



# THE INSIDER 100: CANNABIS POWER LIST

The 2019 Insider tribute to the TOP 100 influential voices in the cannabis debate.



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★★★★★★



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*Message from Jay Lassiter*

# INSIDER NJ

## Cannabis **POWER** 2019



*Welcome to InsiderNJ's inaugural Cannabis Power List, a tribute to 100 politically influential voices in the cannabis debate. The journey that led me to chronicle this impressive roster of committed, principled people began quite a while ago in a little town called Washington DC.*

"I'm not political," I told my friend Greg when he invited (21-year-old) me to a protest at the White House. "I'll go to your rally, but I don't consider myself a political person."

Greg wasn't having it.

"You're an HIV+ queer who smokes pot. Your very existence is political," Greg replied, only slightly annoyed at my lack of self-awareness.

"Besides, there will be lots of pot."

It was 1993 and Greg was an organizer for ACT-UP, the militant AIDS charity taking the US Government to task for its deliberately cruel approach to HIV/ AIDS policy. There were no laws protecting gay people back then and HIV felt like a death sentence.

And nowhere in these United States was it legal to use cannabis for any reason whatsoever.

The fear and paranoia surrounding HIV/AIDS was crippling, even if you were totally asymptomatic like I was. Greg had AIDS and you could tell. He used cannabis to manage his deadly illness and later, the ghastly effects of those early HIV meds.

It's hard to fight for your rights when you're sick or dying. And yet, there was a frantic, fatalistic urgency animating us. Going to funerals on a weekly basis does that.

I'm convinced that AIDS set the table for the current movement to reform our nation's ill-conceived cannabis laws. It's no coincidence that the first medical marijuana dispensaries in America popped up in San Francisco way back in 1994.

My HIV meds come with negligible side effects nowadays. I'm so healthy that when I smoke cannabis, it's almost always because I want to. And that's ok.

I'm 47 years old and I like to smoke pot and there's nothing wrong with that.

I wish more people would come out of the pot closet but I understand why they can't: 1) it's not legal and 2) there's still an awful lot of stigma associated with cannabis.

I hope InsiderNJ's Cannabis Power List helps dispel some of that stigma. You'll find names on both sides of the debate, but most are pro-cannabis because that's where this debate is headed and everyone knows it.

The biggest criteria for making this list is longevity in the game. And those who did it longest wound up on top.

Elected officials aren't on this list, even though many are deep into the issue (Nick Scutari, Ron Rice, Jamel Holley, etc.) – otherwise it would be half elected officials.

Placement came down to longevity and overall effect on NJ's culture. Some people changed our laws, while others changed hearts and minds.

Many on this list did all those things.

With cannabis legalization *apparently* headed to the ballot in November 2020, and with New Jersey's medical cannabis program still very much imperfect, there's still time to jump into the lively debate about the direction of our state's marijuana laws.

Sincerely,

*Jay Lassiter*

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# #1 EDWARD FORCHION, AKA NJ WEEDMAN



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Is there anyone more synonymous with cannabis reform in New Jersey than Edward Forchion? We think not. The venerable cannabis and free speech advocate best known as NJWEEDMAN has spent several decades fighting fix NJ's backwards, remorseless cannabis laws.

Ed Forchion has contributed more and sacrificed more to end cannabis prohibition than anyone in New Jersey's history. He's spent too much time behind bars for something that won't be illegal very much longer to not top this list. Much of that time in jail was for selling pot. They called him a drug dealer. But wasn't Ed Forchion also creating the marketplace that's about to make a lot of people very rich? People are lining up to pay lots of money to apply for a license to sell legal pot in New Jersey as we speak.

Over the years NJWEEDMAN ran for office at all levels including a tilt for US Senate in 2006 when he garnered 11,593 votes against Senator Bob Menendez in the general election.

When recreational cannabis becomes legal in New Jersey, it'll be an industry that makes a lot of people very rich indeed. A lot of people on this list will benefit when that happens. Each of them – all 99 – owe Edward Forchion a debt of gratitude. And if we're being honest, we probably owe him residuals too!

If we listened to Edward Forchion, aka NJWEEDMAN, back in the 1990s, New Jersey would be more prosperous and infinitely fairer in 2019.

# #2 PATRICK KENNEDY



As the scion of the most storied and powerful political dynasty in American history, Patrick Kennedy enjoys outsized influence over the nation's cannabis debate.

And he doesn't want it to become legal.

A former Rhode Island Congressman now living with in Ocean County, Patrick Kennedy now uses his considerable clout convincing lawmakers in New Jersey to “just say no” and resist cannabis legalization for as long as possible.

He founded a well-heeled group that calls itself New Jersey Responsible Approach to Marijuana Policy (NJ RAMP) that's committed to enforcing cannabis prohibition. NJ RAMP demonstrated a clever, strategic ground game delaying their inevitable day of reckoning for just a little longer. Their glossy website and intense lobbying presence in Trenton suggest a nice bankroll but Patrick Kennedy and NJ RAMP have been tight-lipped about their donors and modest about their budget.

Regardless, they've out-hustled their legalization foes and for enduring the inexorable tide of legalization for so long, NJ RAMP's founder Patrick Kennedy was an easy, obvious 2nd Place choice on this year's cannabis power list.

# #3 ERIK ALTIERI



Erik Altieri is the executive director of National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML) based in Washington DC.

A federal advocacy org with many state chapters, NORML “supports the removal of all criminal penalties for the private possession and responsible use of marijuana by adults, including the cultivation for personal use, and the casual nonprofit transfers of small amounts” and “supports the development of a legally controlled market for cannabis.”

Prior to taking the reigns at NORML, he ran NORML’s PAC and did a stint as communications chief as well. The youngest leader in NORML’s 50 year history, Erik was recently named one of Forbes’ 30 Under 30 for Law and Policy.

A graduate of Washington Township High School in Gloucester County, Eric spent his pre-NORML days setting the table for cannabis decriminalization in Philadelphia.

# CONGRATULATIONS

— *to the* —

# INSIDERNJ CANNABIS POWER LIST!

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## #4 ROSEANNE SCOTTI



Roseanne Scotti's fingerprints are on every piece of drug reform legislation that's come down the pike in NJ since forever. She's the long-time director of the New Jersey Drug Policy Alliance, a venerable Trenton-based organization that's committed to making New Jersey a leader in drug policy reform.

As one of the principal lobbyists for New Jersey's medical marijuana program, Roseanne Scotti's dogged persistence led to the first legal cannabis sales in NJ, back in December of 2012. This, in spite of then-Governor Chris Christie's relentless, vociferous opposition to medical cannabis legalization.

Little known fact: long before Chris Christie came along, Assembly Democrats did a bang up job watering down *their* own medical cannabis bill. They removed home cultivation (looking at you Herb Conaway) and narrowed the list of qualifying conditions before they even began negotiating. Advocates and activists were flabbergasted.

Roseanne Scotti was there to limit the damage. NJ's medical marijuana legislation would have been much worse and taken a whole lot longer without her. That sort of thing is difficult to quantify. But I was there and I saw it with my own eyes.

Before joining the Drug Policy Alliance Roseanne was a research coordinator at University of Pennsylvania's Center for Studies of Addiction where she studied HIV transmission rates among injection drug users with the goal of designing effective prevention interventions. That'll give Roseanne Scotti plenty to focus on when cannabis prohibition ends.

In the meantime, her wisdom, longevity, and integrity make Roseanne Scotti the conscience of the drug policy debate in New Jersey.

*As this went to press, DPA's national organization folded the New Jersey chapter, a stunning, incalculable loss to anyone who cares about drug reform.*

# #5 AMOL SINHA



The ACLU of New Jersey's campaign to legalize marijuana may have started years before Amol Sinha took the organization's helm. But in his year and a half as executive director, Amol's built a reputation as the ringer capable of guiding the team to victory.

Amol's unwavering, clarion call for racial and social justice has edged New Jersey closer to passing the first legalization bill nationwide to focus specifically on undoing the inequities of the war on drugs.

