

# 2016 BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION

### Member Voter Guide

### About the Board of Directors

NCIA's board of directors is the executive body that establishes the organization's broad objectives and strategic direction. As such, the board has authority over NCIA's bylaws, mission statement, strategic plan, and budget, and provides oversight to ensure the organization adheres to these.

Board members are also contribute to the organization financially, help to build membership, and act as NCIA's ambassadors by helping to build membership and raise funds to support the organizational mission.

### Who Qualifies to Run for a Board Position?

To qualify for board election, a candidate must be the owner or employee of a current dues-paying Sustaining Member business and must be nominated by at least one other NCIA member business (of any level).

No more than half of the board members may reside in any given state, and at least four states shall be represented on the board at any given time. No less than half of the board may be representatives from "direct-to-plant" businesses, which NCIA defines as entities that handle the marijuana plant or cannabinoids derived from the marijuana plant in the course of doing business (i.e. cultivators, retailers, infused product manufacturers). Ancillary cannabis businesses can occupy any the remaining board seats.

### Explanation of NCIA Board Election Process

In order to ensure NCIA always works for the interests of its members, we employ a democratic process for selecting the board of directors. All NCIA member businesses are eligible to vote in the board election.

Votes will be weighted according to membership level. The votes of Basic Members will be weighted at face value; Sponsoring Members' votes will carry twice the weight of Basic Member votes; and Sustaining Members' votes will carry five times the weight of Basic Member votes.

Elected board members serve two-year terms and elections are staggered, occurring annually, with 11 of the 22 total seats up for election in 2016.

The newly elected members will join the board at its next meeting in July 2016.

### **Explanation of Voting Process**

NCIA's 2016 election is being conducted electronically, utilizing a secure online voting form. Qualified voters (one representative of each current member business) may select up to 11 of the 22 nominees.

The online voting form is only accessible by securely logging into the NCIA website via a member-business account. Each member-business account may only complete the ballot once. The votes will be tabulated and weighted according to the membership level of the member business associated with the account.

Attempts to submit a ballot with more than 11 candidates selected will be rejected. Voters who select more than 11 candidates will be notified by NCIA staff and given one more opportunity to submit a proper ballot. Submissions with fewer than 11 candidates selected are acceptable; however, please note that voters will NOT be able to cast votes for additional candidates at any later time.

Voting opens on April 30 and closes at 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on May 16. Voting will be held confidential.

### **2016 Candidates**

Caela Bintner - Faces Human Capital Management

Brian Caldwell - Triple C Collective

Alex Cooley - Solstice

John Davis (incumbent) - Northwest Patient Resource Center

Troy Dayton (incumbent) - The ArcView Group

Etienne Fontan (incumbent) - Berkeley Patients Group

Steve Janjic - <u>Amercanex</u>

Neil Juneja - Gleam Law

Aaron Justis (incumbent) - Buds and Roses Collective

Brendan Kennedy - Privateer Holdings

Kris Krane (incumbent) - <u>4Front Ventures</u>

Neal Levine - LivWell Enlightened Health

Jaime Lewis (incumbent) - Mountain Medicine

Randy Maslow - iAnthus Capital Management

Norris Monson - Cultivated Industries

Lance Ott (incumbent) - Guardian Data Systems

Erich Pearson (incumbent) - SPARC

Glenn Peterson - Canuvo

Tom Quigley - The Gluu

Ean Seeb (incumbent) - Denver Relief Consulting

Bryan Sullivan - DANK

Scott Van Rixel (incumbent) - Bhang Corporation



# Caela Bintner

### Faces Human Capital Management

Denver, Colorado Industry Sector: Professional Services and Consulting Ancillary

Member since July 2015

#### **Candidate Bio:**

Caela Bintner brings more than two decades of communications, marketing and senior sales experience to Faces Human Capital Management ("Faces"), a Professional Employer Organization (PEO) and Human Capital Management (HCM) company of which she is the co-founder. Faces is an entrepreneurial organization for entrepreneurs and small and medium sized businesses with a competitive edge: it is the leader in providing human resource solutions to the cannabis industry. Prior to founding Faces, Ms. Bintner was an award winning sales and marketing executive at Insperity, and was a Vice President at Diversified Human Resources, a PEO with a geographic focus on medium sized businesses in the Southwest United States. In these roles, she was known for her tenacity, deep client relationships, and ability to create customizable and scalable solutions.

#### **Candidate Statement:**

As a Denver native, I have been privileged to meet so many of the cannabis industry's entrepreneurial pioneers that have paved the way for what is quickly becoming a global phenomenon - opening patient access to the healing benefits of cannabis. While the industry provides significant opportunities for entrepreneurs, patients and consumers are the true beneficiaries of this remarkable sea change we are witnessing take place legislatively around the globe. While the industry grows and infrastructure requirements become more robust, we will need to invest not just in technology or product but we will need to invest in people and employees - our industry's first point of contact with both patients and consumers. It is with this focus that we formed Faces Human Capital Management - to assist the rapidly expanding and budding cannabis entrepreneur network with properly managing HR, payroll, benefits, and other essential components that are the building blocks of any company. It is with this goal in mind that I apply for membership of the board of directors of the National Cannabis Industry Association. I believe I can bring a fresh and unique approach to a highly respected and single trade association focused on the regulatory and compliance aspects to business management within the cannabis industry. Particularly as the industry continues to grow and expand to new markets, the business foundations into which our organization has insight will become increasingly important. We want to bring these insights to benefit the entirety of the cannabis industry through the collective and powerful voice of the NCIA. Finally, it is no secret that policy and change requires financial resources. As a former public relations specialist to The Bush Administration, I have vast experience in both communicating and working with donors at the highest level of policy. I strongly believe it is just this experience that can support my ability to bring new ¿faces; to and expand the existing donor support of NCIA. Given the vast mission supported by NCIA, and the robust goals of our industry over the coming five to ten years, I believe my combined experience, network, and institutional framework can provide a unique catalyst for NCIA's advocacy initiatives.



# Brian Caldwell

### **Triple C Collective**

Seattle, Washington Industry Sector: Cannabis Provider **Direct-to-plant** 

Member since November 2014

### **Candidate Bio:**

Brian Caldwell is the managing member of Triple C Collective, a Washington state dispensary for medical cannabis with over five years experience and the state's most awarded store and staff. Triple C has been granted three cannabis retailer licenses for the sale of recreation products and will maintain a medical endorsement at each location for patient access. Additionally, Brian has licenses pending in various other states.

Caldwell served as a founding member and Chairman of the Northwest Producers, Processors and Retailers Association. NWPPR was a cannabis trade association in Washington with a strategic focus on working with lawmakers to help define the regulated framework for cannabis. He was critical in PAC fundraising and member recruitment - skills that can translate to NCIA. NWPPR successfully merged with four other trade associations to create The Cannabis Alliance in 2016.

Caldwell currently serves as the Retail Chair of FOCUS Standard Creation Committee (SCC). FOCUS is the first and only national organization to develop accredited quality and safety based cannabis standards. The SCC represents the cannabis and standards industry, regulatory agencies, health departments, medical, research, the public and business sector, as well as patients and consumers to form a balanced consensus body developing quality and safety standards for cannabis in eight areas.

Brian has been active in NCIA for nearly two years and looks forward to a dynamic future with them. He has attended the regional caucuses and advocacy trips to DC. As a Washington resident he has leveraged his relationships with congressional members, especially those key members in leadership, and staff to assist in the policy objectives set forth by NCIA.

#### **Candidate Statement:**

As a member of the NCIA board, I can help deliver on the objectives that we collectively seek solutions to: banking, taxation, medical access, hemp cultivation and much more. I have been involved in the cannabis movement for nearly a decade and have been both personally and professionally affected by the restrictions we all face. Having been active in NCIA for nearly two years, I see the collective value we are building in Washington D.C. and the changes we are impacting.

