



## Cannabis-Related Laws & Legal Decisions 2016-2018

### Most Recent Cannabis Laws (2016-2018)

- **Sessions Memo:** rescinds previous DOJ guidance regarding cannabis (including Cole 2.0). This is not a positive update, however, it is significant. The Department of Justice (DOJ) has yet to prosecute state-legal marijuana businesses despite the memo.
- **2018 Vote:** 9 states plus the District of Columbia with some form of adult, or recreational, marijuana, and 32 states (including the 10) with some sort of medical marijuana program. Michigan became fully legal in 2018, along with Utah and Missouri for medical marijuana.

### Upcoming Cannabis Legal Decisions

- **McConnell Bill:** Senate Leader McConnell's bi-partisan Hemp Farming Act would amend the Controlled Substances Act to exempt hemp from the definition of marijuana. If passed, the bill would effectively legalize hemp and hemp-derived products throughout the country.
- **Marijuana Bills:** pair of marijuana bills in congress
  - **Marijuana Justice Act:** if passed, would remove marijuana from Schedule 1
  - **Bi-Partisan States Act:** if passed, would prevent the DOJ from going after state-legal recreational cannabis
- **New "Troyer" Memo:** US District Attorney for Colorado—Bob Troyer—recently announced in an op-ed that he may begin prosecuting licensed marijuana companies that are found to not be operating in compliance with state law. Troyer cited concerns that Colorado's law is too lax, and allows for diversion. Significant because it's the first hint since the Sessions Memo that the DOJ might start going after licensed businesses.

*Update provided by Hoban Law*