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USCA DOCKET # (IF KNOWN)

## UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE NINTH CIRCUIT CIVIL APPEALS DOCKETING STATEMENT

PL

TITLE IN FULL: United States of America v. Ukiah Cannabis Buyer's Club, Cherrie Lovett, Marvin Lehrman and Mildred Lehrman	DISTRICT: N.D. Cal	$\sigma_{l_{m-1}-1} = 0  \square_{m} \circ U \circ V \circ V$			
	DISTRICT COURT NUMBER: C 98-00087-CRB				
	DATE NOTICE OF APPEAL FILED: August , 2002	IS THIS A CROSS-APPEAL? ⊆ YES			
	THE DOCKET NUMB DO-16411 (and all	S BEEN BEFORE THIS COURT PREVIOUSLY, PLEASE PROVIDE ER AND CITATION (IF ANY): 98-16950,98-17044,98-17137, related actions) (this was a related case)			
BRIEF DESCRIPTIO	N OF NATURE OF AC	TION AND RESULT BELOW: Please see Attachment			
PRINCIPAL ISSUES	PROPOSED TO BE R.	USED ON APPEAL: Please see Attachment			
PLEASE IDENTIFY ANY OTHER LEGAL PROCEEDING THAT MAY HAVE A BEARING ON THIS CASE (INCLUDE PENDING DISTRICT COURT POST-JUDGMENT MOTIONS):  Please see Attachment					
Possibility of sentlers Likelihood that inter Likelihood of a more (Specify)	vening precedent will cont ion to expedite or to stay th	rol outcome of appeal ne appeal, or other procedural matters			
Any other informati	on relevant to the inclusion	of this case in the Medianon Program			
2 Possibility parties we lieu of submission to	ould stipulate to buiding av o judges	vard by Appeilate Commissioner in			
		continued			

LOWER COURT INFORMATION Page 2 of 2					
JURISDICTION		DISTRICT COURT DISPOSITION			
FEDERAL	APPELLATE	TYPE OF JUDGMENT/ORDER APPEALED	RELIEF		
		☐ Default Judgment ☐ Dismissal/jurisdiction ☐ Dismissal/merits ☑ Summary Judgment ☑ Judgment/court ☐ Decision ☐ Judgment/jury Verdict ☐ Declaratory Judgment ☐ Judgment as a Matter ☐ of Law ☐ Other (Specify):	☐ Damages:  Sought S		
CERTIFICATION OF COUNSEL					
I CERTIFY THAT:  1. Copies of Order/Judgment Appealed Form Are Attached.  2. A Current Service List or Representation Statement With Telephone and Fax Numbers Are Attached (See 9th Cir. Rule 3-2).  3. A Copy of This Civil Appeals Docketing Statement Was Served in Compliance with FRAP 25.  4. I Understand That Failure to Comply With These Filing Requirements May Result in Sanctions, Including Dismissal of This Appeal.  Result in Sanctions Including Dismissal of This Appeal.  Date					
	COUNS	EL WHO COMPLETED THIS FORM			
NAME: Davi	d Nelson				
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*This Document Should Be Filed in The District Court With The Notice of Appeal*  *If Filed Late, it Should Be Filed Directly With the U.S. Court of Appeals*					

#### Attachment to Ninth Circuit Civil Appeals Docketing Statement

United States v. Ukiah Cannabis Buyer's Club, Cherrie Lovett, Marvin Lehrman, and Mildren Lehrman Northern District of California, Case No. C-98-00087-CRB

#### I. Brief Description of Nature of Action and Result Below:

In November 1996, California voters enacted an initiative measure entitled the Compassionate Use Act of 1996 (Proposition 215), to permit seriously ill patients and their primary caregivers to possess and cultivate cannabis with the approval or recommendation of a physician. To implement the will of California voters, Defendants organized a Club to provide seriously ill patients with a safe and reliable source of medical cannabis. The Club, a not-for-profit organization, operates in Ukiah, California, in cooperation with the Mendocino County Sheriff and other local law enforcement authorities.

On January 9, 1998, the United States sued in the United States District Court for the Northern District of California, seeking to enjoin Defendants from distributing cannabis to patient-members. On May 19, 1998, the District Court issued a preliminary injunction enjoining Defendants from "engaging in the manufacture or distribution of marijuana, or the possession of marijuana with the intent to manufacture and distribute marijuana, in violation of 21 U.S.C. §841(a)(1)."

The government moved to have the Ukiah Cannabis Buyer's Club and the other Defendants held in contempt of the preliminary injunction. However, Judge Breyer issued an order on September 3, 1998, denying the motion for the order to show cause as it related to the Ukiah Cannabis Buyer's Club. The court did find certain other Defendants in contempt of the preliminary injunction and they consequently appealed this finding and others to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals and finally to the United States Supreme Court. This led finally to the U.S. Supreme Court's decision on May 15, 2001. The case was subsequently remanded to the District Court where all of the Defendants were once again reunited.

On January 7, 2002, Defendants moved, after remand, to dissolve or modify the preliminary injunction order. On January 25, 2002, the government moved for summary judgment and permanent injunctive relief.

On May 3, 2002, the District Court granted the government's motion for summary judgment and requested that Defendants file further submissions with the court "concerning the likelihood of future violations of the act and in particular, whether there is a threat that Defendants, or any of them, will resume their distribution activity if the court does not enter a permanent injunction." (Order of May 3, 2002.) On June 10, 2002, Judge Breyer permanently enjoined Defendants from possessing with intent to distribute, manufacturing or distributing cannabis. Judgement was entered thereon on June 11, 2002. On July 29, 2002, the court granted Defendants' motion for partial judgment pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 54(b).

Defendants now appeal a final judgment under 28 U.S.C. §1291, as well as other interlocutory orders.

#### II. Issues Proposed to be Raised on Appeal:

- A. Did the District Court err in denying Defendants' motion to dismiss?
- B. Did the District Court err in precluding Defendants' affirmative defenses?
- C. Did the District Court err in denying Defendants' motions to modify or dissolve the preliminary injunction?
- D. Did the District Court err in granting summary judgment and issuing a permanent injunction?

## III. Other Legal Proceedings With a Bearing on This Case:

A related appeal has been filed on August 1, 2002, by the Oakland Cannabis Buyers' Cooperative in *United States v. Oakland Cannabis Buyers' Cooperative and Jeffrey Jones*, Case No. C 98-0088 CRB. It is requested that these matters be consolidated.

## Appendix to Ninth Circuit Civil Appeals Docketing Statement Attaching Copies of Order/Judgment Appealed From Per Certificate of Counsel Requirement Number One

United States v. Ukiah Cannabis Buyer's Club, Cherrie Lovett, Marvin Lehrman, and Mildren Lehrman Northern District of California, Case No. C-98-00087-CRB

#### Orders Attached:

- 1. May 19, 1998 Order denying Defendants' Motion to Dismiss.
- 2. May 19, 1998 Order for Preliminary Injunction.
- 3. October 13, 1998 Order precluding Affirmative Defenses.
- 4. December 3, 1998 Order Denying Motion for Reconsideration.
- 5. May 3, 2002 Order granting government's Motion for Summary Judgment and Permanent Injunction.
- 6. June 10, 2002 Order regarding issuance of permanent injunction.
- 7. July 29, 2002 Order granting Defendants' Motion for Entry of Partial Final Judgment Pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 54(b).

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RICHARD W. WIEKING CLERK, U.S. DISTRICT COURT NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

#### IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

#### FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

No. C 98-0085 CRB UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, 98-0086 CRB Plaintiff, 98-0088 CRB 98-0089 CRB ٧. C 98-0245 CRB CANNABIS CULTIVATORS CLUB, et al., Defendants. **ORDER** AND RELATED ACTIONS

For the reasons stated in the Memorandum and Order dated May 13, 1998, defendants' motion to dismiss for lack of jurisdiction and defendants' motion to dismiss on abstention grounds are DENIED. Defendants must file their answers to the complaints in the above actions within thirty (30) days of the date of this Order. Defendants Flower Therapy Medical Marijuana Club, John Hudson, Mary Palmer, and Barbara Sweeney shall re-file their ex-parte motion to dismiss in accordance with Local Rule 7-2.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: May 1998

R. BREYER CHARLES UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE



#### IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

#### FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

No. C 98-00087 CRB

Plaintiff,

PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION ORDER

UKIAH CANNIBAS BUYER'S CLUB, CHERRIE LOVETT, MARVIN LEHRMAN, and MILDRED LEHRMAN,

Defendants.