I have worked with members of Congress to help educate them on the differences and similarities of medical and recreational cannabis, the challenges and discrimination cannabis businesses endure, and the lack of equality we face. Though we operate upstanding and law-abiding businesses, the struggle for day-to-day survival is all too common for us all. Though many states and communities have legalized various aspects of the cannabis industry, it is more important than ever that the federal government acknowledges the majority of states new laws and creates both parity and preemption for our industry. Our advocacy efforts are far from over and I have the energy and the focus to help NCIA strive for success in the coming years.

Having a robust professional background and having worked in numerous states on the various transitional paths that our industry has endured, I bring extensive policy knowledge and relationships that can and should be leveraged. From working with organized labor, to law enforcement, to insurance, I can offer extensive partnerships to advance the mission and vision our community has crafted through the efforts of NCIA.

I ask for your vote as I firmly believe in the goals and objectives of NCIA. I am prepared to use my personal and professional relationships to educate and influence our Congressional members so that our cannabis community can be united and treated equitability under federal law. Finding financial stability, advancing tax reform policies, and creating sustainability is the nexus of what I seek to accomplish each day. I will work hard for all members of NCIA and be a compliment to the leadership that drives our shared objectives.



# Alex Cooley

### Solstice

Seattle, Washington Industry Sector: Cannabis Cultivation, Cannabis Provider, Extractions and Infused Products **Direct-to-Plant** 

Member since April 2013

### **Candidate Bio:**

Alex Cooley is the co-founder of the first brand in the first legal recreational state, Solstice. A cannabis production processing company based in Seattle has led to many firsts and many opportunities to shape the industry locally and globally. Through his diligent efforts Solstice created the first ever fully permitted cannabis production facility in Washington State. From inception, Solstice;s goal has been to cultivate the highest quality, most beneficial varieties, including the award winning, CBD-rich Sour Tsunami #3.

Acting locally he has helped to shape multiple City of Seattle ordinances and author the ¿"collective garden model" of safe, legal access for medical cannabis patients. Standing on these successes Alex and Solstice have been very active at the state level and were key resources to the WA Liquor and Cannabis Board to develop the rules for the implementation of I-502, Washington's cannabis legalization. In addition to working with multiple state agencies Alex has worked with the Washington State Legislature to craft better laws for patients and adult use consumers.

In recent years Alex has been crisscrossing our country speaking at industry events helping to guide the industry in a positive direction and last year lobbying the US Congress to reform federal policy. Only very recently Alex has worked to shape international policy at the UN General Assembly Special Session on Global Drug Policy.

Throughout all of this action Alex has never lost touch with his passion for the plant and recently celebrated 10 years of cultivating the plant. He also maintains his day job at Solstice, acting as the Vice President helping to manage the day-to-day operations, craft the long-term vision and maintain the same mission that the company was founded on 5 years ago.

### **Candidate Statement:**

I am seeking a seat on the NCIA Board of Directors because I feel that it is my responsibility as a member to volunteer my time and experience to further NCIA and the cannabis industry as a whole. My experience lends itself to the board, having sat on multiple boards and committees; Cannabis Coalition for Standards & Ethics, Northwest Producers Processors & Retailers, SoDo Business Industrial Association and have the distinct pleasure of being the current President of The Cannabis Alliance; Washington State¿s largest cannabis association. I have seen how impactful sitting on these boards can be and now wish to make such impact on a national level.

In my years of proudly being a NCIA member I have watched and at times helped to create change on a national level; most notably turning a Washington Senator from a silent supporter to a co-sponsor of cannabis reform. As a member of the board I believe I can continue to create such change.

Being a WA state licensed producer processor I am direct touch to the plant. Which not only helps to satisfy the direct-to-plant quota of the board but also gives me a specific perspective on the industry and what it needs to be successful long term. In addition to the perspective of a cultivator, my experience with developing and receiving a state license helps me understand the realities facing our entire membership in our ever changing and emerging industry.

I thank you for your consideration and would greatly appreciate your vote for the National Cannabis Industry Association Board of Directors.

Best, Alex Cooley



# John Davis

# Northwest Patient Resource Center

Seattle, Washington Industry Sector: Medical Cannabis Provider Direct-to-Plant

Member since August 2011

### **Candidate Bio:**

John Davis is a founder and Executive Director of the Coalition for Cannabis Standards and Ethics Washington's oldest and largest industry group. CCSE merged with 3 other organizations to form the Cannabis Alliance of which he is a founder and Board member. He is a founding member, Board member and Vice Chair of the National Cannabis Industry Association. He has worked on drug policy reform for over 20 years. John was a Board member of Hemp Initiative Projects of Washington State starting in 1993 where he helped to author early marijuana legalization initiatives and run the campaigns.

Shifting his focus to education, John started volunteering for Seattle Hempfest in 1994. He was elected to the Steering Committee. When the entity was re-organized in 2006 he became the first Chairman and Vice President of the production company behind Seattle Hempfest. John works on the organizational and political strategy for Hempfest.

In 2009 John was asked to manage Washington's oldest and most respected cannabis dispensary, Compassion in Action. John took the organization from the brink of bankruptcy to be a thriving \$3,000,000 a year enterprise. He left to pursue other ventures culminating with the founding of his current project; Northwest Patient Resource Center (cannabis retail). John serves as the President and Chief Executive Officer. John is also a principle of Union Group medical cannabis retail in Chicago.

John has been featured on ABC, NBC, CBS, FOX, NPR, CNN Money, Bloomberg, Fox Business, Ai Jazera, New York Times, GQ and many more. John was Cannabis Business Executive's pick for #8th most influential person in cannabis.

John has served as a cannabis policy expert to the State of Washington and the City of Seattle. John helped author the Washington State implementation guide for 502 (legalization) implementation with the State Regulatory group.

#### **Candidate Statement:**

Thank you for allowing me to serve you as a member of the Board of Directors for the past three terms. I would like to ask you for your vote so that I can continue the work that I have been doing for the past 6 years. A lot has changed since 2010 and we have accomplished an astonishing amount. Both in bringing the NCIA to the vibrant organization that it is today from virtually nothing and in the amount of social and policy change that has occurred in the United States in that time. It makes this time critical. We have started the wheels turning and now that they are, we must steer in the right direction. The hard work is not diminishing.

I would ask for your vote because I have over 20 years of practical experience working directly on cannabis policy. I have experience in working with elected officials, regulators and stakeholders' groups with positive outcomes. I am a pragmatic incrementalist. I have great relationships with elected officials. I have been lobbying Congress for 4 years. I am a lobby Captain for NCIA Lobby Days. I have been lobbying the Washington State legislature for more than 20 years.

I have much experience working on Boards and the procedure of a functional Board. I was elected by the NCIA Board to serve as Vice-Chair in 2012 and serve in that capacity currently. I take my position seriously. Along with recruiting new members, I ensure that critical issues are discussed before the Board¿s meetings so that the meetings can run smoother and consensus is easier to achieve. I have served on the Political Strategy and Treasury subcommittees as well as numerous ad-hoc subcommittees.

I pledge if elected to serve you in the 2017-2018 term that I will continue to show up to the meetings and to put in the work that is needed to ensure that our organization and industry continues to step boldly in the right direction.

My campaign is honored to have the official endorsement of Congressman Dana Rohrabacher (R-CA) author of the Rohrabacher-Farr amendment.



# Troy Dayton

### The ArcView Group

Oakland, California Industry Sector: Professional Services, Consulting, Financial **Ancillary** 

Member since December 2010

#### Candidate Bio:

Troy co-founded cannabis investment and research firm, The ArcView Group, in 2010 and serves as CEO. ArcView created the ArcView Investor Network where more than 500 high net-worth investors have pumped more than \$66 million into 105 cannabis-related ventures and raised more than \$815K for the legalization effort. ArcView also publishes The State of Legal Marijuana Markets, the most oft-cited market data and analysis report on the industry. ArcView co-founded Cannasure Insurance Services in 2011 and launched Canopy, a business accelerator in 2015. Troy is a board member of the Marijuana Policy Project and is a founding board member of the National Cannabis Industry Association. He is co-founder of Students for Sensible Drug Policy and served as the Director of Development for the MAPS Organization in 2007. He also helped launch and served as the first sales director at Renewable Choice Energy, which was recently named the #1 green power provider by the EPA. In his spare time, Troy enjoys karaoke and Burning Man.