Without Amol's persistent drumbeat for a bill meeting the baseline standards of justice – legislation that includes expungement, reinvestment in communities harmed by the drug war, meaningful opportunities for communities affected by aggressive enforcement to participate in the cannabis economy, and no discrimination based on past marijuana convictions – New Jersey might not have responded with a bill as forward-looking as the one before the Legislature.

Amol is part policy wonk, part messaging guru. He can shift from in-the-weeds analysis of expungement provisions to a 30,000-foot view that distills confusing a 200-page bill down to two sentences. That's why, when a new version of the bill drops or leaders float changes, politicians, pundits, and pot prognosticators often seek out one person's take first: Amol's.

## #6 DIANNA HOUENOU



There are many sharp minds and keen intellects in Trenton and on this list but none sharper or keener than Dianna Houenou, a newly minted policy advisor for Governor Phil Murphy. She joined the Murphy administration after a 3-year stint as Policy Council at ACLU-NJ where she conducted legal and policy analysis and managed ACLU-NJ coordinated campaigns including the New Jersey United for Marijuana Reform coalition.

If you've ever seen Dianna Houenou (pronounced WAY – new) testify in Trenton, perhaps discussing the weaponization of pot laws against black and brown people, you'd be wise to take notes. Her testimony is effective because she's prepared, succinct, and persuasive, a sharp, refreshing contrast to boring, vapid, unpolished reams we all endure at every committee hearing.

There are still people out there who doubt and indeed mock the social justice component of cannabis reform. Having an intellectual heavyweight like Dianna Houenou to flush out those pockets of ignorance will ensure NJ's version of legalization includes restorative justice for communities disproportionately harmed by the war on drugs.

When cannabis prohibition is finally upended in New Jersey, social justice will be the tip of that spear. That's Dianna Houenou's legacy.

If it makes you uncomfortable to contemplate the racial disparities in drug-related arrests, that's on you. I suggest sitting and contemplating that discomfort. Maybe pray on it a little.

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and 222 pro-LGBTQ laws.**

**Thank you.**



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## #7 NEW JERSEY'S CANNABIS REGULATORY COMMISSION



When marijuana legalization comes to New Jersey, a five-member commission will be empaneled with extraordinary influence over cannabis policy in New Jersey. The Governor chooses all five commissioners while the Senate President and Assembly Speaker each have veto power over one pick.

NJ's Cannabis Regulatory Commission will make the rules and the parameters for the marijuana industry in New Jersey which they'll also oversee, giving all five members plenty of power and influence determining who wins.

And who gets left out.

That's power, honey.

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- ▶ Advising several **major multi state cannabis operators** on tax, securities, corporate, IP, licensure, real estate, employment and labor matters.
- ▶ Advising one of the **world's leading hospitals** in connection with their research into the therapeutic benefits of THC and CBD.
- ▶ Serving as Policy Counsel to **New Jersey Cannabis Industry Association**, drafting and advising on laws and regulations to expand medical and legalize recreational cannabis in New Jersey.



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Leaders in Cannabis Law

# #8 WILLIAM "Bill" CARUSO



Bill Caruso has worn many hats over the course of his career, Congressional chief of staff, director of the NJ Assembly Democrats, TV pundit, and super-lobbyist/lawyer at Archer Law in South Jersey. In each of those capacities, he's nudged the cannabis debate away from crazytown and towards sanity. Bill injected a much-needed jolt of legitimacy and credibility into the cannabis movement at a critical juncture that accelerated the end of cannabis prohibition in New Jersey.

He remains one of the savviest cannabis lawyers in the state positioning his firm, Archer Law, for big and lucrative things when legalization finally comes to New Jersey.

# #9 JULIO VALENTIN



Julio Valentin, CEO of Greenleaf Compassion Center, ushered in a new era when his dispensary made the very first legal cannabis sales ever in the state of New Jersey. Located in Montclair, Essex County, the Greenleaf Compassion Center took in \$3,644,321.30 last year which added up to 6.82% of New Jersey's \$53,448,557.35 legal cannabis market in 2018.

A retired Newark police officer who happens to be Latino, Julio defies the standard definition of a cannabis entrepreneur and became New Jersey's first legal cannabis operator in a market where politically connected types almost always win.

When anti-pot legislators like Senator Ron Rice tell you minorities won't thrive in the cannabis industry, tell him about Julio Valentin who's on track to sell over \$5,000,000 worth of cannabis in FY2019.

## #10 GEORGE SCHIDLOVSKY



George Schidlovsky is president and executive director of Curaleaf NJ, Inc, the largest medical cannabis dispensary in the Garden State. George Schidlovsky and his team at Curaleaf NJ managed to set up shop and expand under the skeptical, jaundiced eye of anti-pot Governor Chris Christie, a remarkable feat given Christie’s vociferous opposition to cannabis reform. Curaleaf, had about 40% of New Jersey’s legal cannabis market in 2017 and a 35% market share in 2018.

In Fiscal year 2018, Curaleaf did \$19,144,246.69 in sales, a record for New Jersey. They’ll easily eclipse that figure in 2019.

Curaleaf was New Jersey’s first cannabis dispensary to feature concentrates like cannabis oils and creams giving patients more options.



WE CONGRATULATE ASSEMBLYWOMAN ANNETTE QUIJANO FOR HER LEADERSHIP ADVANCING SO MANY CRITICAL ISSUES IN THE NJ GENERAL ASSEMBLY, INCLUDING LEGISLATION ON CANNABIS LEGALIZATION. WE ALSO RECOGNIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF LATINO VOICES IN THIS CRITICAL DEBATE AND CONGRATULATE THE LATINO LEADERS LISTED HERE FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS TO MAKING NJ A MORE INCLUSIVE AND FAIRER STATE.

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#11

## MARY PAT ANGELINI



The affable former Assemblywoman from Monmouth County campaigned hard on her “Just Say No” record in the New Jersey legislature, And for 4 terms, voters bought in. Ms. Angelini delighted in voting down pretty much any and every drug reform bill that came before her including multiple votes to deny sick people medical marijuana. She even voted against needle exchange, saying it actually encourages heroin use. Which is kinda like saying seatbelts encourage car crashes. But I digress.

There was an influential place for Ms Angelini’s prohibition-oriented voting record during the Chris Christie era. But voters eventually soured on that and sent her packing in November of 2015.

But Ms. Angelini still influences the cannabis debate with frequent widely-circulated OpEds and as a board member of NJ RAMP, a group devoted to cannabis prohibition.

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*congratulates our colleague*

**Bill Caruso**

*on making the top ‘Insider 100: Cannabis’ list*

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ATTORNEYS AT LAW

# #12 ARLENE QUINOÑES PEREZ & JOSEPH DECOTIIS

When medical legalization of cannabis began to grab headlines in the early 2000's, Joseph M. DeCotiis and Arlene Quinones Perez from the law firm DeCotiis, FitzPatrick, Cole & Giblin, LLP, were at the forefront steering the growth of medicinal marijuana.



Joe and Arlene successfully guided Verano NJ to claim one of the six lucrative, highly prized licenses for medicinal cannabis that was issued last December. Verano is gearing up their grow facility in Rahway and a dispensary in Elizabeth, a town underserved thus far by New Jersey's medical cannabis program.

Today, Joe and Arlene are widely recognized as experienced industry leaders who have dedicated themselves to promoting the acceptance of medicinal and recreational cannabis in New Jersey.

Joe and Arlene have applied their legal expertise to counsel their cannabis clients and actively monitor cannabis issues such as regulatory compliance, licensing and permitting, tax and financial policies, and cultivation, processing and distribution.

As a member of the New Jersey State Bar Association Cannabis Law Committee, they are educating fellow attorneys on medical and recreational policy. Currently, DeCotiis serves as General Counsel and Arlene serves as Vice President of Diversity and Inclusion for Verano NJ.

## #13 DIANE RIPORELLA



When the fight to legalize medical cannabis was raging back in 2009-2010, the most compelling, persuasive testimony of the entire debate came from Diane Riportella, of Egg Harbor, NJ. She was breathtaking. Diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) also known as Lou Gehrig's disease, Diane sacrificed her dying days to fight for medical cannabis acceptance and legalization. Diane passed in 2012 but not before changing more hearts and minds than anyone on this list.