For the reasons stated in its Memorandum and Order dated May 13, 1998, it is hereby ORDERED as follows:

- 1. Defendants Ukiah Cannibas Buyer's Club, Cherrie Lovett, Marvin Lehrman, and Mildred Lehrman are hereby preliminarily enjoined, pending further order of the Court, from engaging in the manufacture or distribution of marijuana, or the possession of marijuana with the intent to manufacture and distribute marijuana, in violation of 21 U.S.C. § 841(a)(1); and
- 2. Defendants Ukiah Cannibas Buyer's Club, Cherrie Lovett, Marvin Lehrman, and Mildred Lehrman are hereby preliminarily enjoined from using the premises of 40A Pallini Lane, Ukiah, California for the purposes of engaging in the manufacture and distribution of marijuana; and
  - 3. Defendants Ukiah Cannibas Buyer's Club, Cherrie Lovett, Marvin Lehrman,

and Mildred Lehrman are hereby preliminarily enjoined from conspiring to violate the Controlled Substances Act, 21 U.S.C. § 841(a)(1) with respect to the manufacture or distribution of marijuana, or the possession of marijuana with the intent to manufacture and distribute marijuana.

- 4. It shall not be a violation of this injunction for defendants to seek and obtain legal advice from their attorneys.
- 5. Pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 65(d), this injunction shall bind the defendants, their officers, agents, servants, employees, successors, and attorneys, and those persons in active concert or participation with them who receive notice of the order by personal service or otherwise.

#### IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: May 7, 1998

CHARLES R. BREYER

UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

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ANDREW A. STECKLER

RICHARD W. WIEKING CLERK, U.S. DISTRICT CHIRT NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALL, CINNIA

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

UNITED STATES,

Plaintiff,

V.

CANNABIS CULTIVATORS CLUB, et al.,

Defendants.

Defendants.

Defendants.

Defendants.

Defendants.

No. C 98-00085 CRB
C 98-00087 CRB
C 98-00088 CRB
C 98-00245 CRB

MEMORANDUM AND ORDER RE:
MOTIONS IN LIMINE AND ORDER
TO SHOW CAUSE IN CASE NO. 98-00086 (Marin Alliance for Medical
Marijuana)

Now before the Court are plaintiff's motions in limine to exclude defendants' affirmative defenses and the Court's Order to Show Cause why defendants are not in violation of the Court's May 19, 1998 order. After carefully considering the papers and evidence submitted by the parties, and having had the benefit of oral argument on October 5, 1998, plaintiff's motions are GRANTED. The Court further orders that a jury shall determine whether defendants violated the May 19, 1998 injunction.

#### BACKGROUND

On May 19, 1998, the Court issued an order preliminarily enjoining defendants Marin Alliance for Medical Marijuana ("Marin Alliance") and Lynnette Shaw from, among other things, "engaging in the manufacture or distribution of marijuana, or the possession of

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marijuana with the intent to manufacture or distribute marijuana, in violation of 21 U.S.C. § 841(a)(1)," and "using the premises of Suite 210, School Street Plaza, Fairfax, California for the purposes of engaging in the manufacture and distribution of marijuana." The Court subsequently issued an order that defendants show cause "why they should not be held in civil contempt of the Court's May 19, 1998 Preliminary Injunction Order by distributing marijuana and by using the premises of 6 School Street Plaza, Fairfax, California, for the purpose of distributing marijuana, on May 27, 1998." The Court's show cause order was based upon evidence submitted by plaintiff as follows:

- \_\_ (1) A declaration from Special Agent Bill Nyfeler of the Drug Enforcement Administration ("DEA") in which he attests that on May 27, 1998 he observed 14 individuals enter the Marin Alliance, located at 6 School Street Plaza, in Fairfax, California. He further observed that several of these individuals, upon exiting the Marin Alliance, would roll what appeared to be marijuana cigarettes and smoke them in the area directly outside the Marin Alliance. In addition, that same day at approximately 3:15 p.m., he placed a recorded telephone call to the Marin Alliance, at (415) 256-9328. A pre-recorded message stated that the caller had reached the Marin Alliance, and that the club was still open under the "medical necessity defense."
- (2) A declaration from Special Agent Dean Arnold of the DEA that on June 16, 1998 he placed a recorded telephone call to the Marin Alliance at (415) 256-9328. An unidentified female answered the telephone by stating, "Marin Alliance," and further informed the DEA agent about the requirements of becoming a new member of the Marin Alliance, and that the club was open that day until "five."
- (3) Documentary evidence that as of August 21, 1998, the Marin Alliance maintained an Internet web site which indicated that the club was engaged in activities related to "medical marijuana."
- (4) Documentary evidence that defendant Lynnette Shaw has publicly stated that, notwithstanding the May 19, 1998 Preliminary Injunction Order, "[w]e are still open seven days a week," and "[s]how me a jury who will look at our patients and not understand the

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idea of medical marijuana being a necessity for these people."

The Court's show cause order specifically advised defendants that their response to the order should include sworn declarations outlining the factual basis for any affirmative defenses which they wish to offer.

In response to the show cause order, defendants argue (1) that plaintiff has not made a prima facie showing that defendants violated the Court's injunction, (2) that in light of the evidence submitted by defendants, plaintiff has not proved by clear and convincing evidence that defendants violated the Court's injunction, and (3) in the alternative, that defendants have submitted evidence sufficient to-support their affirmative defenses of "joint user." "necessity," and "substantive due process." Defendants submit the declarations of Lynette Shaw and Christopher P. M. Conrad, as well as a copy of Agent Nyfeler's report of his May 27, 1998 surveillance of the Marin Alliance. They also incorporate declarations previously submitted in this matter as well as the evidence submitted by co-defendant Oakland Cannabis Buyers' Cooperative.

To demonstrate that there is a factual dispute as to defendants' alleged contempt, Ms. Shaw attests that although Agent-Nyfeler claims in his report to have observed individuals coming in and out of the Marin Alliance located at 6 Old School Street Plaza, Suite 210, in Fairfax California, the Marin Alliance is located at 6 School Street Plaza, Suite 215. She further declares that the building in which the Marin Alliance is located is two stories and bouses at least eight different tenants, and that at least four other businesses are located on the fourth floor with the defendant Marin Alliance. She states that because smoking is banned in the building, persons on the second floor who desire to smoke cigarettes usually do so at an outdoor mezzanine located approximately twelve feet north of the Marin Alliance's front door, but that no cannabis smoking is permitted anywhere in the vicinity of the building.

Defendants also offered new evidence to support their affirmative defenses. Ms. Shaw testifies generally about the requirements for membership in the Marin Alliance. Mr. Conrad has authored a book entitled Hemp for Health. He declares that based upon his

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research and review of scientific studies and relevant evidence, "there is virtually no scientific basis for the placement of cannabis in Schedule I." Defendants have not submitted declarations from any Marin Alliance patients.

Plaintiff subsequently moved in limine to exclude defendants' affirmative defenses.

The Court held a hearing on the plaintiff's motions in limine and the Order to Show Cause on October 5, 1998 and thereafter took the matter under submission.

#### **DISCUSSION**

#### I. THE MOTIONS IN LIMINE.

#### A. The Legal Standard.

A defendant is entitled to have the judge instruct the jury on his theory of defense only if it is "supported by law and has some foundation in evidence." United States v. Gomez-Osorio, 957 F.2d 636, 642 (9th Cir. 1992). A district judge may preclude a party from offering evidence in support of a defense, including a necessity defense, by granting a motion in limine. See United States v. Aguilar, 883 F.2d 662, 692 (9th Cir. 1989); United States v. Dorrell, 758 F.2d 427, 430 (9th Cir. 1985). "The sole question presented in such situations is whether the evidence, as described in the offer of proof, is insufficient as a matter of law to support the proffered defense." Dorrell, 758 F.2d at 430. "If it is, then the trial court should exclude the defense and the evidence offered in support." Id.

#### - B. The "Joint User" Defense.

In United States v. Swiderski, 548 F.2d 445 (2nd Cir. 1977), defendants, husband and wife, were charged with violating 21 U.S.C. § 841(a) by possessing cocaine with intent to distribute. See id. at 447. The Second Circuit held that "a statutory 'transfer' could not occur between two individuals in joint possession of a controlled substance simultaneously acquired for their own use." United States v. Wright, 593 F.2d 105, 107 (9th Cir. 1979) (discussing Swiderski). The court thus concluded that the trial judge erred by denying "the jury the opportunity to find that the defendants, who bought the drugs in each other's physical presence, intended merely to share the drugs" and thus, not to distribute them. Id.; Swiderski, 548 F.2d at 450.

Defendants here, unlike the defendants in Swiderski, have not offered any evidence of the joint purchase of the marijuana they are alleged to have distributed on May 27, 1998. Defendants contend nonetheless that because the Marin Alliance is run as a cooperative the marijuana is effectively purchased by all members simultaneously and thus they are entitled to a Swiderski instruction. The defendants made the same argument, based on a proffer of essentially the same facts, in opposition to plaintiff's motion for a preliminary injunction.