#### **Candidate Statement:**

I believe that business is the most powerful platform for political change and that the development of a responsible, politically engaged, and profitable cannabis industry will be the single biggest factor leading to a day when not a single adult is punished for this plant. I believe NCIA is the leading voice for this in the media, to the industry players, and to Congress. I stand for the cannabis industry being a new kind of industry and making sure we take the steps to ensure that history sees us as more analogous to the renewable energy and organic food industry and not the tobacco, alcohol, and pharmaceutical industry. Through my company, The ArcView Group, we've raised nearly \$100,000 for the NCIA and promote its conferences. I also donate to the PAC and include my role as founding board member of NCIA in my standard bio that is used in ArcView's media kit, on our website, and whenever I speak. I hope to have the chance to continue to represent the member businesses well for another term.



### **Etienne Fontan**

### **Berkeley Patients Group**

Berkeley, California Industry Sector: Medical Cannabis Provider **Direct-to-Plant** 

Member since November 2010

### Candidate Bio:

Etienne Fontan is Vice President and Co-owner of Berkeley Patients Group (BPG), a leader in the medical cannabis industry since 1999. Mr. Fontan has founded dispensaries in Berkeley, Los Angeles, West Hollywood, and in the states of Maine, Nevada, and Oregon. For more than a decade, Etienne has helped position BPG as a leading medical cannabis dispensary, focusing on leading the emerging industry as it expands, evolves, and becomes more professional. Mr. Fontan is a founding board member continuously serving on the NCIA Board of Directors, including as Board Chair during 2012-2013. In 2011 he was invited by top medical cannabis researchers in the Netherlands to undergo training and tour the Medical Cannabis program as run by the Dutch government. While there, Mr. Fontan learned how to perform laboratory tests on medical cannabis and studied to understand supply logistics of the Dutch regulatory system.

As a business owner, Mr. Fontan is focused on leading the industry to make operations predictable, while continually working to improve the quality and affordability of medicine for our patient members. Mr. Fontan has an extensive background as an engaged activist dating back to 1993, seeking to make cannabis legal and safe. Starting in 1993 he was a director with the Cannabis Action Network and traveled through 47 U.S. states speaking at rallies, teach-ins, and tours, and reaching out to the general public on all cannabis-related issues. Mr. Fontan lobbied local, state, and federal governments across the country for cannabis rights, industrial hemp, and veterans' rights issues. He is a combat veteran of the first Gulf War and now lobbies on veterans' behalf for the use of cannabis for PTSD and post-war injuries.

#### **Candidate Statement:**

I'm honored to be nominated for another term on the NCIA Board and I am seeking reelection. Since day one of NCIA's founding, I have provided stability and leadership to the NCIA membership. It has been my honor to do so, and I look forward to continuing to serve. I am a founding and current member of NCIA's Board of Directors, serving as Chairman of the Board from 2012-13. My company, Berkeley Patients Group (BPG), is also a founding member of the NCIA and continues to be an active member-business, sponsoring events, participating in lobby days, and recruiting new members.

As pioneers of the cannabis industry, BPG and I bring decades of experience to the NCIA Board. We are well positioned to continue helping build NCIA into a powerful force in Washington, D.C. We know first-hand the struggles it takes to operate and maintain a successful dispensary under great duress while simultaneously working to improve and grow the business. In 2012, our local U.S. Attorney initiated forfeiture proceedings to seize the property housing our dispensary. Within hours, NCIA came to our defense and helped us tell our story, to both media and elected officials. I experienced first-hand how vital NCIA is for our industry.

I hope to maintain my board seat in order to assist the many new entrants in our burgeoning industry. I am committed to supporting the growth of our industry, and I need your help to continue this work. BPG has been a consistent participant and sponsor of numerous NCIA events, helping to build NCIA and the industry as a whole. BPG will continue to assist in broadening the NCIA membership base through event sponsorships and direct recruitment. I appreciate your ongoing support and ask for your vote in the upcoming NCIA Board election.



# Steve Janjic

### Amercanex

Denver, Colorado Industry Sector: Professional Services, Technology, Financial **Ancillary** 

Member since October 2014

### **Candidate Bio:**

Steve Janjic is the CEO & Co-Founder of Amercanex, the nation's first fully electronic, transparent and compliant marketplace for the wholesale transaction of cannabis among industry professionals. Prior to launching Amercanex, Steve enjoyed a productive two decade plus career in the financial markets, including serving as the Director of FX Sales at Tullett Prebon, one of the world's largest and oldest institutional brokerage firms. At Tullett Prebon, Dr. Janjic established a global sales force focusing on Institutional e-Commerce and Prime Brokerage Sales/Distribution. Previously, Dr. Janjic was the Global Head of eFX/IRS Sales and Distribution at Christopher Street Capital (GFI Securities Group). He also held a similar position with Morgan Stanley's FX Group.

### **Candidate Statement:**

If elected to serve on the Board of the NCIA, I will passionately continue to promote compliance and transparency in the cannabis industry to help create a true balanced marketplace for all industry participants.

I founded Amercanex on the basis of my strong belief in fairness and equal trade for all, and as such, I will bring this same spirit to the NCIA.

Amercanex and I believe in a marketplace where all participants can build and brand a business no matter what the size so that all can enjoy an opportunity to grow and flourish, either like an eBay or choose a passionate path of becoming a small, specialized master craftsman.

Simply put, I'm dedicated to providing an open and equal footing for all to live the American Dream, an ideal I still hold dear and believe the NCIA strongly shares the same.

We all have an opportunity to shape history and progress moving forward for future generations and leading by example, working collectively together, shoulder to shoulder, I believe we can produce long-lasting positive change in our country, using the successes of our nation's cannabis industry as the road map towards affecting positive, yet sustainable progress and equality for all for many more years to come.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity and consideration to serve the NCIAs needs.



## Neil Juneja

### **Gleam Law**

Seattle, Washington Industry Sector: Legal Services Ancillary

Member since January 2015

#### **Candidate Bio:**

I am the founder of Gleam Law, a cannabis-focused law firm with offices in Washington and Oregon. I am also a licensed patent attorney and have successfully filed over 60 trademark registrations related to cannabis with the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO). I have authored numerous articles on cannabis law and intellectual property in industry publications. In addition, I am a regular speaker in the industry, such as the National Mall in Washington DC and at the Seattle Hempfest in front of 150,000 people. Some of Gleam Law's notable clients include the first Seattle recreational cannabis store, several world-famous musicians branding cannabis products, and many publicly traded companies working in the cannabis industry. I have also appeared in national media, including Newsweek and Time Magazine, for my work in the cannabis industry.

### **Candidate Statement:**

As the founder of Gleam Law, a cannabis-focused law firm in Washington and Oregon, I strive to nurture a firm of attorneys, cannabis entrepreneurs, policy wonks, and state legislature politicians. The firm and its members have fought for medical marijuana and helped pass and refine cannabis laws and regulations in Washington state and Oregon.

My goals for the NCIA is twofold:

1) The first is to develop and refine an exemplary system of laws and regulations that will be used as a template for each state racing towards legalization. I have continuous and thorough involvement with both the Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board (WSLCB) and the Oregon Liquor Control Commission (OLCC). This has provided me with a deep understanding of how the regulations work on the ground level, in all of their facets and subtleties. My experience of what works and where we have stumbled will help us craft the most effective system to use in other states as they hurtle towards full legalization. This system will extend to federal law when we inevitably cross that bridge. The whole world will look to the Unite States to decide how they will implement legalization. What we do here will become the guide for the entire world going forward. I take this responsibility very seriously.

2) As a registered patent attorney with substantial experience in trademarks and a close working relationship with the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), I would like to continue the push forward for USPTO recognition of cannabis as a valid subject matter. Currently the Trademark Office within the USPTO views cannabis as "immoral or scandalous matter." We have put chinks in the armor and with a stronger push, I believe we can get the US Department of Commerce (the authority over the USPTO) to change this view irrespective of the DEA.

