



## NCR'S NEW ADVISORY BOARD FORMS AT CRITICAL TIME

### Thought leaders bring urgency to Roundtable advocacy

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Washington DC – The National Cannabis Roundtable has formed the NCR Advisory Board, comprised of prominent cannabis thought leaders from around the nation, to advance their three primary priorities for federal cannabis reform: to nurture a growing industry, protect consumers and foster social equity.

Saphira Galoob, NCR Executive Director, said “As cannabis reform gains momentum in this Congress, we wanted to bring another level of perspective to the discussion. Our advisory board members will help inform the reform movement on Capitol Hill and we look forward to leveraging their expertise to thoughtfully guide legislative and regulatory efforts.”

NCR’s Honorary Co-Chair, former Speaker of the House of Representatives John Boehner said, “For meaningful progress on issues where we can agree, like on cannabis policy, there is great complexity and a great need for good information.”

Mr. Boehner’s fellow NCR Honorary Co-Chair, former Secretary of Health and Human Services Kathleen Sebelius added, “The members of this advisory board have already distinguished themselves as leaders in the national cannabis discussion and we look forward to putting their expertise to work on behalf of all stakeholders.”

Among the advisors named is James Cole, former Deputy Attorney General in the Obama Administration, who is now a partner at Sidley Austin. Mr. Cole said, “Cannabis reform is incredibly complicated not least because of the robust state marketplaces, which have developed under federal prohibition. As Congress continues to debate the legislative solutions which are necessary to truly reconciling the differences between state and federal law, there are meaningful ways to ensure the protection of public health and safety, and to positively impact the Americans who have built this robust cannabis economy, including those disproportionately harmed by the drug war. I look forward to contributing to the effort.”

Joining Cole is former US Senator Cory Gardner. Gardner said, “Cannabis is not a partisan issue – it cuts across party lines. Just look at Colorado and the game changing economic, social and health benefits it created. To fully capture this benefit, we must have real reform at the federal

level. I look forward to working alongside the thoughtful group of leaders that NCR has brought together to affect meaningful change.”

Also joining the Advisory Board are:

- Roopali Desai, [Coppersmith Brockelman](#)
- Dr. Corey Hebert, [Louisiana State University and Tulane University](#)
- Gary Hess, [Veterans Alliance for Holistic Alternatives](#)
- Dr. Timothy Meyer, [Vanderbilt University School of Law](#)
- Robert Mikos, [Vanderbilt University School of Law](#)
- Yoko Miyashita, [Leafly](#)
- Gia Morón, [Women Grow](#)

The NCR Advisory Board comes during a critical time for cannabis reform in Washington. Last week, the SAFE Banking Act, a key Roundtable priority, passed the House for the fifth time. This week, the House Judiciary Committee has marked up the MORE Act. At the same time, the Cannabis Administration and Opportunity Act, a discussion draft of which was introduced by Senators Schumer, Booker and Wyden over the summer, is well-positioned to move forward this fall.

“The work of the advisory board, combined with NCR’s newly published ‘[Federal Framework](#),’ offers policymakers key resources to transcend the daily politics and achieve real policy change that benefits the American people and our diverse communities,” Galoob concluded.

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