The Court declines to extend Swiderski to the facts as presented by defendants' proffer, namely a medical marijuana cooperative. As the Court has previously noted, Swiderski involved a simultaneous purchase by a husband and wife who testified they intended to use the controlled substance immediately. Applying Swiderski to a medical marijuana cooperative would extend Swiderski to a situation in which the controlled substance is not literally purchased simultaneously for immediate consumption. See United States v. Cannabis Cultivators Club, 5 F.Supp.2d 1086, 1101 (N.D. Cal. 1998). In light of the fact that Swiderski has never been so extended, and in light of the fact that it has not been adopted by the Ninth Circuit, the Court concludes that such a defense is not available on the facts proffered by defendants as a matter of law. Accordingly, defendants are precluded from offering evidence and argument in support of a "joint user" defense at their contempt trial.

#### - C. The Necessity Defense.

To be entitled to a jury instruction on the defense of necessity, defendants must offer evidence (1) that they were faced with a choice of evils and chose the lesser evil; (2) they acted to prevent imminent harm; (3) they reasonably anticipated a direct causal relationship between their conduct and the harm to be averted; and (4) that there were no legal alternatives to violating the law. See United States v. Aguilar, 883 F.2d 662, 693 (9th Cir. 1989). Defendants have produced evidence that marijuana has a medical benefit to many persons and that for some persons marijuana is the only drug that can alleviate their pain and other debilitating symptoms. They also have submitted evidence that they carefully screen their members to ensure that they have a physician's recommendation for marijuana use.

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Defendants, however, have not produced any evidence that the particular persons to whom they distributed marijuana on May 27, 1998 (if, indeed, they did) had a legal necessity for marijuana.

Plaintiff argues that a necessity defense based upon a medical need for marijuana is never available under any circumstances as a defense to a violation of the Controlled Substances Act because Congress implicitly rejected such a defense by placing marijuana in Schedule I. The Court need not address this issue, however, because it concludes that defendants have failed to proffer sufficient evidence to support a defense of necessity as a matter of law.

In Aguilar, the Ninth Circuit considered a necessity defense offer of proof similar to that offered by defendants here. The Aguilar defendants were charged with violations of the immigration laws, arising from their providing sanctuary to Central American refugees. With respect to the specificity required of a necessity offer of proof, the court held:

We also doubt the sufficiency of the proffer to establish imminent harm. The offer fails to specify that the particular aliens assisted were in danger of imminent harm. Instead, it refers to general atrocities committed by Salvadoran, Guatemalan, and Mexican authorities. The only indication that appellants intended to show that the aliens involved in this action faced imminent harm was their proffer that they adopted a process to screen aliens in order to assure themselves that those helped actually were in danger. This allegation fails for lack of specificity.

Id. at 692 n.28 (emphasis added). Defendants' proffer here likewise fails to specify that the particular Marin Alliance members to whom defendants provided marijuana on May 27, 1998 were in danger of imminent harm. As the Court has previously held in this lawsuit, for the necessity defense to be available "defendants would have to prove that each and every patient to whom it provides cannabis is in danger of imminent harm; that the cannabis will alleviate the harm for that particular patient; and that the patient had no other alternatives, for example, that no other legal drug could have reasonably averted the harm." United States v. Cannabis Cultivators Club, 5 F.Supp.2d 1086, 1102 (N.D. Cal. 1998) (emphasis added).

Defendants have not even attempted to offer such proof. Instead, defendants offer evidence that they carefully screen their members to ensure that each member has a legitimate medical need for marijuana. In Aguilar, however, the Ninth Circuit held that such

Defendants argue that they cannot make their proffer more specific because plaintiff failed to identify the specific persons to whom plaintiff alleges defendants distributed marijuana. The Order to Show Cause, however, was limited to a single day -- May 27, 1998 -- and plaintiff's evidence of a government agent's personal observation of persons entering and exiting the Marin Alliance was limited to a two-hour period during that day. Thus, there are particular transactions at issue -- at most, the marijuana distributions that occurred on May 27, 1998. If defendants did not distribute marijuana on that day they could offer evidence that they did not. If they did distribute, such distribution violated the Controlled Substances Act and the Court's May 19, 1998 order enjoining them from violating that Act. See Cannabis Cultivators Club, 5 F.Supp.2d at 1100 (holding that the Controlled Substances Act "does not exempt the distribution of marijuana to seriously ill persons for their personal medical use"). If they believe their violations of the injunction are excused by the defense of necessity, it is incumbent upon defendants to come forward with specific evidence to support their defense as to each and every distribution made on May 27, 1998.

At oral argument defendants' attorney represented that defendants could not identify the persons to whom they distributed marijuana on May 27 (without admitting that they had) because at that time defendants had removed the Marin Alliance's records from the premises because they feared a government raid. It cannot be the law, however, that a defendant's burden with respect to the specificity of the proffer required to support a defense of necessity is inversely related to the defendant's amount of knowledge of to whom and when it distributed marijuana. Necessity is an affirmative defense and defendants are required to come forward with the facts to support such a defense. They have not done so here with the required specificity. Accordingly, defendants are precluded from offering evidence and argument as to a necessity defense at their contempt trial.

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## D. Substantive Due Process.

Defendants contend that the Controlled Substances Act is unconstitutional as applied to the distribution of marijuana for medical purposes because there is no rational basis for classifying marijuana as a Schedule I drug under 21 U.S.C. § 812. In support of their argument, defendants submit evidence of the medical benefits of marijuana for many persons. As a preliminary matter, since defendants' rational basis argument is a challenge to the classification of marijuana as a whole, it is an argument defendants could have made in opposition to entry of the order they are now alleged to have violated. Nonetheless, the Court has considered defendants' argument and evidence and concludes that it does not have jurisdiction to decide if the classification of marijuana as a Schedule I substance is irrational.

As the Court has previously noted:

[T]he Controlled Substances Act established a comprehensive regulatory scheme which placed controlled substances in one of five "Schedules" depending on each substance's potential for abuse, the extent to which each may lead to psychological or physical dependence, and whether each has a currently accepted medical use in the United States. See 21 U.S.C. § 812(b). Congress determined that "Schedule I" substances have a "high potential for abuse," "no currently accepted medical use in treatment in the United States," and a lack of accepted "safety for use of the drug or substance under medical supervision." 21 U.S.C. § 812(b)(1). Schedule I substances are strictly regulated; no physician may dispense any Schedule I controlled substance to any patient outside of a strictly controlled research project registered with the DEA, and approved by the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Food and Drug Administration ("FDA"). See 21 U.S.C. § 823(f). Congress placed marijuana in Schedule I at the time it passed the Controlled Substances Act and its designation has not changed since then. See 21 U.S.C. § 812(c)(c)(10).

Cannabis Cultivators Club, 5 F.Supp.2d at 1092.

When it enacted the Controlled Substances Act, Congress also established a statutory framework under which controlled substances may be rescheduled or removed from the schedules all together. See 21 U.S.C. § 811(a). Under this statutory framework, the Attorney General may by rule transfer a substance between schedules or remove a substance from the schedules all together. See id. § 811(a). In addition, any interested party can file a petition with the Attorney General to have substance, including marijuana, rescheduled or removed from the schedules. See id. The petitioner may appeal a decision not to reschedule a substance to the courts of appeal. See 21 U.S.C. § 877; see also Alliance for Cannabis

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Therapeutics v. Drug Enforcement Admin., 15 F.3d 1131, 1137 (D.C. Cir. 1994) (upholding decision not to reschedule marijuana). Review of the Attorney General's decision as to the classification of a controlled substance is limited to the District of Columbia Court of Appeals or the circuit in which petitioner's place of business is located. See 21 U.S.C. § 877. A district court thus does not have jurisdiction to consider a challenge to an Attorney General's refusal to reschedule a controlled substance. See National Organization For The Reform Of Marijuana Laws (NORML) v. Bell, 488 F.Supp. 123, 141 n.43 (D.D.C. 1980). The findings of fact of the Attorney General are conclusive if supported by substantial evidence. See 21 U.S.C. § 877.

In light of the statutory framework described above, the Court concludes that it does not have jurisdiction to decide if there is a rational basis for the classification of marijuana as a Schedule I substance. Defendants do not challenge the procedure for rescheduling substances. Instead, defendants contend that their evidence shows that marijuana does not fit the requirements of a Schedule I substance and that therefore there is no rational basis for classifying marijuana as a Schedule I substance. Thus, their rational basis challenge is in effect an attack on the Attorney General's failure to reschedule marijuana. Congress has stated that the courts of appeal -- not district courts -- have exclusive jurisdiction to determine the propriety of the Attorney General's decision. Accordingly, this Court does not have jurisdiction to decide if there is a rational basis for classifying marijuana as a Schedule I substance. To hold otherwise would mean that in every prosecution under the Controlled Substances Act in which a defendant challenges the factual basis for the classification of the substance at issue, the district court would be required to consider evidence and resolve factual disputes as to whether a substance fits within the requirements of one schedule or another. Congress has stated that the Attorney General, and then the courts of appeal - not the district courts - are to make such determinations.