In conclusion, I aim to work with the NCIA, state and federal legislators, administrative agencies, and our community to ensure that the precise regulatory system implemented the first time for current and future generations.



# Aaron Justis

# Buds and Roses Collective

Los Angeles, California Industry Sector: Medical Cannabis Provider **Direct-to-Plant** 

Member since April 2014

#### Candidate Bio:

Aaron Justis, 39, is president of Buds & Roses Collective, Inc., a "licensed" dispensary in the City of Los Angeles, open since 2006. Aaron is a current board member, and the only one to serve either board representing Los Angeles, of the California Cannabis Industry Association (CCIA) and NCIA. Aaron is also a board member of the Greater Los Angeles Collective Alliance (GLACA) and a founder of the Studio City Medical Marijuana Advisory Board. He sits on the AHPA (American Herbal Products Association) working committee and has been a long-time advisor to UF4A (The Unconventional Foundation for Autism). Aaron and his cultivation team have pioneered the use of plant based fertilizers to grow cannabis with a reputation for being of the highest quality.

Aaron became a cannabis activist in 1997, and has worked at the local, state, and federal level to bring about cannabis policy reform. He's worked with and spoken alongside leaders including Jack Herer, Steve Deangelo, former Mexican President Vicente Fox and Harvard Dean of Public Health Dr. Julio Frenk and more. Aaron has traveled across the U.S. and overseas to speak at drug policy conferences, universities and other forums. He also has extensive experience speaking about cannabis issues with mainstream print and broadcast media, from GQ to NBC Nightly News. Aaron was featured on the cover of MG Magazine and has been continuously successful bringing cannabis to mainstream media.

Aaron is an entrepreneur at heart and has owned multiple successful businesses. In 1998, Aaron and his J-Wear Clothing Company won the High Times Cannabis Cup (HTCC) award for Best New Hemp Product. He and his team went on to win 24 HTCC awards. Aaron took a \$50,000-a-year dispensary and built it into a multi-million dollar company with one of the strongest brands in the cannabis space.

### **Candidate Statement:**

Having joined NCIA in its first year of operation, I have always strived to build and advance the organization. I am seeking your vote for reelection based on our shared goals and interests surrounding cannabis reform and a continuous goal for a cannabis industry that is strong, thriving and respected.

Growing up in Rockford, IL, the third most dangerous city in America, I saw firsthand the negative effects of prohibition and the drug war. I made connections early on between prohibition and many of the dysfunctions in our society. These connections are what put a fire in my belly for change, and it has never gone away.

I am here as an experienced medical cannabis dispensary operator with a successful and proven model within Los Angeles, the single largest municipality to regulate medical cannabis and the largest cannabis market in the world. I played a key role in the adoption of these regulations, but I have also worked under the imposition of a ban on distribution, and under "limited immunity."

I am extremely hard working, focused, persistent and will continue to bring these qualities to the NCIA board. I have the unique experience and knowledge of sitting on local, state and national boards and the information that I have gained as a result of this participation has been tremendous. My existing experience with state policy will allow me to lobby the United States government next month at NCIA Lobby Days. I had the privilege last year to represent as a Team Leader and hope to do so this year as well. Currently, I am the main contact for our Los Angeles lobbyist and I have dedicated an immense amount of time to L.A. policy and will continue this dedication until regulations are sound.

I have an undying love for this industry and the patients that we support. My talent as a motivator and promoter with a substantial presence and following on social media, my lobbyist experience, and my connections to the entertainment industry will continue to help NCIA build its network of power-brokers,

celebrities and other influential stakeholders.



# Brendan Kennedy

# **Privateer Holdings**

Seattle, Washington Industry Sector: Professional Services, Financial, Technology, Cannabis Cultivation **Direct-to-Plant** 

Member since April 2016

### **Candidate Bio:**

Brendan Kennedy is a founder and CEO of Privateer Holdings, the first private equity firm to invest exclusively in cannabis. Since 2010, Privateer has raised \$82 million to launch, develop, and grow a portfolio of leading cannabis brands including Leafly (the world's largest cannabis information resource), Marley Natural (the official Bob Marley cannabis brand), and Tilray (exceptional medical cannabis).

Today, Privateer Holdings and its subsidiaries employ a diverse group of more than 250 professionals in over five U.S. states and across multiple continents. Privateer's successes have brought positive attention to the industry and paved the way for broader legitimization and growth. From securing the first institutional investor in cannabis (Founders' Fund) to running the first full-page ad for a cannabis company in the New York Times, Privateer is a proud company of firsts.

Brendan sees activism and business as intertwined and has advocated tirelessly for the cannabis industry and drug policy reform. He has forged relationships with key leaders at the local, state, and federal levels and met with politicians on both sides of the aisle on Capitol Hill. A frequent attendee at cannabis conferences and events, Brendan is frequently asked to speak about the state of the industry in publications like the New York Times, Wall Street Journal, and Businessweek, and at events like SXSW, Web Summit, Collision, TechCrunch Disrupt, and Wired.

Brendan brings significant experience in finance, venture capital, and technology to any project he joins. Previously, Brendan served as COO of SVB Analytics, a Silicon Valley information services provider, and CEO/President of the software company Mindability, Inc. He earned a BA in architecture from the University of California, Berkeley; an MS in engineering from the University of Washington; and an MBA from the Yale School of Management. He lives in Seattle with his wife and daughter.

#### **Candidate Statement:**

The goal of the NCIA is to support legitimate and responsible businesspeople in the cannabis industry. I've made that goal the focus of my career.

Every day, I have the opportunity to speak to leaders in government, finance, and business about the harms caused by prohibition, from breaking up families and bolstering discriminatory mass incarceration to denying seriously ill patients their much-needed medicine. I have the privilege of speaking to patients and their families across the country who share powerful stories about how cannabis has improved their quality of life. I speak to young entrepreneurs with big ideas, who are eager to enter the cannabis industry, create jobs, and innovate through an exciting app or novel product.

Our industry needs reputable leadership that can represent the interests of everyone involved, whether large or small growers, processors, distributors, ancillary business owners, and so on. We also need leaders who can effectively communicate those interests to outside stakeholders, from high-level politicians and leaders of government organizations to scientific experts and even entertainment industry partners. After regularly attending NCIA events, I am enthusiastic about the prospect of joining, supporting, and expanding this existing community of leaders through additional involvement.

As the pace of cultural and political change increases, and jurisdictions across the U.S. continue to legalize cannabis for medical or recreational use, the need for an organization like the NCIA has never been greater. I am excited to build upon the successes of the NCIA and use the relationships I have developed to increase

the prominence and influence of the NCIA and the cannabis industry during this crucial time.

If elected to the NCIA Board, I pledge:

- Professionalism -- to highlight recent industry accomplishments and new opportunities without undermining those who have come before

- Advocacy -- to stand up for what NCIA members need at the local, state, and federal levels
- Diversity -- to seek out and highlight underrepresented voices
- To represent hard-working people of this industry.



# Kris Krane

### **4Front Ventures**

Boston, Massachusetts Industry Sector: Professional Services, Consulting Ancillary

Member since May 2013

#### **Candidate Bio:**

Kris Krane serves as the Founder at 4Front Ventures, a holding company dedicated to professionalizing the cannabis industry. 4Front has experienced unparalleled success in helping clients navigate the complex regulatory process necessary to obtain medical cannabis business permits in state regulated markets. Under Mr. Krane's leadership, the company has invested heavily in intellectual property and talent in order to develop and maintain best-in-class operating standards for retail dispensaries, largely based on best practices from the retail, hospitality, pharmacy, and medical cannabis industries.

Prior to forming 4Front, Kris served as Director of Client Services for CannBe, where he helped develop many of the best practices that have become the backbone of 4Front Advisors operations. Kris was trained in the medical cannabis industry at Harborside Health Center in Oakland, CA, the largest medical cannabis dispensary in the country.