There's a memorial plaque at Compassion Care Foundation in Egg Harbor honoring Diane Riportella as a cannabis crusader. I'm not a religious person, but I cross myself when I see her plaque and say a little prayer of thanks to St. Diane.

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**ASSEMBLYMAN JAMEL HOLLEY**  
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“Ending cannabis prohibition and the mass incarceration of individuals it has caused is the social justice issue of our time. I'm proud to be a leader in this just cause, and I will always advocate for a fairer system that allows the communities most devastated by the War on Drugs to thrive.

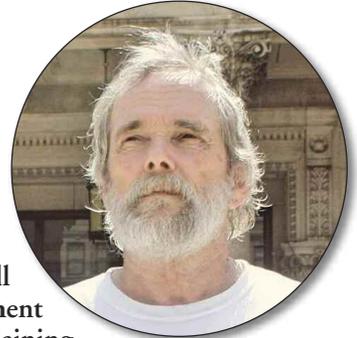
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# #14 CHERYL MILLER & JIM MILLER

## A tribute by Bill Caruso



I first met Cheryl and Jim Miller in the lobby of Congressman Rob Andrews' office in Washington. I was a senior staffer and had been called by a young aide at the front desk to attend to an irate visitor who demanded to see the Congressman to talk to him about marijuana. When I stepped into the room, I encountered a frustrated man wheeling his significantly disabled wife with a modified stretcher. He was visibly upset and made sure I knew it. My job was to tell him that the Congressman couldn't meet with him since he didn't have an appointment and we would happily take his name and address and mail out a position paper explaining all the reasons why the congressman opposed medical marijuana.

But fate, hope, and compassion would intervene that day. When I mentioned to the congressman that a man and his disabled wife had traveled from New Jersey and were in the lobby eager to speak to him about medical marijuana, he immediately gestured for me to bring them in to his office for a brief meeting. He began to explain all the reasons why he was opposed to marijuana and then listened to both Cheryl and Jim's impassioned, informed and genuine pleas for help.

Cheryl educated the congressman about the complications of her disease, Multiple Sclerosis and how marijuana helped her. And then it happened! After an emotional meeting, Rep. Andrews apologized. He admitted he had been wrong about this issue and it was the advocacy and devotion of this wife and her husband that had changed his mind. Congressman Andrews offered to not only sign on to legislation but help to advocate for it.

Cheryl would visit Washington, D.C. a total of 9 times prior to her death in 2003 including a famous showdown with Rep. Barr that contributed to his failing to be re-elected.

Jim Miller continues to honor his wife's legacy by being one of the most knowledgeable and effective cannabis activists in New Jersey. He has helped to train a legion of new activists and is responsible for helping to lobby for the passage of New Jersey's first medical cannabis law as well as subsequent statutory and regulatory changes.

Both Cheryl and Jim were honored for their tireless advocacy with the Peter McWilliams Memorial Award for Outstanding Achievement in Advancing the Cause of Medical Marijuana at the 2003 National NORML Conference.

I owe much to these wonderful people. They taught me (at a critical point in my career) that good people committed to a cause – not just wealthy interests with high paid lobbyists – can bring about change. They taught me to never give in to excuses concerning fatigue or frustration – neither of them did. But most of all, they taught me about love and respect. I will never forget the way Cheryl looked upon Jim and Jim's devotion to Cheryl. It is one of the most profound memories I have regarding my career to date and I am honored to have been able to know them both. Although, Cheryl did not live long enough to see the fruits of her labor, Jim continues to remain a strong advocate for patients as well as legalization and has been a great mentor and resource to the cannabis community.

# #15 KEN WOLSKI



When he founded the Coalition of Medical Marijuana of New Jersey, Ken Wolski's goal was simple: to help as many sick and dying people as possible to benefit from medical cannabis therapy. A retired nurse who spent his career caring for prisoners in New Jersey's prison population, Ken knows first-hand how backwards and racist NJ's cannabis laws really are.

So he dedicated his life to reforming those laws.

Nearly two decades later, Ken's still a leader in the fight. And in a room filled with late-comers to the pot party, Ken has emerged as one of this movement's most venerable, well-respected elder statesmen.

# #16 NJ ATTORNEY GENERAL GURBIR GREWAL



New Jersey's top law enforcement official Attorney General Gurbir Grewal has tremendous influence over New Jersey's cannabis laws. He sets the tone for the entire state. Last year, Grewal published a 9-page document urging municipal prosecutors to exercise discretion with marijuana cases.

"Municipal prosecutors cannot decriminalize conduct that the Legislature has criminalized," Grewal said at the time. "They cannot adopt blanket policies of non-prosecution. But municipal prosecutors can and should strive to ensure that individual justice is done in individual cases."

I look forward to the Attorney General issuing further protections for medical cannabis patients who are not in compliance with New Jersey's onerous regulations and who are forced to medicate outside of regulation.



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## #17 CHRIS CHRISTIE



Sure, he's been out of office for a while, but Chris Christie brought an uncommon zeal to fight to preserve cannabis prohibition, a lasting burden on the 47,000 or so people in NJ's medical cannabis program.

If you've ever had to drive 2½ hours both ways just to get your medicine, you've had 5 whole hours to contemplate Christie's enduring influence over the cannabis debate. If you've ever paid way too much for medical cannabis you're intimately familiar with Chris Christie's powerful, enduring anti-pot legacy.

Christie wanted to be president and his "tough on crime/just say no" bit was a calculated shitk to win the GOP primary. That gambit failed alongside his White House ambitions. Chris Christie left office last year with the lowest approval rating in the history of New Jersey politics.

# #18 ROB CRESSON

## A tribute by Scott Rudder



One of the most impactful speakers during the legislative hearings for legalizing adult-use cannabis and expanding the medical program over the past few years has been Robert Cressen, a medicinal cannabis patient. Rob's testimony has received over a million views on social media and he's received calls from all across the country thanking him for his courage and motivation.

Rob is also an unlikely hero in the cannabis movement. Rob is a former professional competitor in marathons, triathlons and Iron Man competitions. He also holds the distinction of being the only person to have served as the Executive Director of the New Jersey Republican party under two different governors.

Like so many others, Rob never tried cannabis as a teenager and through his 20's and 30's. It wasn't until he contracted a debilitating disease, Complex Regional Pain Syndrome (CRPS), that now forces him to live in a constant state of pain, so severe and incapacitating, that he was prescribed the strongest of opioids just to get through the day and hopefully a few hours of sleep at night, that he finally tried cannabis.

Prior to that, Rob was on so many different opioids and other medication that he suffered multiple kidney failures and other negative side-effects that made his already challenging world nearly unbearable.

Then, through the encouragement of friends and family, Rob found a doctor who helped wean him off of opioids and transition him to medicinal cannabis. Rob himself will tell you, cannabis saved his life and has given him a second chance to make a difference in other people's lives.

Today, Rob is a patient advocate who helped launch the New Jersey CannaBusiness Association where he serves on the Board of Directors. Wheelchair-bound and stricken with multiple daily seizures, when Rob testifies at legislative hearings or speaks to groups, people stop what they are doing and listen.

He understands the concerns and reluctance political and community leaders have regarding legalizing cannabis. Those concerns were his concern and he now addresses them head-on and helps people better understand the value of cannabis as a medicine as well as the importance of ending its prohibition.

Every moment of every day, Rob is pain. Until they find a cure, that will not change. What will also not change is Rob's passion for making cannabis readily available and affordable for patients as well as putting an end to the failed policy of cannabis prohibition.

# #19 JEFF BROWN



When Phil Murphy became NJ Governor replacing Chris Christie, it was a relief for medical cannabis users in New Jersey. The appointment of Jeff Brown as deputy health commissioner for medical cannabis created positive changes almost immediately: the approval of new qualifying conditions, reduced fees for a NJ cannabis ID, and 6 new dispensaries. Previously, dispensaries were forbidden to post their menu with prices, a ridiculous lack of transparency cooked up by Christie-era regulators. That rule has been reinterpreted in a much more patient-friendly way.