#### II. THE CONTEMPT PROCEEDINGS.

The Court preliminarily enjoined defendants from violating the Controlled Substances Act pursuant to 21 U.S.C. section 882(a). As this Court has previously noted, 21 U.S.C.

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section 882(b) provides that "[i]n case of an alleged violation of an injunction or restraining order issued under this section, trial shall, upon demand of the accused, be by jury in accordance with the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure." Plaintiff nonetheless argues that the Court should find defendants in contempt without a jury trial because plaintiff's evidence of defendants' violation of the Court's injunction is uncontroverted.

The Ninth Circuit affirmed the imposition of the contempt sanctions. The court held that while "ordinarily" a court should not impose contempt sanctions on the basis of affidavits, "[a] trial court may in a contempt proceeding narrow the issues by requiring that affidavits on file be controverted by counter-affidavits and may thereafter treat as true the facts set forth in uncontroverted affidavits." Id. (quoting Hoffman, 536 F.2d at 1277). The court concluded that such procedures do not violate due process.

In this case defendants have submitted evidence to controvert plaintiff's declarations, even though the Court has precluded defendants' affirmative defenses. At a minimum, there is a dispute as to whether the government agent saw anyone enter or leave the Marin Alliance. The agent's report specifies that he observed people coming and going from the Marin Alliance located in Suite 210. The defendants have offered evidence that the Marin Alliance is located in Suite 215. Moreover, defendants have also offered evidence that no cannabis smoking is permitted anywhere in the vicinity of the building, and

that the area in which the agent observed persons smoking what appeared to be marijuana is the area where all persons on the second floor, including visitors and employees of other building tenants, smoke tobacco cigarettes since smoking is prohibited indoors.

Plaintiff cites Baxter v. Palmigiano, 425 U.S. 308, 319 (1976), for the proposition that defendants' failure to deny that they distributed marijuana or used the premises for the purpose of distributing marijuana amounts to an evidentiary admission that they violated the injunction. See also Watson v. Perry, 918 F.Supp. 1403, 1415-16 (W.D. Wash. 1996) (following the "well-recognized" principle that "adverse inferences may properly be drawn from silence in civil cases"), aff'd, 124 F.3d 1124 (9th Cir. 1997). These cases merely hold that it does not violate due process for a trier of fact to draw an adverse inference based upon a party's silence. That inference, however, is an inference which may be drawn by the trier of fact. Under 21 U.S.C. section 882(b), the trier of fact is a jury, not this Court.

#### **CONCLUSION**

For the foregoing reasons, plaintiff's motions to preclude defendants' affirmative defenses of "joint user," "necessity," and "substantive due process," are GRANTED. The Court further orders that a jury will decide whether defendants violated the Court's May 19, 1998 injunction by distributing marijuana or by using the premises of 6 School Street Plaza, Fairfax, California, for the purpose of distributing marijuana, on May 27, 1998. The parties are ordered to appear in Courtroom 8 on Wednesday, October 21, 1998 at 2:30 p.m. to set a maridate.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: October / 1998

CHARLES R. BREYER UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

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# IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

# FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

UNITED STATES,

Plaintiff.

No. C 98-00085 CRB C 98-00086 CRB C 98-00087 CRB C 98-00088 CRB

CANNABIS CULTIVATORS CLUB, et al.,

Defendants.

and Related Cases.

ORDER IN CASE NO. 98-00086 (Marin Alliance for Medical Marijuana)

Now before the Court is defendants' motion for reconsideration of the Court's October 13, 1998 Order denying defendants' motion to dismiss. In particular, defendants ask the Court to reconsider its decision denying defendants' "rational basis" challenge to the Controlled Substances Act's prohibition on the manufacture and distribution of marijuana on the ground that the Court does not have jurisdiction to hear such a challenge. After carefully considering the papers submitted by the parties, the motion for reconsideration is DENIED.

To the extent the Court has jurisdiction to hear defendants' rational basis challenge, the Court must nevertheless reject defendants' argument because the Ninth Circuit has previously determined that the Controlled Substances Act's restrictions on the manufacture and distribution of marijuana are rational. See United States v. Miroyan, 577 F.2d 489, 495

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(9th Cir. 1978). Indeed, the Mirovan court stated that it "need not again engage in the task of passing judgment on Congress' legislative assessment of marijuana. As we recently declared, '[t]he constitutionality of the marijuana laws has been settled adversely to [the defendant] in this circuit." Id.

Since the Ninth Circuit, and indeed every Circuit that has addressed the issue, has held that the classification of marijuana as a Schedule I Controlled Substance is rational and therefore constitutional, defendants' proffered evidence on the medical benefits of marijuana is an argument that in light of the scientific evidence available today, the continuing classification of marijuana as a Schedule I drug is irrational; that is, that the government does not presently have a legitimate interest in prohibiting the medical use of marijuana.

No matter how defendants frame their argument, however, it is in essence an argument that this Court should reclassify marijuana because there is no substantial evidence to support its current classification. As the Court stated in its October 13, 1998 Order, when Congress enacted the Controlled Substances Act it

established a statutory framework under which controlled substances may be rescheduled or removed from the schedules all together. See 21 U.S.C. § 811(a). Under this statutory framework, the Attorney General may by rule transfer a substance between schedules or remove a substance from the schedules all together. See id. § 811(a). In addition, any interested party can file a petition with the Attorney General to have substance, including marijuana, rescheduled or removed from the schedules. See id. The petitioner may appeal a decision not to reschedule a substance to the courts of appeal. See 21 U.S.C. § 877; see also Alliance for Cannabis Therapeutics v. Drug Enforcement Admin., 15 F.3d 1131, 1137 (D.C. Cir. 1994) (upholding decision not to reschedule marijuana). Review of the Attorney General's decision as to the classification of a controlled substance is limited to the District of Columbia Court of Appeals or the circuit in which petitioner's place of business is located. See 21 U.S.C. § 877.

October 13 Order at 8-9. Thus, Congress gave the Attorney General the exclusive authority to determine the reclassification of marijuana in the first instance, with appeal to the Court of Appeals. As the Seventh Circuit has held, "[t]he Act authorizes the Attorney General to reclassify a drug if presented with new scientific evidence. . . . We agree that this mechanism, and not the judiciary, is the appropriate means by which defendant should challenge Congress' classification of marijuana as a Schedule I drug." <u>United States v. Greene</u>, 892 F.2d 453, 455 (7th Cir. 1989); see also United States v. Burton, 894 F.2d 188,

191 (6th Cir. 1990) ("it has been repeatedly determined, and correctly so, that reclassification is clearly a task for the legislature and the attorney general and not a judicial one"); United States v. Wables, 731 F.2d 440, 450 ("we hold that the proper statutory classification of marijuana is an issue that is reserved to the judgment of Congress and to the discretion of the Attorney General"). Accordingly, defendants' motion for reconsideration is DENIED.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: December 2, 1998

CHARLES R BREYER UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

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RICHARD W. WIEKING CLERK, U.S. DISTRICT COURT NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

# IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

#### FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

V.

CANNABIS CULTIVATOR'S CLUB, et al.,

Defendants.

Nos. C 98-00085 CRB
C 98-00087 CRB
C 98-00088 CRB
C 98-00245 CRB

MEMORANDUM AND ORDER

In February 1998, the government filed the above-related lawsuits alleging that defendants manufacture and distribute marijuana in violation of 21 U.S.C. section 841(a)(1), among other statutes. The government seeks an injunction pursuant to 21 U.S.C. section 882(a) permanently enjoining defendants' conduct. Now before the Court is the government's motion for summary judgment and entry of the permanent injunction. Defendants move to dissolve the preliminary injunction. This Memorandum and Order addresses the government's motion for summary judgment. The issue is whether there is a genuine dispute as to defendants' violation of the Controlled Substances Act ("CSA") in 1997.

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AND RELATED ACTIONS

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#### PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The government originally filed suit against six marijuana distribution clubs and various individuals associated with those clubs. One of the clubs, Flower Therapy Medical Marijuana Club, voluntarily ceased operations. Accordingly, the Court dismissed that case (98-0089) without prejudice.