Kris has dedicated his career to reforming the nation's failed drug policies, having served as associate director of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws from 2000-2005 and executive director of Students for Sensible Drug Policy from 2006-2009.

During his tenure at SSDP the organization experienced rapid growth, increasing from chapters on 40 college campuses in 2006 to over 200 in 2009. During this time SSDP led a successful campaign to scale back the law that automatically denies federal financial aid to students with drug convictions, removing the penalty's retroactivity and restoring aid to tens of thousands of students.

Kris currently serves on the board of Trustees of Students for Sensible Drug Policy and the board of directors of the National Cannabis Industry Association, Marijuana Majority, and Common Sense for Drug Policy. He served as Associate Editor of the ArcView Market Research reports in 2011 and 2013, which analyzed the value of the cannabis market.

#### **Candidate Statement:**

I'm running for the board of NCIA because I've spent my entire career working to bring about an end to cannabis prohibition and to help shepherd a new cannabis industry based on reason, compassion, and sound business practices. For over ten years I worked as an advocate for change on this issue. Starting as a college student when I helped found Students for Sensible Drug Policy, I dedicated my work to this cause, going on to serve as Associate Director of NORML and later as executive director of SSDP.

Unlike many who were motivated to get involved in the cannabis industry strictly by the prospect of making money, I moved from advocacy to industry because I saw the influence that private enterprise was having on changing public perception about cannabis. When cannabis businesses are well run, they change stereotypes of what cannabis and cannabis distribution can and should look like.

My motivation for forming 4Front was to enable as many dedicated, professionals as possible open retail facilities that their communities could be proud of. We've worked tirelessly to develop best practices and standards that are unmatched in the industry today in furtherance of this goal.

In my work at 4Front Advisors I've had the opportunity to assist clients in numerous states around the country, including Arizona, California, Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, Nevada, New York, Rhode Island, and Washington, DC. As such, I have a breadth of understanding of the issues and challenges that cannabis business owners face in different regulatory environments that goes beyond your average cannabis industry entrepreneur.

Having served as a Congressional lobbyist, non-profit executive, and now leader of a major cannabis industry consulting firm, I hope to bring the skills that I have acquired to the NCIA to help further the organization's goals. As a board member, I plan to continue working closely with the NCIA staff and Board, many of whom I have known and worked closely with for years, to advocate changes to banking, taxes, state cannabis laws, and eventually an end to prohibition. I would be honored to have your vote.



# Neal Levine

# LivWell Enlightened Health

Las Vegas, Nevada Industry Sector: Cannabis Cultivation, Cannabis Provider, Extractions and Infused Products **Direct-to-Plant** 

Member since February 2012

### **Candidate Bio:**

Neal Levine is Senior Vice President of Government Affairs at LivWell Enlightened Health, one of the largest employers in the cannabis industry. In this role Neal oversees all of LivWell's national government affairs and new business expansion.

Before joining LivWell, Neal worked on cannabis policy reform for the majority of his professional career. As a former department head at the Marijuana Policy Project, and later in private practice, Neal has worked towards the end of cannabis prohibition in over 20 states throughout the country. Specifically, Neal led or played a key role on the teams that first passed medical marijuana laws in Maryland, Vermont, Montana, Rhode Island, and Michigan; decriminalization in Massachusetts; and legalization in Alaska. Neal also led the teams that qualified initiatives via signature drive in several states, including most recently the cannabis legalization measure appearing on the Nevada 2016 ballot. In fact, no signature drive that Neal has ever led has failed to qualify for the ballot. He has overseen or advised on dozens of winning local non-binding cannabis initiatives throughout the country (many of which set the table for later statewide reform), led the team that drafted the Arizona medical marijuana law and the initiative that added dispensaries to Maine's medical marijuana law, and led or assisted many other cannabis policy reform projects throughout the country over the past 13+ years.

Neal currently lives in Las Vegas, Nevada with his wife and three kids, although he is in the process of relocating to Colorado.

### **Candidate Statement:**

First and foremost, I would like to thank NCIA Board Members Tripp Keber from Dixie Brands and Kris Krane from 4Front Ventures for nominating me to run for the NCIA Board. To be nominated is an honor, but especially when it is by two individuals that personify the importance of our industry supporting our movement, as is the case with so many of our NCIA Board Members.

Over 13 years ago I began working in cannabis policy reform at a national level. Now that I am in senior management for one of the larger employers in the industry, I can think of no better way to volunteer my skillset and my company's resources for our collective greater good than as a member of the NCIA board.

If elected I intend to jump headfirst into NCIA's federal fight to:

- end IRS 280E enforcement;
- open up standard commercial banking services; and

- help raise awareness of why it is so important to delist cannabis from the Controlled Substances Act in its entirety.

Not only do I pledge to do my part to help to raise the money necessary for NCIA and our allies to fund these fights, but I will also volunteer my team's time and expertise to add capacity to NCIA's federal lobbying effort.

Asking to be treated like any other legally regulated industry is not a lot to ask. We all benefit if we are permitted to take standard business deductions and access standard commercial banking services. The simple fact is 280E enforcement puts all of our businesses at risk, and this essential piece of reform is something on which we can all agree. The federal government is using the tax code for selective enforcement against our industry by design, and we are long past the time where that must end.

Once we are past the scourge of 280E, the industry will be in a better position to fund the movement and end cannabis prohibition once and for all. Because at the end of the day, the end of federal cannabis prohibition is what this is all about.



# Jaime Lewis

# Mountain Medicine

Denver, Colorado Industry Sector: Extractions and Infused Products **Direct-to-Plant** 

Member since June 2011

### **Candidate Bio:**

Mountain Medicine Founder and CEO Jaime Lewis has over a decade of experience managing the production of medical marijuana-infused products and leading medical and recreational dispensary operations. A graduate of the California Culinary Academy, Lewis worked in many acclaimed professional kitchens, including as executive chef of a Michelin three-star restaurant in San Francisco. She began making medical marijuana edibles for HIV/AIDS patients in California in 2006 as part of a compassionate care co-op.

In 2009, Lewis moved from California to Colorado, where she founded medical marijuana-infused product manufacturer Mountain Medicine. As founder and executive chef, Lewis designed Mountain Medicine's commercial kitchen and oversaw its construction. In her kitchen, she draws on deep culinary knowledge to develop recipes for award-winning medical and recreational infused product lines that meet the highest standards for quality, consistency, and flavor. Committed to providing patients and consumers with the best edibles experience possible, Lewis constantly explores ingredients and techniques to offer the best, most reliable infused products available. She continues to refine and reimagine product packaging design in favor of patient confidentiality and safety.

At Mountain Medicine and as an active member of the cannabis industry, Lewis is a leader in corporate responsibility and compliance who takes great pride in changing the conversation around safe and responsible cannabis consumption in Colorado and nationally. She is responsible for strategic planning and business development, policy development and governmental affairs, and marketing at Mountain Medicine, and she serves as a community liaison to demonstrate good corporate citizenship. Lewis is a founder and former chair of the Cannabis Business Alliance chamber of commerce. A National Cannabis Industry Association member since its inception, she has served on the group's board for six years and is the current board chair.

#### **Candidate Statement:**

It is a privilege to serve as your board chair, and I hope to continue to serve NCIA at this critical moment for the cannabis industry. It is an exciting time for our industry. After much effort, medical and recreational legalization is expanding. Federal policy is finally recognizing medical marijuana. As federal policy evolves, it is essential that NCIA is present to move our industry forward and foster its long-term success.

I hope to retain my board position to help shape the federal conversation. Over the course of my career and with NCIA, I have been a passionate advocate for this sector at the federal level. I know how much is at stake in our conversations with federal policymakers. As a NCIA board member, I have always and will continue to advancing the industry's best interests.

With ten years of cannabis sector experience, I offer a wide range of insights. I have worked in medical and recreational states on both coasts and in Colorado, and I have a strong understanding of the industry as a whole. As the owner of Mountain Medicine, I also provide the perspective of an infused product manufacturer involved in daily operations and regulatory development.