The improvements made on Jeff Brown's watch aren't enough and he'll be the first to admit it. But Phil Murphy's DOH lacks the statutory authority to make the big changes like allowing patients to cultivate their own cannabis.

Changes like that require state house lawmakers to finally step up.

# #20 SCOTT RUDDER



When the former assemblyman and mayor from Medford founded the New Jersey Cannabusiness Association, the state's first cannabis trade group, Scott Rudder ushered in a new era. The cannabis industry is gonna be huge. Scott and his group appear well-situated to influence and share in that growth.

There are a lot of lobbyists and converts floating around trying to cash in. What distinguishes Scott Rudder is that he's the lobbyist whose pitch to get rich always puts medical cannabis patients first. When someone like Scott Rudder, a former GOP lawmaker with a sterling NRA rating, discusses the racial disparities of cannabis arrests, it's compelling and persuasive to people who need to learn about social justice from someone like themselves.

The growing cast of characters working to legalize cannabis is diverse and often at cross-purposes. Scott Rudder is always generous with praise and credit to all the cliques and factions on the sometimes-unwieldy pro-cannabis coalition.

# #21 LEO BRIDGEWATER



Trenton born-and-raised, Leo Bridgewater is NJ Chapter President of Minorities for Medical Marijuana and a board member of the New Jersey Cannabusiness Association, the state's first cannabis industry trade association.

An Army Specialist who did multiple tours in Iraq and Afghanistan, Leo's testimony was instrumental in the fight to permit cannabis therapy for PTSD giving relief to vets and non-vets to who use cannabis therapy to treat the symptoms of their trauma.

Leo co-founded CannagatherNJ is the largest, most diverse Cannabis Industry Networking/Education platform in the Garden State.

# #22 BISHOP JETHRO JAMES



Bishop Jethro C. James, Jr., Senior Pastor of Paradise Baptist Church in Newark and President of the Newark/North Jersey Committee of Black Churchmen, is senior advisor for the group that calls itself New Jersey Responsible Approaches to Marijuana Policy (NJ-RAMP.)

Bishop James is one-man media juggernaut often on heavy rotation on TV, radio, and in print preaching the gospel of cannabis abstinence.

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# #23 BRENDAN GILL & ALIXON COLLAZOS

Brendan Gill, president and CEO of the BGill Group, and Alixon Collazos, public affairs specialist, are recognized industry players in the field of medicinal marijuana.



This duo has applied their extensive network of contacts across the state to advocate for the entry of cannabis-related businesses. Brendan, a well-recognized and sought out political strategist with more than 20 years of experience, acutely understands the structure and inner workings of government at all the levels. He established a successful career in campaign management, government relations, political consulting and strategic communications.

Alixon plays a pivotal role in the cannabis industry by ensuring the Hispanic community is engaged and educated about the evolving opportunities surrounding medicinal and recreational cannabis. She has plenty of experience in this area, having served on Governor Phil Murphy's campaign as the director of his Latino program. They have positioned themselves as bona fide insiders for their proficiency and track record across the state.

Their close proximity to Governor Phil Murphy to Governor Phil Murphy move them up several notches on this list.

# #24 BRANDON McKOY

## A tribute by Louis Di Paolo



If you know Brandon, you know that his work is guided by the simple principle that math is real. Throughout his tenure at New Jersey Policy Perspective, he has inserted rigorous analysis, facts, and figures into some of the most pressing policy debates in New Jersey, including the movement to legalize recreational marijuana and undo the harms of the War on Drugs.

In 2016, Brandon co-authored a landmark report detailing how a legal cannabis market would net the state over \$300 million in sales tax revenue. This research grounded the marijuana debate in hard numbers and allowed Brandon to focus his energies on advocating for a legalization framework that is racially and socially equitable — because like math, social justice is real. And like math, social justice doesn't just happen; we have to put in the hard work to get it done. In the campaign to legalize marijuana, that means clearing marijuana convictions through expungement, so a low-level drug charge is no longer a scarlet letter, and making sure communities harmed most by the War on Drugs can share in the spoils of a profitable legal cannabis market.

In all of his work, Brandon brings a much needed equity lens, using math to figure out who benefits — and who is left behind — from changes in public policy. As lawmakers make a final push to legalize marijuana, you can be rest assured Brandon McKoy will there in the halls of the State House (and on Twitter) ensuring expungement and other criminal justice provisions are baked into whatever bill ultimately advances through the legislature.  
#MathIsReal #SocialJusticeIsReal #LegalizeNJ

# #25 THE WILSON FAMILY



There was a time pre-Bridgegate when Chris Christie seemed invincible. The first chink in his armour may have been exposed by Vivian Wilson, a young girl prone to dozens – and even hundreds of seizures each day.

Vivian’s mother Meghan provided riveting and compelling testimony to legislative committees about how cannabis helped her daughter manage Dravet’s Syndrome, a rare and debilitating form of epilepsy.

When Vivian’s father Brian crashed one of Chris Christie’s campaign stops literally begging “please don’t let my daughter die, Governor,” he near singlehandedly revealed Chris Christie’s glass jaw. The confrontation when viral.

In February 2014 the Wilson’s packed up their belongings and moved out to Colorado where to better manage Vivian’s disease.

They had to leave the state. How shameful is that?

The advocacy and sacrifice of the the Wilson Family, formerly of Scotch Plains, NJ revived the effort to improve NJ’s medical marijuana program when Chris Christie was at the height of his powers.

# CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2019 INSIDER NJ CANNABIS POWER LIST HONOREES

We thank all New Jerseyans on the front lines of liberty in the Garden State who fight to advance racial and social justice through cannabis legalization.

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New Jersey

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# #26 MATT KLAPPER



One of Senator Cory Booker's most trusted and valuable assets, Matt Klapper helps Team Booker keep cannabis and criminal justice reform front and center, both in the United States Senate and now out on the campaign trail.

Booker's Marijuana Justice Act is the gold standard in Congress and it's got Matt Klapper's fingerprints all over it. In addition to an overdue focus on restorative justice, Booker's bill included provisions to de-schedule cannabis on a federal level giving individual states more control over their own cannabis policy.

Cory Booker has walked the walk on drug reform and Matt Klapper has supported that effort during Booker's time as Senator and Mayor of Newark.

# #27 THE HONIG FAMILY



Jake Honig fought to improve New Jersey's underwhelming medical cannabis program for most of his short life. When he succumbed to cancer at age 7, Jake's parents Janet and Mike Honig pressed on with Jake's powerful and important legacy: a better deal for sick people who rely on medical cannabis for their quality of life.

There's no more haunting and powerfully voice than that of a parent who has lost a child. Janet and Mike use their voice to ensure that families facing a health crisis won't be additionally burdened by obstacles to cannabis therapy.

The bill to vastly improve NJ's medical cannabis program is named Jake's Law, a tribute to Jake and his dedicated parents Janet and Mike.

# #28 CHRIS GOLDSTEIN



A true cannabis pioneer, Chris Goldstein has his own pot column at the *Philly Inquirer* and also teaches the politics of cannabis at Temple University. His press awards include the Hunter S. Thompson Media Award in 2017.

When he's not fishing for bass in the various waterways of Burlington County, Chris Goldstein is a regional threat as NORML's organizer for New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Delaware. He's done long stints on the board at the Coalition for Medical Marijuana of New Jersey and NORML NJ and he's been a one-man archivist for the cannabis movement.

# #29 DANIELLE ALVAREZ WOLF



Danielle Alvarez Wolf, Esq., a cofounder and Chief Strategy Officer of multi-state cannabis startup CannTech, is also the in-house lawyer for Garden State Dispensary the Woodbridge-based medical cannabis dispensary that sold \$11,814,608.23 of medical cannabis last year, a little over 22% of the NJ market.

An Elizabeth native, Danielle Alvarez Wolf has earned acclaim as one of the industry's leading legal strategists and one of the few Hispanic female executives in regulated marijuana.

# #30 TRISH ZITA



Trish Zita wears many hats including Principal at KZG, a powerhouse lobbying firm in Trenton. She's also the director of NETA NJ, who scored one of 6 highly coveted medical cannabis dispensary licenses issued by the New Jersey Department of Health. NETA NJ is poised to open a medical cannabis dispensary in Phillipsburg in Warren County and a grow facility in Morris County.