The Court subsequently granted the government's motion for a preliminary injunction in the remaining cases on the ground the government had demonstrated a likelihood of success on the merits and irreparable harm. See United States v. Cannabis Cultivator's Club, 5 F.Supp.2d 1086 (N.D. Cal. 1998). Defendants unsuccessfully moved the Court to modify the preliminary injunction to exclude distributions of marijuana that are medically necessary. After the Ninth Circuit ruled that the medical necessity defense is legally cognizable and should have been considered in the district court, the Supreme Court granted certiorari. The Supreme Court reversed and held that medical necessity is not a defense to manufacturing and distributing marijuana. United States v. Oakland Cannabis Buyers' Cooperative, 532 U.S. 483, 494-95 (2001).

The government now moves for summary judgment in the remaining cases: 98-0085 (Cannabis Cultivator's Club and Dennis Peron ("CCC"); 98-0086 (Marin Alliance for Medical Marijuana and Lynette Shaw) ("Marin Alliance"); 98-0087(Ukiah Cannabis Club, Cherrie Lovett, Marvin Lehrman, and Mildred Lehrman) ("Ukiah Club"), 98-0088 (Oakland Cannabis Buyers' Cooperative and Jeffrey Jones) ("OCBC"), and 98-245 (Santa Cruz Buyers' Club) ("Santa Cruz Club"). The OCBC defendants filed a written opposition to the government's motion, in which the Marin Alliance, Ukiah Club and CCC defendants joined. The Santa Cruz Club has not filed an opposition to the government's motion nor joined in the OCBC's opposition.

#### THE GOVERNMENT'S EVIDENCE

In support of its motion for summary judgment, the government relies on the evidence it submitted in support of its motion for a preliminary injunction. This evidence consists

primarily of the affidavits of undercover agents who purchased marijuana from the defendants in 1997. The evidence as to each of the clubs is summarized below.

#### 1. CCC (98-0085)

The government has submitted the affidavits of Drug Enforcement Agency ("DEA") agents who purchased marijuana from the CCC on May 21 1997, June 20, 1997, August 6, 1997, September 12, 1997, October 24, 1997, and November 5, 1997. For example, Special Agent Brian Nehring declares that on May 21, 1997 he went to the Cannabis Cultivator's Club located at 1444 Market Street in San Francisco, California. He brought with him a falsified physician statement stating that he suffered from "Post Traumatic Stress Disorder." At the Club he was asked to fill out a form, his physician statement was examined, and he was issued a membership card. He was then directed to the third floor, which was a room with two sales counters. One of the counters was staffed by 4-5 persons, and there were several menu boards on the wall listing grades of marijuana with prices ranging from \$25 to \$90 per one-eighth ounce. He paid \$25 for one-eighth ounce of what the Club identified as Mexican-grown marijuana. Senior Forensic Chemist Phyllis E. Quinn has submitted an affidavit attesting that the substances purchased by Nehring and the other undercover agents are marijuana.

## 2. Ukiah Club (98-0087)

The government has submitted the affidavits of undercover agents who purchased marijuana from the Ukiah Club on June 5, 1997, June 30, 1997, August 5, 1997, September 9, 1997, October 24, 1997, and November 14, 1997. For example, Special Agent Bill Nyfeler attests that on June 30, 1997 he went to the Ukiah Club located at the Forks Theater, 40A Pallini Lane, Ukiah, California. He brought with him a Ukiah Club membership card belonging to Special Agent Nehring, and a "Primary Caregiver" form. When he entered the Club, an unidentified man examined the membership card and Nyfeler's identification and noted that they did not match. Nyfeler explained he was a primary caregiver and provided the man with the form. An adult female identified as "Cherri" then asked Nyfeler about his membership status. Nyfeler again explained he was a primary caregiver. After Nyfeler

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signed the membership card in Cherri's presence, Nyfeler went to the sales counter and paid \$25 for what was identified as Mexican-grown marijuana. The government has again submitted the affidavit of Senior Forensic Chemist, Phyllis E. Quinn who attests that the substances purchased at the Club were marijuana.

#### 3. OCBC (98-0088)

The government has submitted the affidavits of undercover agents who purchased marijuana from the OCBC on May 19, 1997, June 23, 1997, August 8, 1997, and October 22, 1997. Senior Forensic Chemist, Phyllis E. Quinn examined the substances purchased at the Club and confirms they were marijuana. The undercover agents also observed marijuana plants being grown in the OCBC.

The government also relies on the evidence submitted in support of its motion for civil contempt. After the Court issued its preliminary injunction, the OCBC held a press conference at the Club during which it distributed marijuana in front of television cameras. See October 13, 1998 Order of Contempt in 98-0088; see also Oakland Cannabis Buyers' Cooperative, 532 U.S. at 487 ("The Cooperative did not appeal the injunction but instead openly violated it by distributing marijuana to numerous persons.").

#### Marin Alliance (98-0086)

The government has submitted the affidavits of undercover agents who purchased marijuana from the Marin Alliance on June 2, 1997, June 30, 1997, August 5, 1997, September 9, 1997, and October 24, 1997. Senior Forensic Chemist Phyllis E. Quinn examined the substances purchased at the Club and confirms they were marijuana.

For example, Special Agent Deborah Muusers attests that on October 24, 1997, she went to the Marin Alliance located at 6 School Street Plaza, Suite 210, in Fairfax, California and brought with her a phony physician statement which stated that Muuser suffered from "menstrual cramps." A person who identified himself as Ken asked to see Muuser's identification and physician's statement. He then asked her to fill out some forms. She listed "menstrual cramps" as the reason she wished to purchase marijuana. After waiting approximately 15 minutes, Muuser was advised that she had a provisional membership.

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Muuser then entered a room where a person identified as "Rob" was seated. Rob pointed to a menu board with various prices that ranged from \$40 for low grade and "Thai" marijuana to \$54 for the various high grades. Muuser purchased one-eighth ounce of "82J" for \$65.00.

#### 5. Santa Cruz Club (98-0245)

The government has submitted the affidavits of undercover agents who purchased marijuana from the Santa Cruz Club, located at 201 Maple Street, Santa Cruz, California, on May 19, 1997, June 23, 1997, August 8, 1997, September 10, 1997, October 24, 1997, and November 5, 1997. Senior Forensic Chemist, Phyllis E. Quinn examined the substances purchased at the Club and confirms they were marijuana.

#### **DISCUSSION**

#### I. The Motion For Summary Judgment

#### A. Summary Judgment Standard

Summary judgment is proper when "the pleadings, depositions, answers to interrogatories, and admissions on file, together with the affidavits, if any, show that there is no genuine issue as to any material fact and that the moving party is entitled to a judgment as a matter of law." Fed.R.Civ.P. 56(c). An issue is "genuine" only if there is a sufficient evidentiary basis on which a reasonable fact finder could find for the nonmoving party, and a dispute is "material" only if it could affect the outcome of the suit under governing law. See Anderson v. Liberty Lobby, Inc., 477 U.S. 242, 248-49 (1986). A principal purpose of the summary judgment procedure "is to isolate and dispose of factually unsupported claims." Celotex Corp. v. Catrett, 477 U.S. 317, 323-24 (1986). "Where the record taken as a whole could not lead a rational trier of fact to find for the non-moving party, there is no 'genuine issue for trial." Matsushita Elec. Ind. Co. v. Zenith Radio, 475 U.S. 574, 587 (1986).

"In considering a motion for summary judgment, the court may not weigh the evidence or make credibility determinations, and is required to draw all reasonable inferences in a light most favorable to the non-moving party." Freeman v. Arpaio, 125 F.3d 732, 735 (9th Cir. 1997). An inference may be drawn in favor of the non-moving party,

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however, only if the inference is "rational" or "reasonable" under the governing substantive law. See Matsushita, 477 U.S. at 588.

#### Defendants' Arguments В.

Defendants do not directly challenge the government's evidence through submission of their own evidence; that is, they do not offer any evidence suggesting that they did not distribute marijuana on the dates alleged by the government. Instead, they make various legal arguments, including a challenge to the sufficiency of the government's evidence.

#### 1. The sufficiency of the government's evidence

Defendants first contend the government cannot base its motion for summary judgment on evidence submitted in support of the motion for a preliminary injunction. Defendants do not cite any case or rule which supports this proposition. This is unsurprising as the federal rules do not require a party to re-submit evidence already filed in connection with a motion for a preliminary injunction. See Air Line Pilots Ass'n., Inc. v. Alaska Airlines, Inc., 898 F.2d 1393, 1397 n.4 (9th Cir. 1990) ("A district court might also convert a decision on a preliminary injunction into a final disposition of the merits by granting summary judgment on the basis of the factual record available at the preliminary injunction stage.").

