Allen's dedication to the area of faith-based, drug prevention and real estate education has brought significant changes to how these industries operate and trains its professionals. Bishop Allen is a national and international spokesperson in regards to both religion and drug prevention and has appeared on national & international television & radio outlets such as Fox News, MSNBC, CNN, ABC World News, NPR Radio, BBC world News, France World News, Japan Radio, Australia Radio, among others. Bishop Allen has also appeared in national and international magazines for his work regarding drug prevention education and the defeat of Proposition 19.

Carla Lowe, Founder; Citizens Against Legalizing Marijuana.

Ms. Lowe, mother of five grown children, grandmother of nine, graduate of the University of California at Berkeley, and former high-school teacher, has been a volunteer anti-drug activist since 1977 when her PTA Survey to Parents identified "drugs" as their priority concern. She organized one of the nation's first "Parent/Community" groups in her hometown of Sacramento; co-founded Californians for Drug-Free Youth; was a founding member and chaired the Nancy Reagan Speakers' Bureau of the National Federation of Parents for Drug-Free Youth; co-founded Californians for Drug-Free Schools; and, in 2010 founded an all-volunteer political action committee, Citizens Against Legalizing Marijuana, (CALM). Ms. Lowe has testified before congressional and state committees and has successfully sponsored, as a citizen legislator in Sacramento, a number of anti-drug laws including a ban on drug paraphernalia shops, a ban on student smoking in public schools, a mandate that educational material present a clear "no illegal use" message, and the precedent-setting "Use/Lose Law" that establishes a mandatory one year suspension of driving privilege for any youth 13-21 for any involvement with alcohol or other drugs. CALM took a lead in successfully defeating Proposition 19 in 2010 that would have legalized marijuana for recreation in California.