The hundreds of applicants vying for those 6 licenses all faced an extremely rigorous and competitive application process. NETA NJ's applications, led by Trish Zita, took the top score in two out of three regions and finished second in the third.

# #31 EDWARD "LEFTY" GRIMES & WAYNE BURRINI

If you've visited the statehouse on any Thursday for the past 5 years, you've likely smelled or encountered Lefty Grimes and Wayne Burrini, a skunky activist duo who steam their award winning podcast Sativa Cross from the statehouse lawn. On the outside they look like dirty hippies but if you scratch the surface you'll find two very smart, strategic, committed cannabis warriors.



They're not putting on a tie for your sake but Lefty Grimes & Wayne Burrini are moving the acceptance bell-curve more than anyone on this list.

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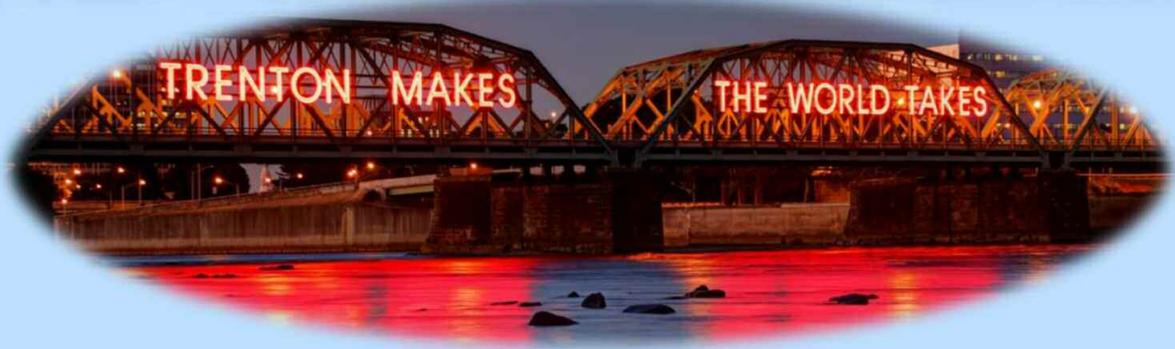
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**Bill Layton**  
Partner

**Jonathan Boguchwal**  
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**Karen Kominsky**  
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**David Glass   Nicole Howarth   Mike Schweder**



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# #32 AUBREY NAVARRO- CONWAY



Aubrey Navarro-Conway sits on the patient advocate board for Breatwater Treatment Center, the 3rd biggest biggest dispensary (by sales) in New Jersey. Their \$10,900,845.35 tally gives Breakwater about 20% of New Jersey's rapidly growing cannabis market.

Aubrey Navarro-Conway's relentless quest to inject compassion into New Jersey's medical cannabis program is matched only by her peerless workhorse mentality. In a world full of show horses gobbling up more attention and credit that they deserve, diligent, persistent foot-soldiers like Aubrey often get overlooked.

Not on this list, though.

# #33 MIKE DAVIS



By the time Mike took the top prize for his writing portfolio from the New Jersey Press Association, Asbury Park Press' Mike David had already established himself as the best and arguably most influential reporters on the cannabis beat.

# #34 JOHN BOEHNER



The former conservative Congressman speaker of the US House of Representatives, John Boehner jumped on the cannabis train when legalization seems inevitable. This, after spending his entire career voting to send cannabis users to jail. He's on the board of Acerage Holdings, which owns Compassionate Care Foundation, a dispensary in Egg Harbor that sells medical cannabis for \$520/oz. Mr. Boehner represents the corporatization of cannabis in a way that's not particularly flattering.

But it sure is lucrative!

# #35 JO ANNE ZITO



A fierce, indefatigable advocate for home-cultivation in a state where medical cannabis prices often top \$500/ounce, Jo Anne Zito is also a board member at the Coalition for Medical Marijuana of New Jersey.

# #36 DARA SERVIS & HUGH O'BEIRNE



Dara is co-founder and executive director of the New Jersey Cannabis Industry Association, a nonprofit trade association dedicated to advancing the legalization of cannabis. Hugh is NJCIA's president and also a brilliant writer. Their media savvy and State Street gravitas serve the cause of prosperity and social justice.

# #37 ERICA JEDYNAK

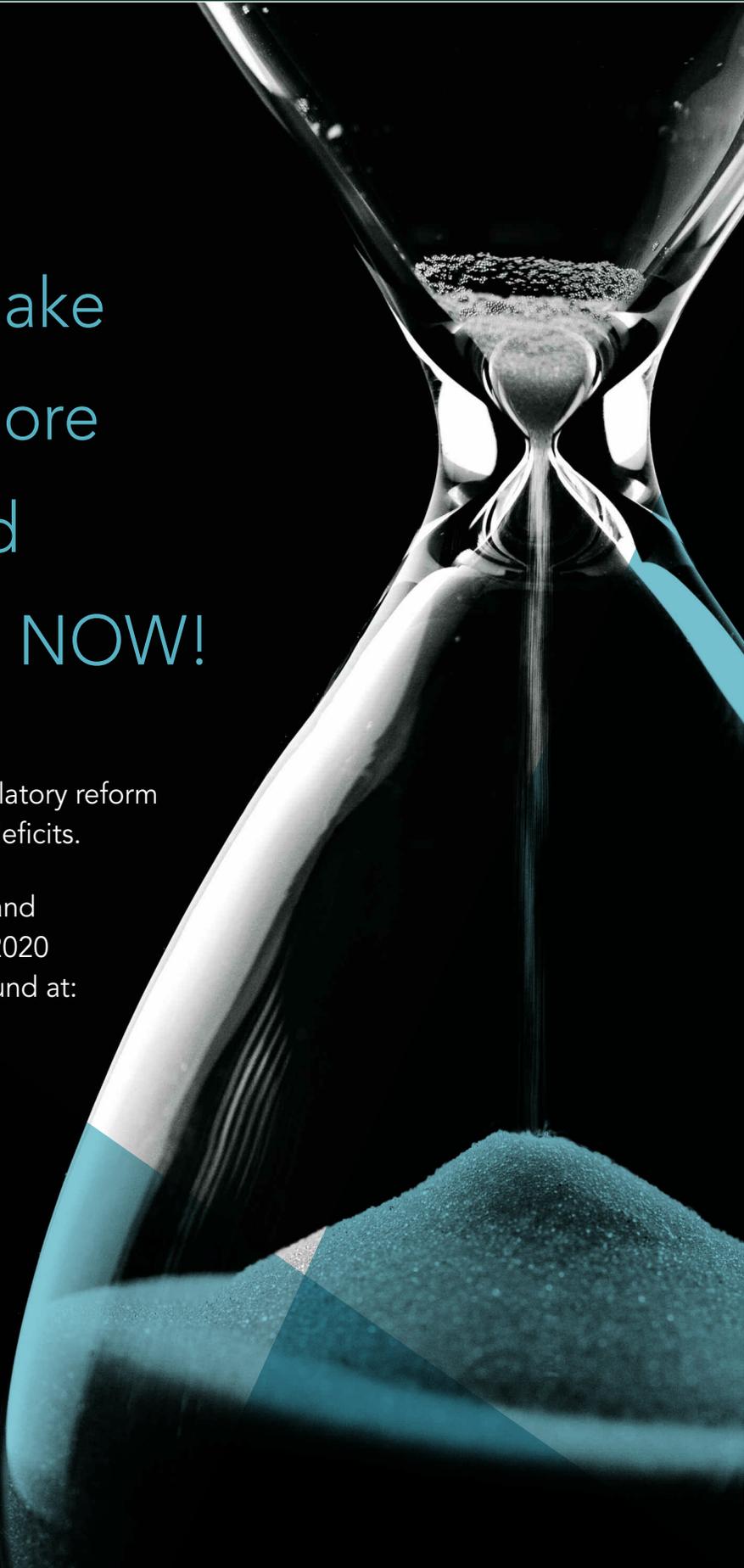


Erica Jedynak was until very recently the New Jersey State Director for Americans for Prosperity. On her watch, AFP prioritized cannabis legalization and worked overtime to help the Koch Brothers get the government out of your bong. She's now living in Washington where she's Director of Employment Initiatives at AFP's national HQ.