They next argue the government agents' affidavits are inadmissible and have submitted a "Separate Statement Of Objections." In sum, they claim the agents "entrapped" defendants into distributing marijuana because defendants "were not predisposed to providing cannabis to persons without the proper authorization." Since the Supreme Court has unanimously and definitively ruled that it is unlawful to distribute marijuana regardless of the medical need of the recipient, see Oakland Cannabis Buyers' Cooperative, 532 U.S. at 494-95, any "proper authorization" is irrelevant. With or without medical authorization the distribution of marijuana is illegal under federal law. Defendants' other objections are equally without merit. The declarations were made on the basis of personal knowledge and are admissible.

Finally, defendants move to continue the summary judgment motion pursuant to

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Federal Rule of Civil Procedure Rule 56(f) to permit them to conduct discovery. They seek to depose the agents as well as discover evidence of the government's "blocking" research into the medical benefits of marijuana. "Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 56(f) provides that if a party opposing summary judgment demonstrates a need for further discovery in order to obtain facts essential to justify the party's opposition, the trial court may deny the motion for summary judgment or continue the hearing to allow for such discovery. In making a Rule 56(f) motion, a party opposing summary judgment "must make clear what information is sought and how it would preclude summary judgment." Margolis v. Ryan, 140 F.3d 850, 853 (9th Cir. 1998) (quoting Garrett v. City and County of San Francisco, 818 F.2d 1515, 1518 (9th Cir.1987)).

Defendants have not met their Rule 56(f) burden. If they did not sell marijuana, they are in the possession of such evidence, namely, declarations stating that they did not sell any marijuana to the undercover agents on the particular dates. Moreover, they have not offered any explanation as to why the deposition of the agents would lead to evidence precluding summary judgment; for example, they have not explained why the agents' personal recollection of buying marijuana is suspect, especially given their failure to offer any evidence suggesting that the agents did not in fact purchase marijuana from defendants. The Court is also unpersuaded that discovery into the government's history with respect to marijuana research will produce evidence legally relevant to the issues presented by the government's motion for summary judgment.

#### 2. Defendants' legal defenses

Most of the legal defenses raised by defendants were made in opposition to the motion for preliminary injunction or in connection with other motions in these related actions. The Court will address the merits of such defenses to the extent defendants offer argument or evidence that was not previously rejected by the Court.

## 21 U.S.C. section 885(d) immunity

Defendants repeat their contention that they are entitled to immunity under section 885(d), a statute intended to provide immunity for undercover law enforcement operations.

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The Court previously rejected this argument, see Order Re: Motion To Dismiss In Case No. 98-0088 (Sep. 1998), and defendants offer nothing new.

## The joint user and ultimate user defenses

Defendants renew their "joint user" defense under United States v. Swiderski, 548 F.2d 445 (2d Cir. 1977), and their related "ultimate user" defense. The Court previously rejected these arguments, see Cannabis Cultivator's Club, 5 F.Supp.2d at 1100-01, and defendants have not offered any new evidence or argument. Based on the evidence before the Court, no reasonable trier of fact could find that defendants' sale of marijuana was legal based on these defenses. The sale of marijuana to the undercover agents does not, under any reasonable interpretation of the law, fall within the Swiderski exception to distribution.

#### Substantive due process c.

The Court previously rejected defendants' argument that the CSA as applied to their distribution of medical marijuana violates their substantive due process rights. See Cannabis Cultivator's Club, 5 F.Supp.2d at 1102-03. The Court concluded that defendants had not established that they have a fundamental right to distribute medical marijuana. In their opposition to summary judgment defendants still have not established such a fundamental right; instead, they assert that the persons to whom they distribute marijuana have a fundamental right to treat themselves with medical marijuana. Again, the Court previously rejected this argument with respect to the intervener club members. See United States v. Cannabis Cultivator's Club, 1999 WL 111893 (N.D. Cal. Feb. 25, 1999). Moreover, defendants have not established that they have standing to assert that a judgment in the government's favor against defendants would violate the fundamental rights of the nondefendant club members, see 5 F.Supp.2d at 1103; indeed, in Oakland Cannabis Buyer's Cooperative Justice Stevens noted that the clubs cannot assert a necessity defense based on the club members' suffering because it is the club members, not the clubs themselves, that face the choice of evils. Oakland Cannabis Buyer's Cooperative, 532 U.S. at 500 n.1 (Stevens, J., concurring).

Defendants' contention that the CSA as applied to them violates their Due Process

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rights under a rational-basis review also does not defeat summary judgment. Under rationalbasis review, the Court must presume the statute is valid and uphold it "if it is rationally related to a legitimate government interest." Rodriguez v. Cook, 169 F.3d 1176, 1181 (9th Cir. 1999).

The statute at issue here--the CSA--places drugs into five schedules, which impose different restrictions on access to the drugs. Congress placed marijuana in Schedule I, the most restrictive schedule. A Schedule I drug (1) has a high potential for abuse, (2) has no currently accepted medical use in treatment in the United States, and (3) has a lack of accepted safety for use of the drug . . . under medical supervision. See 21 U.S.C. § 812(b)(1). The CSA permits the Attorney General "to reschedule a drug if he finds that it does not meet the criteria for the schedule to which it has been assigned." Alliance for Cannabis Therapeutics v. DEA, 15 F.3d 1131, 1133 (D.C. Cir. 1994) (citing 21 U.S.C. § 811(a)). The Attorney General has delegated this authority to the Administrator of the DEA, who in turn has adopted guidelines for determining if a drug has currently accepted medical use in the United States. Members of the public may petition the Administrator to reschedule a particular drug, including marijuana. See, e.g., Alliance for Cannabis Therapeutics, 15 F.3d at 1133.

The Court must consider this entire statutory scheme in determining whether there is a rational basis for the CSA's prohibition on the manufacture and distribution of marijuana for any purpose. In light of the available statutory procedure for reviewing the appropriateness of the current classification of marijuana, the Court cannot conclude that the CSA's prohibition on the distribution of marijuana is not rationally related to a legitimate government purpose, namely, to limit the distribution of drugs with a high potential for abuse. Defendants' challenge to the appropriateness of the classification of marijuana must be made to the DEA Administrator, not this district court. To hold otherwise would allow defendants and others to make an "end run" around the process Congress implemented to ensure that drugs are properly classified.

#### C. Evidentiary hearing

Defendants complain that before they are permanently enjoined from distributing marijuana they should be given an evidentiary hearing on the merits of their defenses. They claim that "in the two cases where Section 882 was used to enjoin criminal activity under the CSA, the defendants were at least given a hearing at which they could challenge the government's evidence and present their own. See United States v. Barbacoff, 416 F.Supp. 606, 607 (D.D.C. 1976); United States v. Williams, 416 F.Supp. 611 (D.D.C. 1976). They assert that the evidentiary hearings in those cases were held before the court granted partial summary judgment in favor of the government.

Defendants' reliance on these cases is misplaced. Both cases involved whether the defendant pharmacists were knowingly filling forged prescriptions for controlled substances. Thus, presumably there was a factual dispute as to defendants' knowledge, and a trial-like hearing was necessary to resolve that dispute. Moreover, defendants misrepresent the procedural posture of the cases. In both cases the hearing with cross-examination was held *after* the court granted partial summary judgment; indeed, in one of the cases, the court expressly states the purpose of the hearing was to determine the penalty, that is, how much the defendant would pay. Williams, 416 F.Supp. 612. Defendants have not offered any evidence from which a reasonable trier of fact could conclude defendants did not distribute marijuana; accordingly, no evidentiary hearing or trial is needed to resolve disputed issues of fact.

#### II. Commerce Clause

"Every law enacted by Congress must be based on one or more of its powers enumerated in the Constitution." <u>United States v. Morrison</u>, 529 U.S. 598, 607 (2000). Defendants contend neither the Commerce Clause nor any other Constitutional provision gives Congress the power to prohibit their intrastate manufacture and distribution of medical marijuana. Although defendants do not raise this issue as a defense to the government's motion for summary judgment, the Court will address the argument in this Memorandum.

In connection with the preliminary injunction motion, the Court held that Congress could regulate the wholly-intrastate manufacture and distribution of marijuana under the

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Commerce Clause. See 5 F.Supp.2d at 1096-97. Since the Court's ruling, the Supreme Court held that Congress did not have Commerce Clause authority to enact the civil remedy provision of the Violence Against Women Act ("VAWA"). See Morrison, 529 U.S. at 617-18. Defendants claim that under Morrison federal regulation of the purely intrastate manufacture and distribution of medical marijuana cannot emanate from the Commerce Clause.

