

Medical Marijuana Regulation: The State Plan for Statewide Implementation

Speaker Biographies

Awet Kidane, Director, Department of Consumer Affairs

Mr. Kidane was appointed Director of the California Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) in July 2014. As Director, he oversees the nearly 40 regulatory entities and other divisions within DCA. Mr. Kidane has served as chief deputy director at DCA since 2012. He was chief of staff for California State Assemblymember Steven Bradford from 2009 to 2012 and senior advisor to California State Assembly Speaker Karen Bass from 2008 to 2009. Mr. Kidane served as a consultant for the California State Assembly from 2002 to 2009.

Jim Houston, Undersecretary, Department of Food and Agriculture

Jim Houston was appointed by Governor Brown as undersecretary of the California Department of Food and Agriculture in January 2015, after serving the agency since 2011 as deputy secretary for legislation and public engagement. He was a senior account representative at BGS Group Consulting Inc. from 2004 to 2010, representing numerous entities involved in agriculture. He worked for the California Assembly from 2001 to 2004, serving as Legislative Director for Assembly Member Simon Salinas. He received a law degree from McGeorge School of Law in 2009 and his undergraduate degree from University of California, Santa Barbara.

Karen Smith, MD, MPH, Director and State Public Health Officer, Department of Public Health

Karen Smith, MD, MPH, was sworn in as director of the California Department of Public Health and state public health officer in March 2015. Smith is a physician specializing in infectious disease and public health. Prior to her appointment, Smith served as public health officer and deputy director at the Napa County Health and Human Services Agency since 2004. Since 2012, she has also been on medical staff for infectious disease at Queen of the Valley Medical Center in Napa. Dr. Smith served as clinical faculty at the Santa Clara County Valley Medical Center Division of Infectious Diseases from 2001 to 2004 and from 1997 to 2000. She has served as a subject matter expert on Public Health Emergency Preparedness and has served as a liaison to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response. She served on the Board of Scientific Counselors of the CDC Office of Public Health Preparedness and Response. Dr. Smith completed her medical training and infectious diseases fellowship at Stanford University after having obtained a Master of Public Health degree in International Health at Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene and Public Health.

Sarah Carrillo, County Counsel, Tuolumne County

Sarah Carrillo was appointed County Counsel in 2013. A proud Tuolumne County native, she practices public entity law and currently focuses her practice on representing the following County departments: Sheriff's Office, District Attorney, Grand Jury, Office of Emergency Services, Probation, Human Resources / Risk Management, some special districts, the County Administrative Office, and the Board of Supervisors. Ms. Carrillo joined the Tuolumne County Counsel's Office as a Deputy County Counsel in 2005. Before her employment with Tuolumne County, Ms. Carrillo was in private practice in Amador, Calaveras and Stanislaus Counties. She practiced family law, civil litigation, and business law. Ms. Carrillo earned her J.D. in 2003 from the University of California, Davis, King Hall School of Law, and her B.A. in Political Science with honors from the California State University, Chico. Ms. Carrillo is an active member of the County Counsel's Association of California, sits on the Continuing Legal Education Committee and recently presented an Emergency Preparedness training at the annual County Counsel's Association conference. Ms. Carrillo is admitted to the bar of California, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, the Northern, Eastern, Central and Southern Districts of California and the U.S. Supreme Court.

Tim Cromartie, Legislative Representative, League of California Cities

Tim Cromartie has been a legislative representative for the League of California Cities since 2013, focusing on issues pertaining to public safety, partnership with counties and schools, revenue, and taxation. Prior to working at his current position, Mr. Cromartie held numerous positions in the California State Legislature, including Capitol Director between 2011 and 2013, Legislative Director for Senator Gloria Romero between 2007 and 2010, and Consultant for Senator Kevin Murray from 2005 to 2006. He also worked as a Legislative Advocate for CalPERS between 2003 and 2005. Mr. Cromartie earned his J.D. in 1992 from the Hastings College of Law.

Christopher Boyd, *Chief of Police, City of Citrus Heights*

Chief Christopher Boyd began his law enforcement career in the San Francisco bay area as an officer with the Menlo Park Police Department. He was appointed their Chief of Police in 2002. In January of 2006, Chief Boyd was selected to serve as the first Chief of Police for the newly formed Citrus Heights Police Department. Now in its ninth year, the Department is nationally recognized for innovative approaches in community policing, technology, and employee leadership development. The agency is also a two-time winner of the prestigious James Q. Wilson award - the highest honor a California police department can receive for their accomplishments in community policing. Chief Boyd has served on a variety of boards and associations throughout his career. He currently serves as the Immediate Past President for the California Police Chiefs Association and is California's representative for the State Associations of Chiefs of Police to the International Association of Chiefs of Police. Chief Boyd has a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice and Sociology from the University of Idaho, and a Master's Degree in Public Administration from the College of Notre Dame. Chief Boyd lives in Granite Bay with his wife, Marci, and their two young sons.