# #38 BETH STAVOLA



Beth Stavola is a businesswoman and trustee at the New Jersey Cannabis Industry Association. Her deep pockets are matched by her business savvy plus an enduring commitment to a thriving, prosperous legal marijuana marketplace in New Jersey.



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- NJBIA has been calling for comprehensive tax and regulatory reform to fix our structural budget deficits.
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- NJBIA looks forward to seeing the promised recommendations of our policymakers to avoid future taxes at this critical time.

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New Jersey Business  
& Industry Association

# #39 DR. DAVID L. NATHAN



Dr. David L. Nathan is founder and board president of Doctors for Cannabis Regulation. When he's not lending his brilliant, Ivy League pedigree to the sometimes contentious cannabis debate, Dr. Nathan is part of New Jersey United for Marijuana Reform where he's a founding committee member.

# #40 RICHARD SMITH



Trenton native Richard Smith is president of the New Jersey NAACP and a fierce, dogged advocate for cannabis reform. Justice delayed is justice denied, Richard Smith articulated when he said "It is easy to say 'wait' if you are resting in the comfort of a solid job and secure housing. It is easy to say 'wait' if you can apply for public assistance or financial aid. It is easy to say 'wait' if your life has not been derailed by a charge of marijuana possession." We're still waiting.

# #41 PAUL JOSEPHSON



Paul Josephson is policy council for the New Jersey Cannabis Industry Association. His firm Duane Morris LLP is a leader on cannabis policy.

# #42 ED OATMAN



Ed Oatman is the former long-serving Chief of Staff to Nick Scutari, the prime sponsor of medical and recreational cannabis legalization bills in the New Jersey Senate. Ed's fingerprints are on many efforts to reform New Jersey's cannabis laws.

# #43 MARIA BOWIE, PHARM.D.



Marla Bowie, Pharm.D., MPH, is a licensed pharmacist and Dispensary Manager at Woodbridge-based Garden State Dispensary, the second largest in New Jersey by sales. She not only oversees their unionized patient counselors and budtenders but also the company's participation in multiple clinical studies.

# #44 JENNIE STORMS



Jennie Storms is pediatric nurse whose fierce brand of cannabis advocacy took root when her son was diagnosed with Dravet Syndrome, a severe form a degenerative epilepsy for which very few traditional treatment exist. Jennie Storms was among the first waves of cannabis mothers that took on Governor Chris Christie when he was at the height of his powers. Jennie continues to work to ensure future generations of Dravet kids have better quality of life thanks to increased access to cannabis therapy in New Jersey.

# #45 JAN HEFLER



Jan Hefler is the venerable, well-respected reporter who's been on the beat since many of today's cannabis lobbyists were in diapers. Jan's distinguished, 34-year-long career at the Philadelphia Inquirer gives her unmatched longevity and perspective on important policy issues including the reformation of New Jersey cannabis laws.

# #46 SUSAN LIVIO



Venerable reporter Susan Livio has been sending out political dispatches from the New Jersey State House since 1996. It's not an exaggeration to say that Sue Livio has written more about pot than most most new reporters have written period. Her reward for fostering so much longevity under the gold dome is an encyclopedic knowledge of the game and its players.

# #47 MOIRA NELSON



Asbury Park's Moira Nelson is Director of Drug Policy Reform for Action Together New Jersey. She's whip smart. And she makes a compelling and persuasive argument why cannabis reform is a good deal for the taxpayer. Prohibition is expensive, especially considering the diminished prospects of someone ensnared by the war on drugs. Moira is currently campaigning to become Monmouth County's newest County Freeholder.



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# #48 JAKE HUDNUT



A former defense attorney Jake Hudnut is Chief Municipal Prosecutor for Jersey City. After two weeks on the job, Jake and Mayor Steve Fulop basically decriminalized cannabis in NJ's 2nd largest town Jersey City, population 260,000.

# #49 BRIDGETTE FONSECA



As Director of Dispensary Operations, Bridgette Fonseca runs Curaleaf, the largest dispensary (by sales) in the state Curaleaf. Last year, Curaleaf did \$19,144,246.69 in sales, a figure they'll handily eclipse this year. Curaleaf was New Jersey's first cannabis dispensary to feature concentrates like cannabis oils and creams giving patients more options.

# #50 JEANNINE LARUE



The indefatigable Ms. LaRue is an unintimidated presence in New Jersey's halls of power. Her team at NETA NJ not only snagged a dispensary license last November, their application set the standard scoring higher than all the other hundreds of bidders.

**#51****BEAU WILLIAM HUCH**

Beau William Huch, the long-serving legislative director for NJ Senator Declan O'Scanlon (R-Monmouth) worked relentlessly behind the scenes to keep on track legislation that would vastly improve NJ's medical marijuana program.

**#52****MATTE KANE &  
HUGH GIORDANO**

There cannabis industry is already booming and only getting bigger. The United Food and Commercial Workers Union reps Matte Kane and Hugh Giordano work to ensure that workers get a fair deal out of it all.

**#53****RANI SOTO**

Rani Soto left his career in finance to found CannaGather, billed as New Jersey's cannabis industry community, with monthly education and networking events. Rani's also national director of Latinex outreach for Minorities for Medical Marijuana.

# #54 TATYANA & RICARDO RIVERA



Tatyana “Tuffy” Rivera is a young girl from Camden who uses cannabis to treat a severe form of epilepsy. She shattered the stigma surrounding cannabis therapy for children and she did it by charming the great and the good of New Jersey politics. Tuffy’s caretaker father Ricardo, a gifted lobbyist in his own right, was a constant presence in Trenton fighting to secure his daughter’s quality of life.

# #55 MAGGIE MORAN



Garden State stalwart Maggie Moran brings vast experience in corporate communications, government, campaigns and labor relations to the cannabis debate as a strategic advisor to the New Jersey Cannabusiness Association.

# #56 AMANDA HOFFMAN



Amanda Hoffman is a board member and social media manager for the Coalition for Medical Marijuana of New Jersey, one of the oldest cannabis reform groups in New Jersey.

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# #57 JACKIE CORNELL



New Jersey's Principal Former Deputy Health Commissioner Jackie Cornell wears lots of hats at the Department of Health. Most of the improvements to New Jersey's medical cannabis program happened on her watch.

*As this went to press, Jackie resigned from her Department of Health post and went to work for a cannabis startup called 1906.*

# #58 JEANETTE HOFFMAN HENNE



When an anti-legalization group called NJ RAMP needed a brilliant, Jersey-centric, TV-ready press secretary, they hit the jackpot with veteran politico Jeanette Hoffman Henne, the literal spokesperson for cannabis prohibition in New Jersey in 2019.

# #59 JUSTIN ZAREMBA



Justin Zaremba is the lead reporter for NJ Cannabis Insider, a weekly intelligence briefing from NJ Advance Media/*The Star-Ledger*.

# #60 PAYTON GUION



Payton Guion is an investigative reporter covering the cannabis beat for NJ Advance Media. Is it just me or has he gotten a lot of scoops lately?

# #61 JESSIE GILL



Jessie Gill is a hospice nurse who parleyed a painful, debilitating spinal injury into a second career as a medical cannabis advocate. She blogs at the popular website [MarijuanaMommy.com](http://MarijuanaMommy.com) where she lovingly guides you through the controversial and confusing world of cannabis just like a good mom should.

# #62 COLLEEN BEGLEY



A Burlington County native with a decades long track record, Colleen Begley showed her commitment and resilience by showing up to testify about legalization legislation before committee 6 days after giving birth.

# #63 REV. DR. CHARLES BOYER



Rev. Dr. Charles Boyer is a third generation African Methodist Episcopal Preacher and pastor of Bethel AME Church in Woodbury, NJ. He's a powerful, prophetic voice working to end the ravages of the War on Drugs.