Morrison does not support defendants' argument. The civil remedy provisions of the VAWA did not involve the regulation of intrastate commerce; instead, Congress attempted to justify the law on the basis of the interstate commerce effects of intrastate violence against women. In reaching its decision, the Morrison Court observed that "in those cases where we have sustained federal regulation of intrastate activity based upon the activity's substantial effects on interstate commerce, the activity in question has been some sort of economic endeavor." 529 U.S. at 611. It then concluded that the civil remedy provisions of VAWA could not be enacted pursuant to the Commerce Clause because

[g]ender-motivated crimes of violence are not, in any sense of the phrase, economic activity. While we need not adopt a categorical rule against aggregating the effects of any noneconomic activity in order to decide these cases, thus far in our Nation's history our cases have upheld Commerce Clause regulation of intrastate activity only where that activity is economic in nature.

Id. at 613.

Unlike violence, the manufacture and distribution of marijuana is economic activity; indeed, the Ninth Circuit has specifically held that "drug trafficking is a commercial activity which substantially affects interstate commerce." United States v. Staples, 85 F.3d 461, 463 (9th Cir. 1996); see also United States v. Tisor, 96 F.3d 370, 375 (9th Cir. 1996) (noting that the Ninth Circuit has adopted the Eighth Circuit's reasoning that intrastate drug activity affects interstate commerce . . . ; that Congress may regulate both interstate and intrastate drug trafficking under the Commerce Clause, . . . and that section 841(a)(1) is a valid exercise of Congress's Commerce Clause power.") (internal quotations omitted). The Court is bound by these rulings in the absence of a subsequent Supreme Court case casting the Ninth Circuit's holdings in doubt. As Morrision did not involve intrastate commerce, it is

not such a case.

**CONCLUSION** 

For the foregoing reasons, the Court concludes that based on the record before the Court there is no genuine material dispute that defendants violated the CSA several times in 1997 by distributing marijuana and possessing marijuana with the intent to distribute. Accordingly, the government's motion for summary judgment is GRANTED.

Having granted the government's motion, the Court must decide what remedy, if any, is appropriate. The government seeks entry of a permanent injunction on the same terms as the preliminary injunction. At oral argument the Court advised the parties that should the Court grant the government's motion for summary judgment, it would give defendants the opportunity to file further submissions with the Court concerning the likelihood of future violations of the Act, and in particular, whether there is a threat that defendants, or any of them, will resume their distribution activity if the Court does not enter a permanent injunction. All such submissions, if any, shall be filed by May 24, 2002 and the government's response, if any, shall be filed by June 7, 2002. The Court will take the matter of the remedy to be imposed under submission at that time.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: May 2002

CHARLES R. BREYER

UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

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JUN 1 0 2002

RICHARD W. WIEKING CLERK U.S. DISTRICT COURT, NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

## IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

#### FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,	Nos. C 98-00085 CRB C 98-00086 CRB C 98-00087 CRB C 98-00088 CRB C 98-00245 CRB	
Plaintiff, v.		
CANNABIS CULTIVATOR'S CLUB, et al.,	MEMORANDUM AND ORDER	
Defendants.		
AND RELATED ACTIONS		

By Order dated May 3, 2000, the Court granted the government's motion for summary judgment on the ground that it is undisputed that defendants violated the Controlled Substances Act in 1997. Having determined that the government is entitled to judgment, the Court must now determine what remedy, if any, should be imposed. The government seeks a permanent injunction on the same terms as the preliminary injunction.

## Standard For A Permanent Injunction

To be entitled to a permanent injunction a plaintiff must actually succeed on the merits. See Amoco Production Co. v. Village of Gambell, 480 U.S. 531, 546 n.12 (1987). As the Court previously ruled, the government is entitled to summary judgment on its claim

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that the clubs distributed marijuana in violation of the Controlled Substances Act.

The government must also show that it has no adequate legal remedy. See Continental Airlines v. Intra Brokers, Inc., 24 F.3d 1099, 1102 (9th Cir. 1994). Irreparable injury is one basis for showing the inadequacy of the legal remedy. See id. The Ninth Circuit has held that in statutory enforcement actions, such as this, irreparable injury is presumed. See Miller v. California Pacific Medical Center, 19 F.3d 449, 459 (9th Cir. 1994) (en banc); see also 5 F.Supp.2d at 1103 (same). If there is no threat of future wrongful conduct, however, a legal remedy will be adequate. To put it another way, the purpose of a permanent injunction is not punishment but rather deterrence of future behavior. See Orantes-Hernandez v. Thornburgh, 919 F.2d 549, 564 (9th Cir. 1990) ("Permanent injunctive relief is warranted where . . . defendant's past and present misconduct indicates a strong likelihood of future violations.").

That the government has succeeded on the merits and is entitled to a presumption of an inadequate legal remedy does not require the Court to enter a permanent injunction. When the United States Supreme Court reviewed the preliminary injunction order in this case, it held that "[b]ecause the District Court's use of equitable power is not textually required by any 'clear and valid legislative command,' the court did not have to issue an injunction." 121 S.Ct. at 1721. The Court explained further that

the mere fact that the District Court had discretion does not suggest that the District Court, when evaluating the motion to modify the injunction, could consider any and all factors that might relate to the public interest or the conveniences of the parties, including the medical needs of the Cooperative's patients. . . . A district court cannot, for example, override Congress' policy choice, articulated in a statute, as to what behavior should be prohibited. . . . Their choice . . . is simply whether a particular means of enforcing the statute should be chosen over another permissible means; their choice is not whether enforcement is preferable to no enforcement at all. Consequently, when a court of equity exercises its discretion, it may not consider the advantages and disadvantages of nonenforcement of the statute, but only the advantages and disadvantages of "employing the extraordinary remedy of injunction." . . . . To the extent the district court considers the public interest and the conveniences of the parties, the court is limited to evaluating how such interest and conveniences are affected by the selection of an injunction over other enforcement mechanisms.

<u>Id.</u> at 1721-22. The Supreme Court thus held that this Court cannot decline to enter an injunction pursuant to 21 U.S.C. section 882(d) because the Court believes seriously ill

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individuals should be permitted to legally obtain marijuana from the clubs. The Court can decline to enter a permanent injunction only if enforcement by some other means, here, criminal prosecution, is more appropriate than the requested equitable relief.

### DISCUSSION

The first issue is whether the government has demonstrated a threat of future unlawful conduct. If not, there is no need for the Court to exercise its extraordinary equitable powers for there is no conduct to deter. The government has met its burden. The clubs are still in existence and their very purpose is to distribute marijuana to seriously ill patients.

At the beginning of this case, one of the defendant clubs, Flower Therapy, voluntarily closed its doors and agreed to stop distributing marijuana. In light of its conduct and its representation to the Court, the club no longer posed a threat of future unlawful conduct. Accordingly, the Court dismissed the government's case against this club. In connection with the motion for a permanent injunction, the Court gave all of the remaining defendant clubs the opportunity to present evidence that they, too, do not pose a threat of future unlawful conduct, that is, distribution of marijuana. None of the clubs came forward with such evidence or even the suggestion that they would not distribute marijuana in the absence of an injunction. After considering all the evidence presented by the government, the Court finds that in the absence of an injunction, the defendants are likely to resume distributing marijuana in violation of the Controlled Substances Act.

The critical issue then is whether, in light of the available criminal enforcement remedy, the Court should decline to enter a permanent injunction. The government first argues that because it has chosen to proceed by means of civil enforcement, the Court does not have discretion to not impose the injunction; in other words, for the Court to decline to issue the injunction in favor of criminal prosecution would be tantamount to declining to enforce the statute at all since the government has not initiated criminal proceedings. If the government is correct, however, the government--not the district court--would ultimately exercise the discretion as to whether to issue the injunction; the government could limit the district court's discretion by simply not initiating criminal proceedings. The Supreme Court, For the Northern District of California

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however, specifically rejected this outcome: "the District Court in this case had discretion." Oakland Cannabis Buyer's Cooperative, 531 U.S. at 496. "[W]ith respect to the Controlled Substances Act, criminal enforcement is an alternative, and indeed the customary, means of ensuring compliance with the statute. Congress' resolution of the policy issues can be (and usually is) upheld without an injunction." Id. at 497.

Thus, the fact that the government has not chosen to proceed criminally does not require the Court to enter a permanent injunction; rather, the Court should consider the advantages and disadvantages of "employing the extraordinary remedy of injunction," and "[t]o the extent the district court considers the public interest and the conveniences of the parties, the court is limited to evaluating how such interest and conveniences are affected by the selection of an injunction over other enforcement mechanisms," namely, criminal prosecution. Id. at 497-98.

Defendants contend that the Court should not proceed with civil enforcement because the procedural protections are not as great as in a criminal prosecution. For example, if the government charges a defendant with violating the injunction, the defendant does not have a right to a jury trial in the absence of a genuine dispute of fact, and the burden of proof is less exacting; the government need only prove the violation by a preponderance of the evidence rather than beyond a reasonable doubt.

