

WACA 2023 Winter Symposium Agenda

Date: December 11, 2023
Location: Columbia Tower, 701 5th Avenue, 75th Floor, Seattle
Time: 9:00 am to 4:00 pm (lunch will be included)
Happy Hour: Immediately following adjournment of the Symposium

9:15 AM – 10:15 AM

Session I: Beyond the Hysteria – Real-Life Implications of Descheduling/Rescheduling Cannabis in the Legal Marketplace. *A scan of media coverage on rescheduling cannabis reiterates the players – from the Department of Health and Human Services to the DEA – but otherwise features very little information or insight on the massive impacts such a policy change would have on the legal and regulated cannabis sector, cannabis investors, consumers and the public. Is rescheduling a pipe dream or a nightmare?*

Panelists:

- Daniel Shortt, McGlinchey Stafford PLLC
- Justin Hobson, Miller Nash LLP
- Chris Lindsey, ATACH

10:20 AM – 11:20 AM

Session II: From Here to There – The Movement of Cannabis Products in a One-Click World. *Normalization of adult use cannabis and acceptance of the regulated industry as a sector with standard operating requirements demands exploration into opportunities to make the movement of product between licensees more cost effective, efficient, and safe. What complexities should be directly evaluated and addressed? This session features seasoned experts in business to business logistics including the challenges and opportunities of different methods of collecting, storing, and moving product to market.*

Panelists:

- Amber Vaughn, Terpene Transit
- Marques Warren, Downtown Wine & Spirits
- Josh McDonald, Washington Wine Institute

11:25 AM – 12:25 PM

Session III: Beyond Canopy – Revisiting and Revising How Washington Measures, Tracks and Taxes Product to Effectively Regulate the Health of the Industry. *From the width of a walkway to the reach of a healthy plant, Washington State's canopy classifications have repeatedly fallen short as they pertain to the amount of producer output and informing public policy. Looking beyond Washington state and even beyond cannabis regulation, this session will explore alternatives to the current canopy system. Bring your point of view and experience to this critical conversation on effectively regulating cannabis and on real solutions to track what is grown that makes it to market legally...and what doesn't.*

Panelists

- Layke Martin, Nevada Cannabis Association
- Doug Henderson, Painted Rooster Cannabis Co.
- Corey Babb, Northwest Cannabis Solutions
- Matt McCallum, WSLCB

LUNCH: 12:30 PM – 2:00 PM

Session IV: One Plant – Innovation of Cannabis and the Future of Use from the Farm Bill to the Pharmacy. *Whether viewed as sacred, as relief, as a commodity or as a blight, the cannabis plant may be the most reverently appreciated and simultaneously deeply misunderstood plant in the world. With the stroke of a pen, execution of the 2018 Farm Bill freed hemp for greater use by more people...including those with the skill and resources to convert it to THC. Although the authors of the 2018 Farm Bill likely did not envision unregulated intoxicating hemp products, they are here. Where are we all going, and what are the necessary checks and balances on our way there? This session will explore recently passed legislation in Washington (SB 5367) as well as ongoing conversations regarding the 2023 Farm Bill and potential updates to hemp regulation.*

Panelists:

- Cassidy West, WSLCB
- Pamela Epstein, California Cannabis Industry Association
- Chris Lindsey, ATACH
- Chris Fontes, High Spirits Beverages
- Jason Crowley, Fairwinds
- Shea Hynes, Lux Pot Shop

2:00 PM – 2:55 PM

Session V: Legal deals – How Cannabis Retailers Can Better Serve Their Customers by Facilitating Transactions. *The inability of Congress to treat regulated cannabis as a sector deserving of its respect and focus creates expensive inefficiency and public safety hazards in communities where we operate. Others agree. Innovative, third-party payment products that allow in-store transactions without relying on all-cash environments are necessary options for licensees and the adult customers they serve. In this session, hear firsthand from financial and regulatory experts about products and payment options available for the cannabis space to help address this ongoing problem and the uncontrolled violence it invites.*

Panelists:

- Ryan Hamlin, POSaBIT
- Jeffrey Harris, SpringBig
- Tony Repanich, Shield Compliance
- Moderator: Russ Rosendal, Salal Credit Union

3:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Session VI: Legislative Panel – Real World Application of Ideas. *Following the robust conversations that have occurred throughout the day we will be joined by a bipartisan, bicameral group of legislators who will help attendees explore next steps on some of these important issues. Whether short or long term approaches, this session will explore concrete ways we can impact cannabis policy in Washington.*

Panelists:

- Senator Karen Keiser
- Representative Sharon Wylie
- Representative Jim Walsh