# #64 JON BOGUCHWAL



Longtime Trenton operative Jon Boguchwal is a partner at CLB Partners. He represents and advises the New Jersey Cannabis Industry Association, a State Street-based cannabis industry trade group.

# #65 RICK CUSICK



The former publisher of High Times magazine, Rick Kusick's been working to reform New Jersey's pot laws longer than anyone. Rick has done stint on NORML's national board and also at NORML NJ.

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# #66 JILES H. SHIP



Jiles Ship serves on Governor Murphy's newly-convened Criminal Sentencing and Disposition Commission to examine the racial and ethnic disparities in the New Jersey's criminal justice system. He also serves on Law Enforcement Action Partners (formerly Law Enforcement Against Prohibition), a nonprofit organization composed of police, prosecutors, judges, and other criminal justice professionals who use their expertise to advance drug policy and criminal justice solutions that improve public safety.

# #67 REV. DR. CALVIN MCKINNEY



The Reverend Calvin McKinney has preached the gospel of social justice from the pulpit of Calvary Baptist Church of North Jersey in Garfield for nearly 47 years. He's seen firsthand how America's war of drug have ravaged distressed communities in NJ. Rev. McKinney serves on the policy advisory board of the NJ Cannabis Industry Association.

# #68 EVAN NISON



Advocate and entrepreneur Evan Nison is founder of Niskonco, a (mostly) cannabis communications and PR firm. He's the youngest board member on the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana laws, and sits on the Board of Directors of SSDP, Students for Sensible Drug Policy.

**#69****EDMUND DeVEAUX**

Edmund DeVeaux is strategic advisor to the New Jersey CannaBusiness Association, the Garden State's oldest cannabis trade industry association with a membership of nearly 1,000 individuals and organizations.

**#70****MEAGAN GLASER**

As Deputy State Director for Drug Policy Alliance's New Jersey office, Meagan Glaser works to diminish the harms associated with both drug use and the war on drugs. She's been in the trenches fixing NJ's retrograde drug laws longer than just about anyone in the game.

*As this went to press, DPA's national organization folded the New Jersey chapter, a stunning, incalculable loss to anyone who cares about drug reform.*

**#71****JACQUELINE FERRARO**

Jacqueline Ferraro is a long time cannabis advocate. She's currently communications advisor for the New Jersey Cannabis Industry Association.

# #72 CUQUI RIVERA



Cuqui Rivera is a long time social justice advocate at the Latino Action Network. She's was an integral part of LAN's push to endorse legalization and then fight for it.

# #73 SHANE DERRIS



Shane Derris is the long-serving former chief of staff for Assembly judiciary committee chair Annette Quijano, a peerless crusader for enacting drug policy that amends the wrongs perpetrated on minority communities by the war on drugs. Shane Derris helped his boss Quijano push justice and fairness to the forefront where it remains.

# #74 JOHN ZEBROWSKI



Sayerville Chief of Police John Zebrowski comes from the old school and he wants you to just say no to cannabis legalization. Always disciplined and on message, Chief Zebrowski remains one of the most influential naysayers in NJ's cannabis debate.

# #75 DHAVAL SHAH



Dhaval Shah founded CannaSyndicates to capitalize minority participation in the rapidly expanding marijuana marketplace. He's also community outreach coordinator for CannaGather which bills itself as NJ and NY's largest cannabis community.

# #76 MARIANNE BAYS, PHD

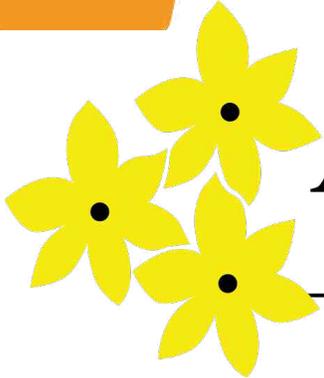


Marianne Bays is a cannabis industry analyst for Kalyx, a real estate development company. She's also the VP at the New Jersey CannaBusiness Association, the oldest marijuana trade association in the Garden State.

# #77 STEPHANIE ALBANESE



The long serving chief of staff for Senate Health Committee chairman Joe Vitale. Trenton lawmakers kicked legalization down the curb, a profound disappointment to impatient reform advocates. Stephanie Albanese worked behind the scenes to ensure medical expansion didn't hit the skids when the recreational debate went south.



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# #78 TARA "MISU" SARGENTE



Tara Sargente is executive director for the New Jersey CannaBusiness Association. She founded Blazin' Bakery, the first legal, woman-owned edibles company in New Jersey. Her products are sold at 1,000 shops all over America.

# #79 TRACY McHUGH



Oaklyn, NJ-native Tracy McHugh is a self-confessed activist/bigmouth who's in Trenton every Thursday pressing the case for cannabis reform.

# #80 JON-HENRY BARR



Jon-Henry Barr, Esq. is secretary of the New Jersey State Municipal Prosecutors Association. He's on the steering committee of New Jersey United for Marijuana Reform, a coalition of reform-minded organizations.

# #81 YOUR BUDTENDER



Maybe you're a medical user in New Jersey or perhaps you've visited a state where pot is legal. Your budtender is the person who's selling you cannabis at the dispensary, basically your cannabis barista. Budtenders derive their power and influence as educators of the first generation of legal cannabis consumers in New Jersey and America.

# #82 CRISTINA PINZON



As founder of Stateside Affairs, Cristina Pinzon offers her cannabis clients an array of services that will ease their entry in the state and help establish a successful business. Her status as a bilingual, minority, and woman-owned firm with extensive experience in government affairs and public relations puts her in the unique position of being able to offer her clients a complete range of services. Through her communication outreach, Cristina has been able to publicize the merits of medicinal cannabis to communities where her clients wish to serve. Cristina is a driving force in educating minority communities about the growing opportunities surrounding cannabis.

# #83 PETER ROSENFELD



Collingswood-based Peter Rosenfeld is a long-serving board member at the Coalition for Medical Marijuana of NJ. He's one of the most venerable, respected citizen lobbyists in the game.

# #84 BRANDON "CEE" CHEWEY



Brandon Chewey is president of the Asbury Park Cannabis Community Inc. He's also the founder of Shrorganix, a cannabis consulting firm. Brandon is a powerful voice for using cannabis therapy as a detox tool from opiate abuse disorder.

# #85 CJ GRIFFIN

*Partner, Pashman Stein Walder Hayden*



Since helping launch Pashman Stein Walder Hayden's cannabis law practice, the always-innovative CJ Griffin has emerged as an influential force in shaping the legal landscape surrounding legalization. Griffin, who represents canna-businesses and entrepreneurs, co-authored a brief arguing for the de-scheduling of marijuana and writes for Pashman Stein's NJ Cannabis Law Blog.

# #86 TIM WEIGAND



Tim Weigand is Director of Expansion and Implementation at Compassionate Care Foundation. He has been serving the NJMMP community since it's beginning in 2011, and has been with CCF since 2015.

# #87 ALMA SARVIA



Alma Sarvia is a cannabis-savvy attorney at Flaster Greenberg, a politically-wired law firm with offices in Cherry Hill. She helps clients (and reporters) navigate NJ's byzantine regulatory culture.

# #88 SEAN MACK



Sean Mack leads the cannabis and hemp practice at Pashman-Stein PC, a Hackensack-based law firm where he's also a partner.

# #89 MIKE OLIVERI



Oradell native Mike Oliveri immigrated to Los Angeles to better treat his muscular dystrophy, a chronic condition that responds well to cannabis therapy. But before moving, Mike convinced a large swathe of the NJGOP to get on board with the effort to legalize cannabis. Multiple Republicans cited Mike and his sacrifice before casting their vote.



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# #90 FELICE POTASH TWADDLE



Felice Twaddle is the treasurer for the New Jersey CannaBusiness Association, the oldest marijuana trade group in New Jersey with other 1000 members. She's also gives good copy for reporters looking for an outside-the-statehouse perspective.

# #91 ANNE DAVIS



A moderate Republican and a practicing attorney, Anne Davis is one of the most durable, eloquent pro-cannabis advocate to come down the turnpike in ages. She founded the New Jersey chapter of the National Organization to Reform Marijuana Laws.

