



Basic Cannabis Concepts

CANNABIS LAW

Rod Kight
Melissa Roeder
Jean Smith-Gonnell
Adam Fayne



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*** These slides were produced in connection with a video webinar that premiered on 8/12/2025. Take note, we make the PDF available for free download because the real benefit of a Financial Poise webinar is the conversation that the faculty has around the slide deck. You can access the webinar on-demand at Cerfi's LegalEdge (f/k/a [West Legal Ed Center](#)) (for attorneys or accountants seeking CLE or CPE) or [Financial Poise](#) (for everyone else).

Meet the Faculty

Panelists

[Rod Kight](#) - Kight Law

[Melissa Roeder](#) - Sinars Slowikowski Tomaska

[Jean Smith-Gonnell](#) - Troutman Pepper

Moderator

[Adam Fayne](#) - Saul Ewing LLP

Adam Fayne - adam.fayne@saul.com



Adam Fayne assists companies and individuals, nationally and internationally, on corporate and tax issues. As a corporate attorney, Adam routinely advises management or in-house general counsel on various legal matters affecting their day-to-day corporate activities. His experience includes handling matters involving mergers and acquisitions, employment, compliance, litigation, personal injury, vendor contract review and negotiations, employment benefits, financing, real estate and many other issues. Adam is also a tax attorney who helps businesses and individuals with tax controversies before the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and tax planning both domestically and internationally. He also handles a variety of white collar criminal matters, both federal and state, particularly involving civil and criminal tax fraud, including tax evasion, money laundering and offshore tax compliance. Adam's knowledge of tax law is informed by his former role as a Special Assistant U.S. Attorney with the Department of Treasury's IRS.

Melissa Roeder - mroeder@sinarlaw.com



Melissa Roeder, Of Counsel at Sinars Slowikowski Tomaska's Seattle office, is a high heel wearing, motorcycle riding, trial attorney. She is the chair of the firm's cannabis practice group and delivers effective and practical solutions in the fields of cannabis/marijuana law, asbestos, benzene and toxic torts, along with sexual abuse matters.

Before becoming a lawyer, Melissa worked as a Alaska commercial fisherman and grew-up on the family farm in a town of 500 people in southwest Minnesota. These experiences shaped Melissa's character, work ethic and grit from childhood forward.

Career achievements include being selected as one of the Top 100 Women Lawyers in Washington State, a "Super Lawyer" since 2012, a "Rising Star" from 2008-2011 and the Washington Defense Trial Lawyers (WDTL) Outstanding Litigation Associate in 2008.

Jean Smith-Gonnell - jean.gonnell@troutman.com



Jean Smith-Gonnell is cannabis industry attorney with over 12 years of practice. Jean currently leads the cannabis practice at Troutman Pepper. She started her career in her native state of Colorado, after attending law school at the University of Denver Sturm College of Law. Her practice specializes in regulatory, administrative law, appeals, litigation, and business transactions, within the cannabis industry.

Rod Kight - Rod@kightlaw.com



Rod Kight is a cannabis business law attorney. He created the “Source Rule”, which is widely credited as a primary legal foundation for the contemporary hemp market in cannabinoids and other cannabis materials. Rod represents legal cannabis businesses throughout the world, is editor and chief writer of the Kight On Cannabis law blog, and is the author of “Cannabis Business Law-What You Need to Know”, published by Aspatore Books. Rod has served on the advisory board for the American Journal of Endocannabinoid Medicine (AJEM), for which he wrote a legal column. He also served on the board of directors for an international cannabis and psychedelics company.

Rod is frequently quoted on cannabis matters by trade publications and major media outlets including the Wall Street Journal, NPR, Time, Washington Post, Forbes, Politico, Salon.com, and Business Insider. Additionally, Rod has been listed in MG Magazine’s list of “30 Powerful Litigators”. [Read More](#)

About This Series

CANNABIS LAW

The U.S. cannabis industry has exploded over the past decade. With every emerging industry comes legislation, rules, investors, and questions. The legalized cannabis industry is no different. As more states in the U.S. adopt adult use and medical cannabis laws and regulations, it is incumbent on businesspeople and professionals to educate themselves about the challenges and opportunities facing the industry, as well as how to navigate the legal landscape governing cannabis businesses, whether those businesses “touch the plant,” or not. Thankfully, we’re here to help.

In this series, we provide an essential foundation for any businessperson or professional looking to get smart about the cannabis industry. In our first episode, we present an overview of the cannabis industry and the competing legal frameworks at the state and federal levels. In our second episode, we will discuss investment strategies for getting involved in the cannabis industry. Our third episode will discuss specific legal issues surrounding intellectual property rights in the cannabis space. And we’ll conclude with our fourth episode, focused on legal and business issues for employers and employees in states where cannabis has been legalized for both medical and adult use.