I am confident that my work with the NCIA board has been effective, and I will continue to bring a decisive, open, and action-oriented approach to proceedings. As a NCIA board member and a founder of the Cannabis Business Alliance, I have effectively supported business involvement and trade group engagement. In an effort to ensure NCIA's federal representation, I worked to strengthen its lobbying efforts. I recently launched our Infused Products Council, and was instrumental in facilitating a collaboration with the Council on Responsible Cannabis Regulation on a new Packaging and Labeling Standards Committee.

I have been a member of NCIA since its inception and have consistently contributed time, money, and expertise to support its success. I believe that NCIA is critical to our industry's future, and I pledge to work for the success of this association, its members, and the industry as a whole. Thank you for your support.



# Randy Maslow

# iAnthus Capital Management

New York, New York Industry Sector: Professional Services, Consulting, Financial Ancillary

Member since May 2014

### **Candidate Bio:**

Randy Maslow is a co-founder and Managing Director of iAnthus Capital Management, a provider of capital investment and operating expertise to licensed cannabis cultivators and dispensaries throughout the United States. iAnthus makes direct equity investments in for-profit cannabis license holders and management companies and also provides lending facilities to not-for-profit license holders in states that mandate nonprofit status.

Prior to co-founding iAnthus Capital, Randy enjoyed a long career as a leading attorney and senior executive in the tech industry, first serving as the General Counsel to XO Communications, Inc., one of the earliest and largest national internet service providers. Following XO's initial public offering, Randy was for many years an angel and venture investor in startup technology companies around the country. Later, Randy co-founded Internet Gaming Entertainment, which pioneered the virtual currency industry for multiplayer-online computer games and became the largest provider of virtual assets worldwide with more than 400 employees in the U.S. and Asia and over \$125 million in annual revenue. Prior to entering the tech industry, Randy was a corporate attorney and civil trial lawyer in private practice with prominent law firms in Philadelphia and South Florida.

In addition to managing iAnthus' investments in licensed cannabis operators around the country, Randy has developed broad-based expertise in cannabis regulatory and licensing law in the multiple states where iAnthus has current and pending operations. Randy has also advocated and lobbied extensively on behalf of medical cannabis legislation and license applicants before state legislators, governors, and regulators.

### **Candidate Statement:**

Hi. I'm Randy Maslow and I am honored to be considered for a seat on the Board of Directors of the NCIA. The work that the NCIA does is critically important and I want to acknowledge and thank the NCIA and its board members for their extraordinary expertise, dedication and service to our industry.

I am the co-founder and Managing Director of iAnthus Capital Management, one of the very few providers of capital investment to licensed cannabis cultivators and dispensaries throughout the United States. Based in New York City, iAnthus provides both direct equity investment capital to for-profit license holders and lending facilities to nonprofit entities in those states that still require nonprofit status for licensure.

As one of the few institutional providers of investment capital to our developing industry, I believe I can bring to the Board a different set of experiences and financial expertise to complement the impressive cannabis operating expertise exhibited on the Board today. In addition to experience financing cannabis operators, I've developed broad expertise in cannabis regulatory and licensing law, and I've advocated and lobbied extensively on behalf of both medical cannabis and adult use legislation before state legislators, governors and regulators.

Prior to co-founding iAnthus, I enjoyed a long career in the tech industry as a General Counsel, senior executive and entrepreneur with several highly successful internet companies. In addition to my legal experience, I raised hundreds of millions of dollars for startup internet companies over my career. I am from personal experience therefore deeply sympathetic to the difficulties faced by both licensed and ancillary cannabis companies in raising equity capital in the current U.S. market, as well as dealing with related banking and merchant services issues. The elimination of cannabis from scheduling under the Controlled Substances Act must continue to be the highest priority of the NCIA.

I would sincerely appreciate the opportunity to lend my complementary financial and legal expertise and skills to the NCIA Board on behalf of its critical mission to advocate and educate on behalf of our industry. Thank you for your consideration.



# Norris Monson

### **Cultivated Industries**

Portland, Oregon

Industry Sector: Cannabis Cultivation, Cannabis Provider, Extractions and Infused products, Professional Services and Consulting **Direct-to-Plant** 

Member since April 2013

### **Candidate Bio:**

Norris Monson is a lifelong cannabis cultivator, political activist, and legalization advocate. Mr. Monson was an Oregon Measure 91 Finance Committee Member, a founding member of the Oregon Cannabis PAC, an OLCC Rulemaking Sub-Committee member, and is the CEO of Rolling Joint Ventures and Cultivated Industries. Rolling Joint Ventures provides management and consulting services to the legal cannabis industry and Cultivated Industries includes cannabis production and processing facilities, currently operating in Oregon. Mr. Monson also owns and is the CEO of Satchel, a dispensary in Portland. Mr. Monson has been a long-time proud member of the NCIA and is very much looking forward to his fourth annual lobby days in Washington D.C. this coming May.

### **Candidate Statement:**

I am running for the NCIA board as a lifelong cultivator, political activist and legalization advocate. I hope to enhance ties between the NCIA and cannabis business owners and organizations from the State of Oregon. In Oregon, the cannabis industry has successfully engaged the political process and participants, including multiple fundraising efforts. Because of this engagement we have actively participated with Oregon lawmakers to create and implement sensible regulations and policy for Oregon's cannabis industry. I would be proud to use my relationships and experience, from the 4th legal state, to the benefit of the NCIA's national causes.



# Lance Ott

### **Guardian Data Systems**

Vancouver, Washington Industry Sector: Technology, Financial Ancillary

Member since August 2011

### **Candidate Bio:**

Lance Ott is a 16 year veteran of the financial services industry. His core competency and expertise covers every aspect of banking and electronic payment processing. Lance has extensive experience in merchant services including credit and debit card processing, PCI security, fraud, technology and payments consulting.

Lance is the former Vice President of National Bank of California Merchant Services and currently operates as CEO of Guardian Data Systems. Guardian was created specifically to provide secure, reliable and transparent financial services for our cannabis community. Lance is a cancer survivor and fierce advocate of alternative medicine, including medicinal cannabis.

Since the inception of Guardian Data Systems, Lance has become a ubiquitous presence at cannabis industry conferences and events produced by the National Cannabis Industry Association, International Cannabis Association/Cannabis World Conference, MMJ Business Daily, Native Nations Events and Secure Cash Transport Association. He has been regularly featured in national media and his profile is highlighted in the third edition of ArcView's Annual State of Legal Marijuana Markets Report. Last year, Mr. Ott was ranked #38 in the top 100 most influential cannabis business executives by Cannabis Business Executive.

Lance has demonstrated the courage of his convictions by fashioning a network infrastructure of cannabis friendly banks, institutions, processors and software/hardware developers to provide the cannabis dispensing collective with a safe, legitimate venue for all commerce related and logistical challenges they may encounter. Lance has taken it upon himself to offer preeminent expertise for a unique and complex business model. Lance believes that proper regulation coupled with technology will bring credibility, legitimacy and transparency to our emerging and evolving industry.

Lance currently serves on the Board of Directors for the National Cannabis Industry Association and has served as a member of the ethics subcommittee. Guardian Data Systems is a Sustaining Member of the NCIA.

### **Candidate Statement:**

Lance Ott/Guardian Data Systems Committed To The Cannabis Industry

One of the NCIA's primary missions is ensuring equal access to banking. Cannabis providers must be afforded the same banking and financial services as any other legitimate business. I have proudly served as a board member of the NCIA for the past two years. I am the only board member with a background in banking,

finance, and payment processing. I was instrumental in securing not one, but two financial institutions as NCIA Sustaining Members. I have traveled to Washington D.C. during Lobby Days for the last two years to represent the NCIA on Capitol Hill, urging our representatives to fix the unfair tax and banking policies crippling our industry. I have participated in every NCIA Business Summit as a speaker or liaison, and I have been one of the most active and successful recruiters for new business memberships. I hope to benefit and advise the NCIA by applying my 16 years of banking and payment processing experience.