# #92 KELLEY CROSSON



Kelley Crosson is the Vice President of the New Jersey Cannabis Industry Association. From 2008-2018, Kelly was Major Gifts Director at the DC-based Marijuana Policy Project giving her one of the juiciest Rolodexes on this list!

# #93 ALLISON PELTZMAN



Allison Peltzman is ACLU-NJ Communications Director, leads the New Jersey affiliate's efforts to educate the wider public about the impact of cannabis prohibition.

# #94 KRISTOPHER BRANDYBERRY, CH



Kristopher Brandyberry, CH, is an ASHS Certified Horticulturist and a lead grower at CannTech, who also presently oversees cultivation at Garden State Dispensary and its sister company in Delaware. Foraying into marijuana after a decade in conventional plant science and nursery management, Brandyberry is responsible for growing what is widely regarded as the state's premium legal and highest testing weed.

# #95 DR. KAMAL KALSI



Dr. Kamal Kalsi serves on Doctors for Cannabis Regulation, a voice for physicians who believe that cannabis prohibition has failed and that the misuse of cannabis should be treated as a health issue rather than a criminal one. He also serves on the Advocates Council for Veterans Cannabis Coalition, formed by veterans of Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2017 to engage, educate, and advocate for ending cannabis prohibition and bringing legal cannabis to America's veterans.

# #96 ELIZABETH RUEBMAN



Montclair-based Elizabeth Reubman is a long-time advocate and communications maven for New Jersey United for Marijuana Reform.

# #97 GARTANO LARDIERI



Gaetano Lardieri is a Newark-based Cannabis Activist/Researcher/Advisor/Entrepreneur. His work and research provides the data to medicalize and normalize medical cannabis therapy. He's an advisor to the Coalition for Medical Marijuana of New Jersey.

# #98 JEFF OAKES



Jeff Oakes is a cancer survivor and medical cannabis advocate from Oceanport. His resilience is matched by his fearlessness in the halls of power demanding better access to medical cannabis for sick people.

# #99 PHILIP NORCROSS



He may be the least known brother from the Norcross political dynasty, but Philip Norcross' firm Optimus Partners wields its considerable clout to successfully preserve the medical marijuana cartel model we're currently living in. His clients include Average Holdings, a major, growing multi-state player that's undergoing a massive expansion in Gloucester County.

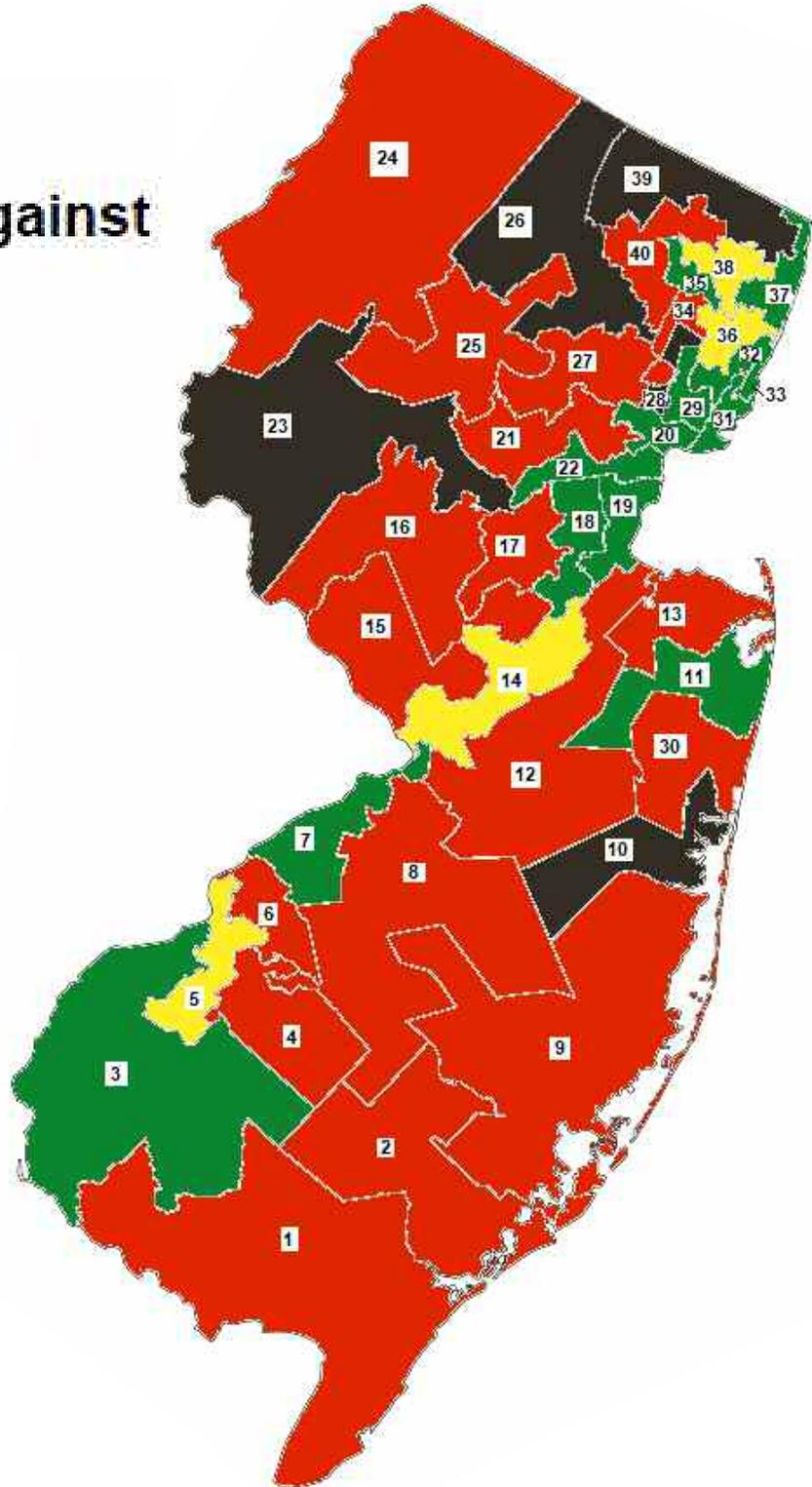
# #100 RIP



According to patient registry statistics provided by the New Jersey Department of Health, the pace of patient enrollment in NJ's medical marijuana continues to accelerate. NJ's patient registry crossed the 47,000 mark as this list went to press. That figure does not include the roughly 4,500 patient who've passed on after spending the last weeks and months of their lives using legal medical cannabis in New Jersey. As Wall Street lines us to cash in and stoner culture takes root in unexpected ways, NJ's medical cannabis program has always been about sick and sometimes dying people trying to have a better quality of life.

# New Jersey Cannabis Legalization Senate Voting Map

-  Actively Against
-  No
-  Undecided
-  Yes



# A TRIBUTE TO

ANNETTE QUIJANO

*Assembly Judiciary Committee Chair*



BY HER FRIEND ARLENE Q. PEREZ

Assemblywoman Annette Quijano is a Jersey native, born to Puerto Rican parents who has earned the reputation of a champion legislator, tackling issues facing middle-class families, seniors, veterans, women, children and workers.

Assemblywoman Quijano has always fought against inequality and the difficult challenges that all people face regardless of their race or culture, and because of that, the cannabis reform debate was not a challenge she was going to shy away from. She has emerged as a prominent leader who is shaping the debate on the growth of the cannabis industry by promoting education and public safety through reasonable and sensible regulation.

Assemblywoman Quijano's interest in legalization was in large part due to the inequalities in the enforcement of cannabis laws and their long-term impacts on the lives of all people in this state. The legislation of adult use cannabis and the expungement of marijuana charges would offer hope for the future, opportunity for a better life, and social justice for so many New Jerseyans.

# A TRIBUTE TO

JAMEL HOLLEY

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*Assemblyman*



BY HIS FRIEND JEANNINE LARUE

The original cannabis bill sat for years without an Assembly sponsor. Holley introduced and led with powerful amendments creating a whole new ball game. Expungements and social justice became the forefront conversation. If this legislation is passed with the existing amendments, it will be undoubtedly the strongest in the country.

Holley did that!