Niccolo De Luca, *Senior Director, Townsend Public Affairs*

Niccolo De Luca has 20 years of major municipal government experience in the legislative, executive, and administrative branches. He has a vast network of local, state and federal elected officials and policymakers throughout California, especially the Bay Area. Niccolo joined Townsend Public Affairs in 2008, bringing with him over 10 years of local government experience working for the City of Oakland and serving under three different Mayors. At Townsend Public Affairs, Mr. De Luca manages the Northern California operations, fostering relationships with the local, state, and federal delegations out of the San Francisco Bay Area. He uses his experience in every level of city government to be an expert client manager for an array of cities, special districts, and non-profit institutions.

Nate Bradley, *Executive Director and Cofounder, California Cannabis Industry Association*

Mr. Bradley is the Executive Director and cofounder of the California Cannabis Industry Association (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.

Hezekiah Allen, *Chair and Executive Director, California Growers Association*

Hezekiah D. Allen was born at home and raised off the grid in Humboldt County. Growing up on the frontline of the war on drugs instilled in Hezekiah a deep-rooted passion for cannabis policy reform and was the foundation for his growth into a committee champion for social and economic justice. As the Executive Director of the California Growers Association he is now spearheading a historic community organizing effort to bring together cannabis growers and business owners throughout the state. In this role, Allen is leading groundbreaking public policy and advocacy efforts focused on building a healthy, sustainable, and prosperous cannabis future that honors and protects California's multi-generational heritage of leadership in this industry.

Steve DeAngelo, *Founder and CEO, Harborside Health Center*

Steve DeAngelo is an inspired and undisputed national leader, with four decades of activism and advocacy in the cannabis reform movement. His creation of a model medical cannabis dispensary and lifelong cannabis activism coupled with his extensive knowledge in this arena has made him one of the strongest voices in the cannabis and hemp industries. Steve's career has focused on the intersection of advocacy and entrepreneurship - creating profitable ventures that simultaneously advance social goals. In addition to Harborside, these ventures include Ecolution, SteepHill Laboratory, Cannasure, and The ArcView Group. Steve is the author of *The Cannabis Manifesto*, and was called the nation's greatest living expert on cannabis and the laws surrounding it by CNN correspondent Morgan Spurlock.

Keith Stephenson, *Executive Director, Purple Heart Patient Center*

Keith Stephenson is the owner and operator of the Purple Heart Patient Center (PHPC), which has been serving patients since September 18, 2006, and is the longest running dispensary in Oakland. He is a statewide resource on medical cannabis policy and was an adjunct professor at Oakland University in Oakland. Mr. Stephenson was an aviation maintenance technician at United Airlines for 17 years and union shop steward for eight years before double hip replacement forced an early retirement, which led to his involvement in the industry. Mr. Stephenson has been featured in *The Los Angeles Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, and *Newsweek*. In 2011, PHPC won the Outstanding Cannabis Clubs Award for providing excellent customer service to medical marijuana patients. PHPC's management team has over 25 years of industry experience and serves up to 400 patients daily. As a major supporter of public safety, PHPC has contributed to two large scale gun buyback programs, which received over 500 illegal firearms. PHPC is also an annual supporter of local programs and has donated over a quarter million dollars to Bay Area organizations and charitable groups, such as the Oakland School of Arts, the Oakland Police Department, and the Bay Area Black Nurses Association.

Kimberly Cargile, *Director, A Therapeutic Alternative Dispensary*

Kimberly has been passionate about advancing the medical cannabis industry in California through advocacy and education for over a decade. As CEO of A Therapeutic Alternative, Inc., she is proud of the fact that her patients are provided with the highest level of service in California. In 2009, she became a business consultant to the medical marijuana industry, after working as general manager for one of California's first dispensaries, a volunteer at multiple dispensaries, and Peer Counselor for Americans for Safe Access. Kimberly has been instrumental in advancing industry standards as a board member of multiple organizations, including Sacramento County Patients & Collectives Association, the Committee for Safe Patient Access to Medical Cannabis, and the Sacramento chapter of The National Organization for the Reform of Medical Marijuana Laws. Kimberly is a published writer for *DOPE magazine*, *West Coast Leaf*, and *Health & Fitness Magazine*. She has participated in numerous national conferences, and has been interviewed by many publications and news stations, including *The North Coast Journal*, *Sacramento Business Journal*, Fox 40, CBS 13, and others. In 2013, Kimberly was voted one of the top ten most influential people in the cannabis community in Sacramento by *Sacramento Alternative Magazine*. Kimberly graduated from Humboldt State University in 2006 as a Presidential Scholar on the Dean's List.