The reduced procedural protections available in a civil proceeding might be a reason to decline civil enforcement in certain circumstances. For example, if there is a genuine dispute as to whether a defendant is in fact violating the law, a court might decide that criminal enforcement--with its more vigorous burden of proof--is a more appropriate method of enforcement. But those are not the circumstances here. Defendants do not deny that they distributed marijuana; there is no genuine factual dispute as to their violation of the law. Defendants simply disagree with the law.

Moreover, the reduced procedural protections available in a civil case reflect the far less serious consequences of a judgment in favor of a plaintiff in a civil proceeding. The result of the government prevailing here is that the clubs will be enjoined from distributing

For the Northern District of California

marijuana. In a criminal case the clubs may still be shut down, but in addition, the individual defendants may lose their liberty. Given the amount of marijuana distributed by the clubs, the potential prison time faced by the individual defendants under the United States Sentencing Guidelines is significant.<sup>1</sup> Furthermore, the fact that defendants were distributing marijuana to seriously ill patients is not a defense. See Oakland Cannabis Buyer's Cooperative, 532 U.S. at 494-95. It is thus unsurprising that at oral argument counsel for defendants Marin Alliance for Medical Marijuana and Lynette Shaw stated that these defendants prefer that the Court and the government proceed with a civil injunction rather than criminal prosecution.

Defendants also argue that a civil injunction interferes with the rights of seriously ill patients. A criminal prosecution of the clubs and its leaders, however, would do the same. This Court cannot decline to issue the injunction in favor of non-enforcement of the statute. See Oakland Cannabis Buyer's Cooperative 531 U.S. at 498 ("Courts of equity cannot, in their discretion, reject the balance that Congress has struck in a statute. Their choice . . . is simply whether a particular means of enforcing the statute should be chosen over another permissible means; their choice is not whether enforcement is preferable to no enforcement at all.").

### CONCLUSION

In light of the serious penalties faced by the individual defendants in a criminal proceeding and the unavailability of a medical necessity defense, the Court concludes in its discretion that civil enforcement of the Controlled Substances Act in the circumstances of these related cases is appropriate. Accordingly, the Court will issue permanent injunctions in

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>For example, assuming an individual defendant does not have any prior criminal history, and is convicted of distributing, or aiding and abetting the distribution of, 10 kilograms of marijuana, he would fall within a sentencing range of 21 to 27 months. U.S.S.G. § 2D1.1(c). A conviction involving 80 kilograms of marijuana would result in a sentence of almost five Moreover, under the Controlled Substances Act certain mandatory minimum sentences apply: a conviction involving 100 or more marijuana plants regardless of weight carries a five-year minimum sentence, 21 U.S.C. § 841(b)(1)(B)(vii), and a conviction involving 1000 such plants requires a 10-year minimum sentence. 21 U.S.C. § 841(b)(1)(A)(vii).

these related actions enjoining defendants from the distribution of marijuana in violation of the Controlled Substances Act.<sup>2</sup>

## IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: June 10, 2002

CHARLES R. BREYER UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>Plaintiff filed these related actions to enjoin the distribution of marijuana, not possession for personal use. The issue of personal use is not before the Court and the Court declines to reach that issue.

bae

United States District Court for the Northern District of California June 12, 2002

\* \* CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE \* \*

Case Number:3:98-cv-00087

USA

vs

Ukiah Cannabis Buyer

I, the undersigned, hereby certify that I am an employee in the Office of the Clerk, U.S. District Court, Northern District of California.

That on June 12, 2002, I SERVED a true and correct copy(ies) of the attached, by placing said copy(ies) in a postage paid envelope addressed to the person(s) hereinafter listed, by depositing said envelope in the U.S. Mail, or by placing said copy(ies) into an inter-office delivery receptacle located in the Clerk's office.

Alice P. Mead, Esq. California Medical Association 221 Main St P.O. Box 7690 San Francisco, CA 94120-7690

Mark T. Quinlivan, Esq. USDJ-Civil Division 901 E Street NW Washington, DC 20530

Margaret S. Schroeder, Esq. Pillsbury Winthrop LLP 50 Fremont St 5th Flr San Francisco, CA 94105

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Susan B. Jordan, Esq. Law Offices of Susan B. Jordan 825 Washington St Ste 304 Oakland, CA 94607

David Nelson, Esq. Nelson & Riemenschneider P O Box N Ukiah, CA 95482

Richard W. Wieking, Clerk

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Deputy Clerk

# For the Northern District of California

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JUN 1 0 2002

RICHARD W. WIEKING CLERK U.S. DISTRICT COURT, NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

# IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

# FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

No. C 98-00087 CRB

Plaintiff.

JUDGMENT; PERMANENT INJUNCTION

UKIAH CANNABIS BUYER'S CLUB, CHERRIE LOVETT, MARVIN LEHRMAN, and MILDRED LEHRMAN.

Defendants.

The Court having granted plaintiff's motion for summary judgment by Memorandum and Order filed May 3, 2002, and for the reasons stated in its Memorandum and Order dated June 10, 2002, judgment is hereby entered in favor of plaintiff the United States of America and against defendants Ukiah Cannabis Buyer's Club, Cherrie Lovett, Marvin Lehrman, and Mildred Lehrman as follows:

- 1. Defendants Ukiah Cannabis Buyer's Club, Cherrie Lovett, Marvin Lehrman, and Mildred Lehrman are hereby permanently enjoined from engaging in the distribution of marijuana, the possession of marijuana with the intent to distribute, or the manufacture of marijuana with the intent to distribute, in violation of 21 U.S.C. § 841(a)(1); and
- 2. Defendants Ukiah Cannabis Buyer's Club, Cherrie Lovett, Marvin Lehrman, and Mildred Lehrman are hereby permanently enjoined from using the premises of 40A COPIES MAILED TO PARTIES OF RECORD

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Pallini Lane, Ukiah, California for the purposes of engaging in the manufacture and distribution of marijuana; and

- Defendants Ukiah Cannabis Buyer's Club, Cherrie Lovett, Marvin Lehrman, 3. and Mildred Lehrman are hereby permanently enjoined from conspiring to violate the Controlled Substances Act, 21 U.S.C. § 841(a)(1), with respect to the distribution of marijuana, the manufacture of marijuana with the intent to distribute, or the possession of marijuana with the intent to distribute.
- It shall not be a violation of this injunction for defendants to seek and obtain 4. legal advice from their attorneys.
- 5. Pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 65(d), this injunction shall bind the defendants, their officers, agents, servants, employees, successors, and attorneys, and those persons in active concert or participation with them who receive notice of the order by personal service or otherwise.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: June / 0, 2002

CHARLES R. BREYER UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE United States District Court for the Northern District of California June 12, 2002

\* \* CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE \* \*

Case Number:3:98-cv-00087

USA

vs

Ukiah Cannabis Buyer

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Richard W. Wieking, Clerk

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BY:

Deputy Cle

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JUL 2 9 2002

RICHARD W. WIEKING CLERK U.S. DISTRICT COURT, NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

# IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, Plaintiff,

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UKIAH CANNABIS BUYER'S CLUB, CHERRIE LOVETT, MARVIN LEHRMAN, and MILDRED LEHRMAN

Defendants.

AND RELATED ACTIONS.

No. C 98-00087 ÇRB

PROPOSED ORDER GRANTING
DEFENDANT'S MOTION FOR
ENTRY OF PARTIAL
JUDGMENT PURSUANT
TO FEDERAL RULE OF CIVIL
PROCEDURE 54(B)

Date:

August 9, 2002

Time:

10:00 a.m.

Honorable Charles R. Breyer

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This matter comes before the Court on Defendants Ukiah Cannabis Buyer's Club, Cherrie Lovett, Marvin Lehrman, and Mildred Lehrman's Motion for Entry of Partial Judgment Pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 54(b) in Case No. 98-00087 CRB. Upon consideration of the foregoing and the entire record herein, and good cause appearing therefore, the Court hereby finds and certifies that all of Plaintiff's claims against Ukiah Cannabis Buyer's Club, Cherrie Lovett, Marvin Lehrman and Mildred Lehrman have been finally adjudicated, that such claims are severable from the remaining claims in the litigation, and that there is no just reason to delay the entry of judgment, it is hereby

ORDERED that the Defendants' Motion be, and hereby is, GRANTED, AND THE CLERK IS DIRECTED TO ENTER JUDGMENT PURSUANT TO THIS ORDER.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: July 29,2008

HON. CHARLES R. BREYER UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

(Proposed) Order Granting Joinder of Ukiah Cannabis Buyer's Club, et al Case No. C 98-00087 CRB Page 2

United States District Court for the Northern District of California July 29, 2002

\* \* CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE \* \*

Case Number:3:98-cv-00087

USA

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vs

Ukiah Cannabis Buyer

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BY.

Deputy Cle