Introduction to the 2026-2027 Edition

We continue to receive positive and productive feedback on the Cannabis Law Deskbook from a diverse audience that appreciates its comprehensive treatment of cannabis law and regulation. We are grateful that readers find this resource valuable.

The pace of cannabis legalization and policymaking, with its surrounding issues and debates, has not lessened since publication of the last edition of the *Cannabis Law Deskbook*. Several states transitioned to active commercial sales, others revised existing program rules, and litigation continued apace on several fronts. To keep pace with these movements, the editor and contributing authors of the *Cannabis Law Deskbook* have continued to monitor developments and present them to you here in this 2026-2027 Edition.

We tracked major issues and reforms. Most notably, substantial attention was paid to updates regarding the federal rescheduling of medical cannabis products and recent changes to the federal definition of "hemp" under the 2018 Farm Bill. Significant improvements, revisions, and additions have been made to existing chapters. Here are some highlights:

- Chapter 2: Updated the chronology of state medical and adult-use cannabis reforms to reflect recent legalization developments; added a comprehensive list of qualifying medical conditions for cannabis access in each state.
- Chapter 4: Added discussion of the 2025 Executive Order on cannabis rescheduling and the April 2026 DOJ Medical Rescheduling Order.
- Chapter 9: Updated discussion of federal cannabis rescheduling developments, including the 2023 HHS recommendation, the December 2025 Executive Order, and the April 2026 DOJ Medical Rescheduling Order; incorporated recent scientific findings concerning potential harms, Cannabinoid Hyperemesis Syndrome, laboratory surveillance testing, the redefinition of hemp, other ingredients in cannabis products, and the prevalence and effects of early cannabis use.
- Chapter 9B: Added discussion of cannabis use in security-clearance determinations and workers' compensation cover-

age for medical cannabis under federal law; updated case law concerning exposure of children to cannabis smoke and expanded discussion of state protections for medical cannabis patients receiving care in hospitals and long-term care facilities.

- Chapter 10: Updated state cannabis tax rates, revenue trends, and approaches to potency-based taxation; updated treatment of I.R.C. Section 280E in light of federal rescheduling developments, recent litigation, state conformity laws, and federal legislative proposals.
- Chapter 10A: Updated case law concerning access to bankruptcy for individuals employed in the cannabis industry; expanded discussion of state receivership frameworks for cannabis businesses and recent federal legislative efforts to increase access to financial services.
- Chapter 10B: Updated discussion of federal case law concerning design patents and cannabis trademarks; added analysis of how changes to the federal definition of hemp may affect intellectual-property protections for previously lawful products.
- Chapter 15: Updated discussion of cannabis residency requirements and Dormant Commerce Clause litigation in federal courts; expanded discussion of non-ownership investment structures and the potential effects of federal rescheduling.
- Chapter 23: Added information on state-tribal cannabis agreements in Michigan and Oregon; updated discussion of state-tribal cannabis agreements in Minnesota.
- Chapter 24: Added discussion of changes to the federal definition of hemp, including new exclusions, FDA-related requirements, and the definition of industrial hemp.
- Chapter 25: Added discussion of changes to the federal definition of hemp and their implications for hemp-derived products and businesses; incorporated recent Texas regulations, developments involving CBD product access and THC-infused beverages, federal enforcement activity, recent case law concerning the legality of hemp-derived products, and state regulatory authority over intoxicating hemp-derived products.
- Chapters 26-31: Extensive revision and updates to the chapters on Canadian cannabis regulation by the authors of Thomson Reuters Canada Cannabis Law monograph, including added discussion of 2025 amendments to Canada's Cannabis Regulations; updated treatment of edibles, extracts, topicals, promotion restrictions, and packaging and labeling requirements.
- Chapter 31: Updated discussion of industrial hemp regulation and import restrictions; added discussion of 2025

amendments permitting broader use of non-viable industrial hemp derivatives and a 2025 consultation concerning a framework for marketing products containing CBD.

- Chapter 32: Updated discussion of cannabis regulation across Europe, including developments in the Netherlands, Malta, the United Kingdom, Germany, Spain, and other jurisdictions.

Additional topics will be considered for future editions of the Deskbook as we determine how it can best serve the need for accurate and thorough information on topics related to cannabis reform. Readers can take confidence in the dedication of the authors, as nationally recognized subject matter experts, to the ongoing task of monitoring developments in cannabis law and drafting updates, including interim updates, for the Deskbook versions on Westlaw, the Proview eBook, and future print editions.

Finally, we wish to express ongoing gratitude to our contributing authors and Thomson Reuters and its editorial team for their commitment to the Deskbook. As we look to the future, we expect the content of the *Cannabis Law Deskbook* will continue to evolve along with the pace and direction of developments in the field of cannabis law, providing readers with access to insights found nowhere else.

Cole White, Editor
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