



MICHAEL CHERNIS

Mr. Chernis received his juris doctorate from Fordham University School of Law in 1994, where he was a member of the Fordham Law Review. He graduated from Brandeis University with a B.A. in Political Science in 1989. Mr. Chernis has been a criminal defense attorney and commercial litigator for nearly 20 years and is licensed to practice law in California, Arizona and New York, as well as a number of federal courts in those jurisdictions.

Medical Marijuana (MMJ) Expertise

The California MMJ laws are a key area of focus for Mr. Chernis, who makes it his business to keep abreast of changes in the MMJ laws and arm clients with that knowledge. It is his prime directive to keep clients out of harm's way, and he believes an educated and informed client is critical to the equation.

Mr. Chernis has represented clients seeking to form legal MMJ collectives and cooperatives; storefront and mobile dispensaries; cultivators; MMJ patients and doctors; landlords and others seeking to do business in the MMJ sector; and individuals and businesses in civil litigation arising from such activities. Mr. Chernis also represents individuals and businesses in federal criminal matters and those charged with violating state MMJ laws and has successfully asserted defenses under the California MMJ laws on behalf of a number of clients – including marijuana cultivators, transporters and dispensary owners and employees. Although the California MMJ laws are not applicable in Federal court, Mr. Chernis has in a number of instances successfully used a client's compliance with those laws to persuade federal prosecutors not to file criminal charges.

Mr. Chernis is a member of many legal organizations that advocate on behalf of marijuana users and providers, including the National Association of Criminal Defense Attorneys, the Lawyers Committee for the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML), and California NORML.

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NAVIGATING CALIFORNIA'S TWISTED MEDICAL MARIJUANA LAWS

Regardless of whether you are an individual who simply wants to use medical marijuana personally and understand how many plants you can cultivate legally, or you are seeking to cultivate MMJ for a collective or operate a dispensary, and earn money in the process, Mr. Chernis can counsel you about your rights and how your desired activity can be done legally under the California MMJ laws. His clients include storefront dispensaries, mobile collectives, landlords, edible manufacturers, cultivators, doctors and primary caregivers.

MEDICAL MARIJUANA LEGAL SERVICES INCLUDE:

- **Collective/Cooperative/Non-Profit Formation & Organization**

- **Best Practices And Compliance Services to Maximize Legal Protection and Minimize Tax Liabilities**

- **Membership, Cultivation and Transport Agreements and other Operational Documents**

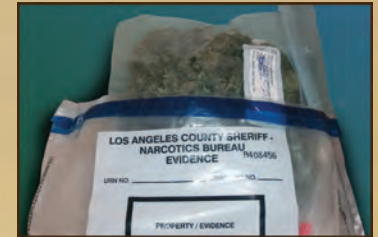
- **Guidance Regarding Local Zoning Restrictions Applicable to Cultivation, Storefronts and Mobile Dispensaries**

- **Representation in Civil Lawsuits Related to Medical Marijuana**



- **Defense of Patients, Dispensaries, Transporters, Cultivators and Doctors in Criminal Cases and other Legal Proceedings**

Michael has had a great deal of success representing patients, mobile and storefront dispensary operators, transporters, and cultivators, and even doctors, who are accused of wrongdoing, including persuading prosecutors not to file or to dismiss charges brought against his clients and successfully using the MMJ laws in court to defend clients charged with illegal possession, cultivation, sale, and transport of medical marijuana.



OTHER AREAS OF PRACTICE:

- **Criminal Defense / Government Investigations**

- State and Federal Court
- Drug Cases
- Driving Under the Influence of Marijuana
- White Collar Crimes

- **General Corporation**

- Corporations
- Non-Profits
- Partnerships
- LLCs

- **Licensing Agreements and Trademark / Copyright Registration**

- **Civil Litigation**