Guardian Data Systems is a leading provider of financial technology and services. We are experts in risk, regulatory, compliance and security matters. We center our business on assisting our clients in achieving their financial goals through the use of our leading payment processing tools and our financial relationships in the industry. We are also an advocate for our business in the industry and seek to help influence the direction of our industry by taking an active part in the legislation and laws that are being developed to shape our industry. Our team actively monitors the merchant acquiring industry and provides leadership through education, advocacy and the exchange of real information.

Guardian Data Systems is a Sustaining Member of the NCIA and is committed to the cannabis industry and to delivering the truth in this tumultuous growth period of the industry. The key question that all of our clients and the members should be asking is "What can we do to protect our members and their businesses?" We will provide legitimate solutions to this question as part of the NCIA Board.



### **Erich Pearson**

# SPARC

San Francisco, California Industry Sector: Medical Cannabis Provider, Cannabis Cultivation **Direct-to-Plant** 

Member since November 2010

### **Candidate Bio:**

ERICH PEARSON is a recognized leader in the cannabis industry -- a long-time advocate, legislative consultant, dispensary operator, cultivation expert, and NCIA board member.

A proponent of medical cannabis regulation, cultivation and best practices since 2000, Erich served on the San Francisco District Attorney's Medical Marijuana Advisory Group and consults on state and local medical cannabis policy and legislation. In 2015, Erich was appointed to the Cannabis State Legalization Task Force, created via ordinance by the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, which serves to "advise the Board of Supervisors, the Mayor, and other City departments on matters relating to the potential legalization of cannabis."

Erich was instrumental in the passage of both the San Francisco's Medical Cannabis Dispensary Act and the law enforcement "lowest priority" resolution of the SF Board of Supervisors. As a result of Erich's work he was appointed in 2007 by Supervisor David Campos to sit on San Francisco's Medical Cannabis Working Group.

In 2010 Erich launched SPARC, a nonprofit medical cannabis dispensary providing safe, consistent and affordable medical cannabis to patients in San Francisco. SPARC provides high quality, lab tested cannabis to qualified patients, and collaborates with local hospices, residential care facilities and dispensaries to successfully supply medical marijuana at no cost to seriously ill patients.

SPARC's award winning design by Larissa Sand of renowned Sand Studios has been featured in the New York Times, Wired Magazine, and was cited by FastCompany as, "The Apple Store of Marijuana Shops." SPARC works hardest, though, for local accolades and actively engages the community through positive outreach like neighborhood clean-up days.

SPARC is Founding & Sustaining Member of NCIA. Erich holds a BS in Construction and Project Management from Purdue University.

### **Candidate Statement:**

Fellow NCIA Members,

It's with great pleasure that I celebrate another year of serving on the NCIA Board of Directors, and request your vote again.

Our mission at NCIA is to advance and legitimize our industry, and we've made major headway this year. Still, the path is pocked by challenges -- between 280E and banking, we need real solutions for our developing

### industry.

As a California retail operator and cultivator since 2010, I understand the increasingly difficult challenges we face. California is likely to legalize, yet we have fewer banking options today than ever. 280E perpetuates black-market operations, punishing the best operators in an increasingly competitive industry. Since 2010, I have worked to bring a high level of expertise to the NCIA board -- as a cultivator, dispensary operator, and legislative advisor. I represent the largest state in the union, and an internationally recognized dispensary and brand. And through these years, I have represented you.

I have more work to do, and would be honored to serve another term representing the cannabis community. We have made so much progress as an industry, as a community, and as an organization. Thank you for doing the great work that's gotten us this far. It's been a pleasure serving you.



### **Glenn Peterson**

### Canuvo

Poland, Maine Industry Sector: Cannabis Cultivation, Medical Cannabis Provider **Direct-to-Plant** 

Member since December 2013

### **Candidate Bio:**

In 2010 Glenn Peterson was awarded one of only eight licenses in Maine for cultivating and dispensing medical cannabis. Entirely self-funded, Glenn grew a personal investment of \$250,000 into a multi-million dollar vertically integrated business that includes a 5,100sq. ft dispensary and 118,000 sq. ft cultivation facility. Though painful at times, operating seed to sale has forced Glenn to fully understand all aspects of cannabis: cultivation, manufacturing, and distribution. He is also the former President of the Maine Association of Dispensary Owners and has authored and lobbied for numerous successful legislative bills improving Maine's cannabis program, as well as a former ArcView member and Sustaining member of NCIA.

#### **Candidate Statement:**

I'm honored and pleased to offer my perspective on this emerging market. Since 2010, we have seen positive shifts but there is much work to do to ensure that the mission continues. I know firsthand how difficult the path has been for companies to get to this point. I look forward to contributing to the ongoing effort to ensure fair and solid policies around the movement in taking this plant from taboo to easily accessible and medically acceptable. My life goal is to prove that medical cannabis is a safer and better response to pharmaceuticals, provide the highest grade flower and cannabis preparations to our clients, and ultimately, I want to see national legalization of cannabis including a citizen's right to grow for themselves. I am running for NCIA's Board of Directors to offer my life experience, my dedication to the cannabis plant and to continue to change people's lives. I also look forward to representing the State of Maine and the New England area on the Board. The Northeast corner of this country is under represented. Thanks for your consideration. Please write me at glenn@canuvo.org if you have any questions or concerns.



# Tom Quigley

# The Gluu

Tampa, Florida Industry Sector: Cannabis Accessories **Ancillary** 

Member since June 2014

### **Candidate Bio:**

Tom Quigley is founder and CEO of The Gluu, the simple wholesale ordering and distribution platform for smoke, vape, and wellness accessory products.

Previously, Quigley successfully built a goods-for-resale company, which distributed products to more than 40,000 retail stores nationwide. He exited with revenues north of \$30M/year. In 2014, he founded the Florida Cannabis Coalition and the Common Bond Collaborative business development center in Tampa, FL.

As an industry leader, brand developer and marketing guru, Tom's experience at all levels of business has given him the foresight to plan and implement strategies, which have contributed to overall company success. This combined with a deep personal connection to Medical Cannabis lead his founding the Florida Cannabis Coalition in early 2014 in order to help Florida patients, business owners, entrepreneurs and job seekers, benefit from the passage from the coming legalization of medical marijuana.

Quigley's experience connecting independent retailers with products is second to none. In 2015 he began recruiting the most successful sales, marketing and software talent from his previous industry and bringing them into the growing \$10B+ smoke accessory industry. He successfully formed a top-level management team, along with an experience street sales team in just over 8 months. In what would normally take years of development, under Quigley's guidance (and through years of previous experience) the team has developed proprietary software, a complete product ordering ecosystem and marketing platform for the smoke and vape accessory market.

Quigley is a member of The ArcView Group, a private marijuana investment and market research firm, is a founding member of the American Prepaid Phone Card Association, and major supporter of organizations such as United for Care, Women Grow, Students for Sensible Drug Policy and Marijuana Policy Project.

### **Candidate Statement:**

As an advocate and businessman I believe that joining NCIA was an important decision for myself. I entered the cannabis Industry after working in the heavily regulated telecom industry. I was a founding member of APPPA, a Washington DC based organization which worked with the FCC to help self regulate its business interests. My background and geographic location brings a viewpoint that may need addressing as our Industry grows. I'm proud to be in this Industry and want others to follow.



### Ean Seeb

### Denver Relief Consulting

Denver, Colorado

Industry Sector: Professional Services, Consulting, Cannabis Cultivation, Cannabis Providers, Medical Cannabis Providers, Infused Products and Extractions **Direct-to-Plant** 

Member since March 2011

### **Candidate Bio:**

Ean Seeb is co-owner and co-founder of Denver Relief, one of Colorado's most successful medical cannabis operations. Widely regarded for his expertise in corporate philanthropy, strategic business management and regulatory compliance, Ean is a highly respected thought leader aiding the development of an emerging national cannabis industry.