Episodes In This Series

1. Basic Cannabis Concepts

Premiere date: 08/12/25

2. Financial Risks in the Cannabis Marketplace

Premiere date: 08/26/25

3. Supply Chain

Premiere date: 09/09/25

4. The Business Case for Hemp

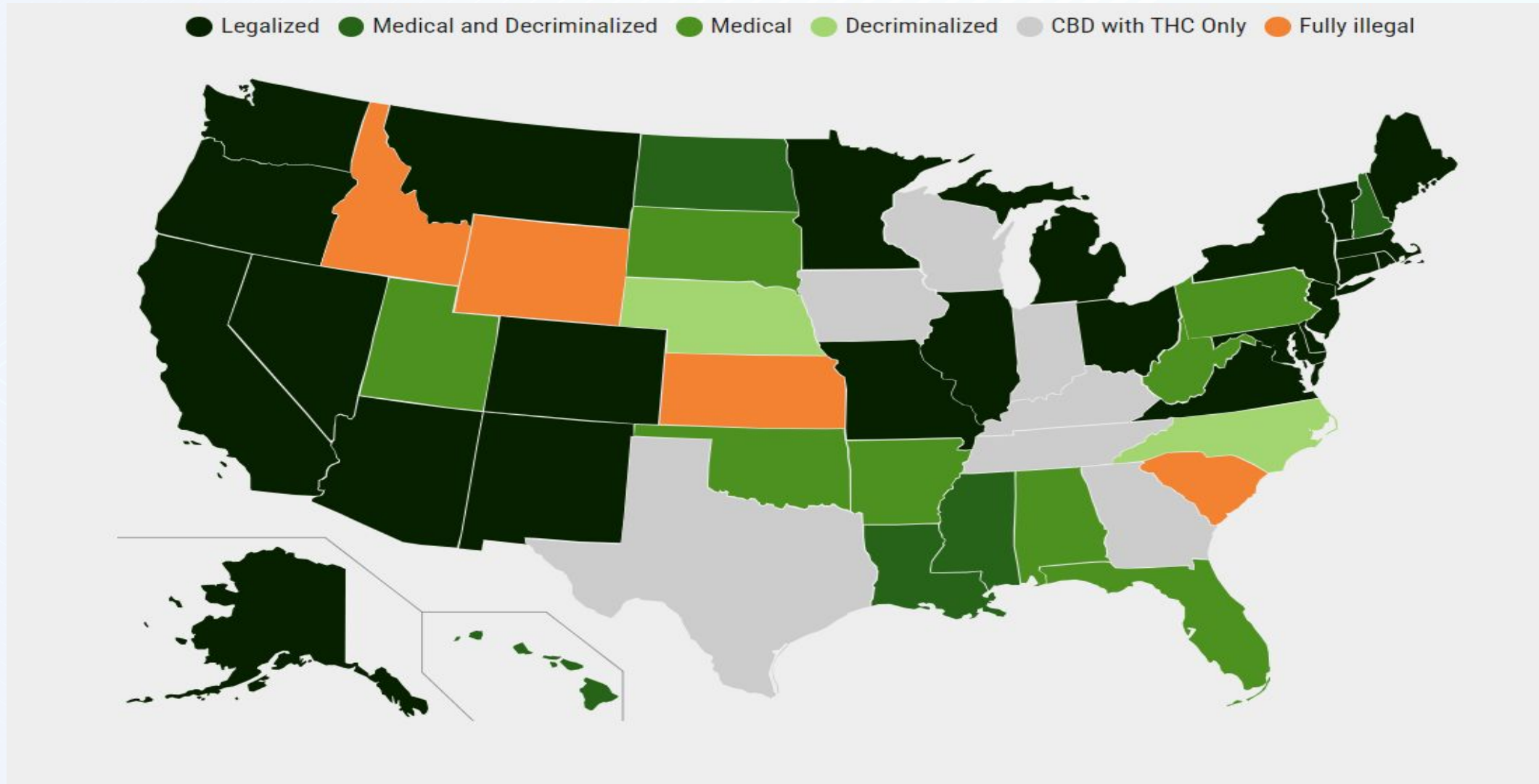
Premiere date: 09/30/25

Episode #1

Basic Cannabis Concepts

Each Financial Poise Webinar is delivered in Plain English, understandable to investors, business owners, & executives without much background in these areas, yet is of primary value to attorneys, accountants, & other seasoned professionals. Each episode brings you into engaging, sometimes humorous, conversations designed to entertain as it teaches. Each episode in the series is designed to be viewed independently of the other episodes so that participants will enhance their knowledge of this area whether they attend one, some, or all episodes.

A. Cannabis 101



A. Cannabis 101 *(cont'd)*

- What is the difference between hemp and cannabis?
- What is the interplay between hemp law and cannabis law
- Farm Bill
- What is the normal process for states to pass marijuana laws? (constitutional amendments, legislative actions, medical to start facilitating eventual adult use)

B. Safety/Medical Use

- What safety protocols have you witnessed in the cannabis industry
- How does modern medicine view cannabis
- What are things like Delta 8, Delta 10, ThcO, etc?

C. Regulations

- What problems do you see with regulating a plant like cannabis?
- Can hemp derived products still have THC levels in them that are psychoactive and produce a high like cannabis?
- What are the next steps in the federal process for rescheduling?
- What implications will rescheduling have in the marijuana space?
- What has stopped the federal government from stopping enforcement of the CSA against states?

D. Employment

- As an employer, are my employees allowed to consume cannabis and are there instances where their use would allow a business to terminate their employment?
- How can a business test for impairment and make sure it's not violating an employee's rights by conducting such tests?
- Are there any industries where the use of cannabis/cbd/any hemp derived product is banned and are there any exceptions to those rules banning its use?

E. Predictions

Meet The Faculty

Questions or Comments?

If you have any questions about this webinar that you did not get to ask during the live premiere, or if you are watching this webinar [On Demand](#), please do not hesitate to email us at info@financialpoise.com with any questions or comments you may have. Please include the name of the webinar in your email & we will do our best to provide a timely response.

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