

# *Cannabis Regulation: The Path Forward after Proposition 64*

## **Speaker Biographies**

### **Joseph A. Farrow, Commissioner, California Highway Patrol**

Joseph A. Farrow is Commissioner of the California Highway Patrol, the first Japanese-American appointed to lead the agency in its 81 year history. Commissioner Farrow commands more than 7,800 uniformed, 3,600 non-uniformed, 700 senior volunteers, and 200 Explorer personnel. He served as a police officer with the Pacific Grove, California Police Department before he entered the CHP Academy in 1979. Commissioner Farrow has held every rank from cadet to Commissioner at the California Highway Patrol. He is a member of the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the California Peace Officers' Association, and the National Asian Peace Officers' Association. Commissioner Farrow earned a Bachelor's degree in criminal justice from California State University, Sacramento and a Master's degree in executive leadership from San Diego State University. He is a graduate of the FBI National Academy and the FBI National Executive Institute. He graduated from the Peace Officer Standards and Training Law Enforcement Command College and completed the University of California, Davis, Graduate School of Management's Executive Leadership Consortium.

### **Robert Sumner, Director, Office of Legislative Affairs, California Department of Justice**

Robert Sumner is Director of the Attorney General's Legislative Affairs office. In this role, he serves as a liaison between the California Department of Justice and the Legislature, providing subject matter expertise on a variety of subjects of interest to the state's chief law enforcement officer. This portfolio includes civil rights, health, licensing, education, charitable trusts, criminal justice data, human trafficking, gambling, social services, licensing, immigration, initiatives, and forensics. Mr. Sumner has worked for the California Department of Justice since 2011. Robert is a graduate of U.C. Santa Cruz and Golden Gate University School of Law.

### **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.

### **Lori Ajax, Chief, Bureau of Medical Cannabis Regulation**

Lori Ajax was appointed Chief of the Bureau of Medical Cannabis Regulation on February 4, 2016. She was previously Chief Deputy Director of the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) where she had served in multiple positions since 1998, including Deputy Division Chief, District Administrator and Supervising Investigator. As Deputy Division Chief, assigned to the Department's Headquarters Office, she oversaw several statewide programs. She began her career as an Investigator in ABC's Santa Rosa District office in 1995 and then transferred to Sacramento to work in the Trade Enforcement Unit where she promoted to Supervising Investigator. Ms. Ajax holds a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from California State University, Sacramento. She is a member of the National Liquor Law Enforcement Association and the St. Sava Mission Foundation.

### **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***

On March 23, 2015, Karen Smith, MD, MPH, was sworn in as director of the California Department of Public Health and state public health officer. Dr. Smith is a physician specializing in infectious disease and public health. Prior to her appointment, Dr. Smith served as public health officer and deputy director at the Napa County Health and Human Services Agency since 2004. 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. 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.

**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.

**Cara Martinson, *Legislative Representative, California State Association of Counties***

Cara Martinson is the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) Legislative Representative in the area of Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources. She has been with CSAC since 2013 and previously worked for The Trust for Public Land and Centra Technology, Inc.

**Ron Lawrence, *Chief of Police, City of Citrus Heights***

Ron Lawrence grew up on a rice farm in Sutter County, California, and began his career in law enforcement in the police academy in 1989. Appointed to Chief of Police for the City of Citrus Heights on October 31, 2016, Chief Lawrence promoted through the ranks with a variety of law enforcement agencies throughout Northern California. Prior to his appointment to Chief of Police with Citrus Heights, he served as a Police Chief with the City of Rocklin for many years. Prior to becoming a Police Chief, he also served as a Police Captain with Rocklin Police Department, a Lieutenant with Palo Alto Police Department, a Sergeant and Police Officer with West Sacramento Police, a Police Officer with Lincoln Police Department and a Deputy Sheriff with the Placer County and Sacramento County Sheriff's Departments. Chief Lawrence has held numerous assignments throughout his career including court bailiff, jail deputy, patrol officer, field training officer, motorcycle-traffic officer, street-crimes-vice, internal affairs investigator, personnel & training, watch-commander, division-commander and many others.

**Steve Moore, *Sheriff, San Joaquin County***

Elected Sheriff November 9, 2006, Sheriff Moore is currently serving a third term as the Sheriff of San Joaquin County Sheriff's Office. Sheriff Moore began his law enforcement career at the Oxnard police Department in 1978 before joining the San Joaquin County Sheriff's Office in 1982 as Deputy Sheriff. He has over 30 years' experience in law enforcement and has commanded every major division within the Sheriff's Office. Sheriff Moore holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminology Law Enforcement from California State University, Fresno, and a single-subject teaching credential.

**Captain Jerry Alejandre, *San Joaquin County Sheriff's Office***

Captain Alejandre joined the San Joaquin County Sheriff's Office in 1988. Captain Alejandre holds a bachelor's degree in criminal justice management from Union Institute and University and has worked in numerous capacities during his tenure with the Sheriff's Office, including: patrol, field training officer, robbery homicide, civil division, off-road enforcement and supervisor of patrol.

**Nate Bradley, *Executive Director, 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. Mr. Bradley 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.

**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.