

Palliative Marijuana

See ALJ Order for Admissions and Stipulations.

3. PROPOSED WITNESSES.

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Richard Doblin, Ph.D.

Multidisciplinary Association for Psychedelic Studies

4. SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY

Proposed Testimony of Dr. Lyle Craker

Dr. Craker will testify about his education, training, and background in plant and soil sciences, about his current position as a professor at the University of Massachusetts. Dr. Craker is editor of the professional, scientific journal, The Journal of Herbs, Spices and Medicinal Plants. He is also Chairman of the Medicinal and Aromatic Plant Section in the International Society for Horticultural Science, and the founding organizer of the Herb, Spice, and Medicinal Plant Working Group in the American Society for Horticultural Science. Dr. Craker will testify about plant development research he has conducted, and about his particular interest in the control of mechanisms regulating essential oil synthesis and composition of plants, especially as related to increasing production and quality of plant extracts. He will testify that he has long been involved in researching and growing plants that have medical uses. He will also testify that he has received a variety of funding, including government funding, to support this research. Dr. Craker will further testify as to why providing him with a DEA license to grow particular strains of cannabis with particular ratios of plant components is in the public interest.

As Dr. Doblin will testify, based on substantial evidence demonstrating that cannabis offers therapeutic benefits to patients with a variety of conditions, MAPS seeks to develop cannabis as an FDA-approved medication.

MAPS. Experience Assisting Dr. Donald Abrams with his Cannabis Research
Dr. Doblin will testify that he and MAPS approached Dr. Donald Abrams in 1992 and offered him support for becoming involved in conducting research into the risks and benefits of the medical use of cannabis in treating the AIDS wasting syndrome.

Dr. Doblin will testify that the results of Dr. Abrams. study demonstrates that HIV patients taking protease inhibitors do not experience adverse short-term

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effects from using cannabinoids. In addition, while all three groups in the study (placebo, the group receiving oral dronabinol, and the group receiving smoked cannabis) gained weight, the smoked cannabis group gained an average of 3.51 kilograms, as compared to 3.18 kilograms with oral dronabinol, and 1.30 kilograms in the placebo group.

In 1999, MAPS helped Dr. Russo to submit a research proposal to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to study the effects of smoked cannabis in treating migraine headaches.

This study aimed to compare the treatment efficacy of smoked cannabis as compared to that of oral dronabinol (Marinol) and of injected sumatriptan (Imitrex . the most effective of noncannabis treatments for migraine used at the time the study was submitted).

Proposed Testimony of Irvin Henry Rosenfeld

Mr. Rosenfeld is one of the seven remaining living participants in an FDA Compassionate Investigational New Drug (IND) Program, closed to new entrants in 1992, that provides NIDA marijuana for free to people who demonstrated that nothing else worked for relief of their symptoms and a qualified physician believed that marijuana did. Irv Rosenfeld suffers from a rare bone disorder called multiple congenital arilaginous exostoses, which is marked by bony protrusions that cause chronic pain. Mr. Rosenfeld will testify about his condition, and how marijuana provides him relief. Mr. Rosenfeld will testify that he has been in the program since November, 1982, and every month receives at his pharmacy about 300 marijuana cigarettes, with a THC level less than 4%. He will testify that in 2001, he was one of four of the seven official patients who participated in Dr. Ethan Russo's privately-funded "Chronic Cannabis Use in the Compassionate Investigational New Drug Program Study." That study showed "very few adverse effects in the patients" and documented reported medical benefits.

Proposed Testimony of Angel Raich

Ms. Raich is a patient whose board-certified doctor has recommended the use of cannabis to relieve painful symptoms of several chronic diseases, and to suppress the wasting syndrome that threatens her life. In fact, her doctor has testified that it is his opinion that without medical cannabis, Ms. Raich will likely die. Ms. Raich will testify as to how medical cannabis has helped her when all other medications failed. She will testify that it is in the public interest to increase research into the medical effects of cannabis, and to research various means of delivering the medication. Ms. Raich will also testify that she has a federal court injunction precluding the federal government from prosecuting her for her medical use of cannabis.

Proposed Testimony of Valerie Corral

Ms. Valerie Corral is a medical marijuana patient who will testify that marijuana has been helpful to her for the treatment of brain damage, epilepsy and migraines. She will testify that she founded The Wo/Men's Alliance for Medical Marijuana (WAMM), a collective of seriously ill patients who work to educate the general public regarding the medical benefits of marijuana, and to insure that patients, who have a recommendation from their physician, have safe access to legal under California law, and natural supply of Marijuana for the treatment of terminal and debilitating illness. WAMM works closely with local law enforcement and the legal community.

Proposed Testimony of Phillip T. Alden

Mr. Alden will testify that he is a person living with AIDS. He will testify that he has used medical marijuana for the past eight years to combat nerve pain from Peripheral Neuropathy and to boost his appetite and calm the nausea resulting from his Antiretroviral Therapy. He usually gets his medicine from one of the California medical cannabis distribution facilities in San Francisco.

Proposed Testimony of Dr. Donald Abrams

Dr. Donald Abrams, a researcher into the medical benefits of cannabis, will testify about the process of getting approval to conduct a pilot study on the use of cannabis to treat AIDS wasting syndrome. Dr. Abrams will testify that the results of his study demonstrate that HIV patients taking protease inhibitors do not experience adverse short-term effects from using cannabinoids.

Other sites to visit for more information on palliative care and dietary intake and the course of HIV infection.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Palliative_care

http://www.stoppain.org/palliative_care/default

<http://www.cnbi.nlm.hig.gov/entrez/pubmed.gov>