As a founding partner of Denver Relief Consulting and seasoned cannabis operator, Ean has significant experience navigating complex legislation and regulatory demands unique to legal cannabis operations. Ean has been actively involved with non-profit groups for over two decades. His years of humanitarian experience lead Ean to conceptualize and develop a cannabis-centric service organization called the Denver Relief GREEN TEAM in 2009. Ean's vision for the GREEN TEAM has grown to include a range of different services offered by the organization, which now brings volunteer efforts to communities in a number of legal cannabis states.

Ean is a trusted advisor for efficient networking, central management and public relations. In addition to developing community integration measures tailored to the charitable passions of his clients, Ean helps cannabis business owners build strong banking relationships and strategic partnerships with ancillary businesses like packaging, technology and insurance companies. Ean's primary responsibilities include creating new opportunities for ancillary businesses aiming to establish a presence in the cannabis industry and assisting clients with developing a robust network.

A philanthropic entrepreneur passionate about non-profit business development, Ean applies knowledge from a range of experiences while helping clients conceptualize and implement operational structures with integrated community outreach programs. Ean has served as both the Vice Chair and Chairman for the National Cannabis Industry Association Board and holds leadership positions with charitable organizations focused on a range of social causes, from civil rights and local history to sustainable volunteer farming and environmentalism in the Middle East.

### **Candidate Statement:**

Ean Seeb is a tenured cannabis professional and co-founder of Colorado dispensary Denver Relief and the cannabis consulting firm Denver Relief Consulting. Both companies are Founding Members of NCIA and have continued to support the organization at the highest level possible.

Ean has dedicated his time and energy promoting responsible cannabis business practices and consumption. Ean was elected Vice Chair of the NCIA Board in 2012 and was then elected to serve two consecutive terms as Board Chairman from 2013 through 2015. In addition to attending several NCIA lobby days in Washington, D.C., Ean has traveled to meet with members of Congress multiple times to lobby and advocate for cannabis businesses. His lobbying efforts in January 2016 directly led to Hawaiian Senator Brian Schatz (D) becoming a co-sponsor of Senate Bill 1726 on April 4th, 2016 to normalize banking opportunities for cannabis businesses. Ean has presented at many prominent cannabis industry events including, a keynote speech at the NCIA Cannabis Business Summit and Expo, NCIA Lobby Days Training, and the first NCIA Colorado Quarterly Caucus.

Ean is running for NCIA board to continue serving the cannabis industry and changing the public perception around cannabis. Ean created the Denver Relief GREEN TEAM in 2010, which organizes cannabis business members to volunteer and improve the communities where we and our businesses live. He was appointed to the Marijuana Education Oversight Committee by Colorado Governor John Hickenlooper, and helped in the creation of the "Good to Know" campaign, the first government sponsored ad campaign to positively address marijuana use, and was appointed to the Denver City Industry Committee by Denver Mayor Michael Hancock.

Denver Relief Consulting is committed to expanding diversity and responsible business practices in the cannabis industry through creating environmentally sustainable best practices and supporting female and minority owned businesses. Ean exemplifies how business owners can be the positive change in the ever evolving cannabis industry and his passion and dedication to the marijuana community makes him an ideal candidate to continue in his role as a member of the NCIA Board of Directors.



# Bryan Sullivan

### DANK

Denver, Colorado Industry Sector: Cannabis Cultivation, Cannabis Provider, Legal Services, Professional Services and Consulting **Direct-to-Plant** 

Member since April 2016

### **Candidate Bio:**

Bryan is both a practicing attorney and a leading voice in the cannabis industry. He is a founding partner in several successful cannabis businesses that span a variety of aspects of the industry. Among his ventures are: Dank - one of the first and most awarded dispensaries in Colorado; CannaScore - a unique software driven compliance tool that can be tailored to each state's regulations; Kush Bottles Colorado - the leading provider of certified child safe packaging in the state; and Denver Consulting Group - now one of the nation's leading and most respected cannabis industry consultancy.

Bryan brings his expertise in cannabis industry operations and his knowledge of the law, together on a daily basis. His expertise in regulatory affairs is invaluable in his business operations and when he trains others looking to enter the cannabis industry. He also is an expert in real estate and zoning matters, which is helpful to businesses wishing to find suitable sites for their operations and purchase or lease properties.

Bryan is passionate, intelligent and dedicated to the betterment of the cannabis industry. He understands the regulatory side of the industry, as well as the growing and dispensing - consumer focused side.

MEMBER Colorado Bar, admitted 2002

EDUCATION University of Denver College of Law J.D., May 2002 Staff Member, Denver University Law Review Student Law Office -- Criminal division Senator, Student Bar Association Editor of campus newspaper, The Writ Founder, The Irish Legal Society

> University of Colorado, Boulder, Colorado B.A., Political Science, 1997

### **Candidate Statement:**

A dedicated advocate to industry compliance, Bryan has industry-leading expertise dealing with legal matters affecting state and local marijuana laws and regulations. Bryan knows that one of the keys to the expansion and adoption of the marijuana industry is in creating fair and balanced rules that govern the industry, and assuring compliance with those regulations.

As an attorney, he is well versed in helping craft equitable solutions that meet all laws and requirements. As an owner of several cannabis businesses, he has first-hand knowledge of what it takes to start and grow a company in the marijuana industry. Bryan can talk to government officials, both as a steward of the court and as a successful business owner, bringing a diverse and valuable set of experiences and insight to the table.

Bryan is a passionate advocate for the cannabis industry, and spends a great deal of his time training others on how to enter the industry, as well as teaching existing canna business operators how to grow and remain compliant.

Bryan would like to use his abilities to champion the causes and help move the cannabis industry agenda forward. He has a somewhat unique skill set, which coupled with his passion for the industry, makes him a valuable resource and advocate.

As such, he is seeking a seat on the board of the NCIA to help contribute to the organization, provide insight and expertise wherever possible, and put energies toward helping the industry as a whole.

Thank you for your consideration.



# Scott Van Rixel

# **Bhang Corporation**

Las Vegas, Nevada Industry Sector: Extractions and Infused Products **Direct-to-Plant** 

Member since May 2011

### **Candidate Bio:**

Scott J. Van Rixel is the Founder and CEO of Bhang Chocolate Company and PURECBD Inc. He has been involved in the wholesale manufacturing of food products for over 20 years. He is a Certified Chef d'Cuisine and a Master Chocolatier. He has been proud to serve on several boards for the betterment of the cannabis Industry, including a current term with NCIA. Bhang Chocolates has raised the bar in the cannabis edibles category since being founded in 2010. They are proud to be the first company in history to have acquired full product liability insurance on a consumable containing cannabis. Their products are currently available through five different states and two countries. PURECBD Inc. is their newest venture, focusing principally on hemp and high-CBD product development. Bhang has been a proud member of NCIA since its inception and has been honored to sponsor several NCIA events.

#### **Candidate Statement:**

I have been very proud to have served on the NCIA board during this last term. I am seeking re-election because NCIA truly stands up for the rights of business in the cannabis sector. Whether it is taxation, banking, or simply business equality issues, NCIA has worked to bring them to the forefront of those in legislative positions who can make a difference.

I feel that a continued seat on the board will allow me to be part of the positive change for our industry. As one of the three edible manufacturers on the board, I feel that I bring a unique insight to the needs of our category. I feel that if our sector is not represented at the table, our specific needs may go overlooked. My experience in this industry, as well as that of mainstream America, makes me a valuable resource to the board and the membership at large. My attendance of board meetings and contributions to those meetings have been an extremely high priority over the last term. While I don't always agree with all of my peers on the board, I feel that our contributions have found a better and higher ground for the direction of it. I am not afraid to speak my heart and negotiate with my mind.

My business has been a proud sponsor of several events and has always been happy to help with additional funding. We also proudly support NCIA through the inclusion of the NCIA logo on our packaging. I have also been a strong vocal advocate for NCIA membership and never miss a chance to introduce new businesses to NCIA. I feel if my fellow board members were asked, they would express their appreciation for my past term and would be supportive of an additional one. I ask you my fellow board members and the voting general membership for your support in my reelection. Thank you, and I will serve you proudly again if given the opportunity.

/end/