

Group sues to block Los Angeles ban on medical marijuana shops

2:40am IST

By Dan Whitcomb

LOS ANGELES, Aug 17 (Reuters) - A group of medical marijuana patients sued the city of Los Angeles on Friday, seeking to block a citywide ban that would shut down most of its storefront pot dispensaries in three weeks.

The lawsuit, filed on behalf of 11 patients by the nonprofit Patient Care Alliance Los Angeles trade association, says users are protected by California's 1996 legalization of medical marijuana and a constitutional right to freedom of assembly.

"The medical marijuana center of the globe is L.A. just as much as the movie capital of the globe is L.A.," Marc O'Hara, Patient Care Alliance executive director, said after filing the lawsuit in Los Angeles County Superior Court. "There are more dispensaries here than in the rest of the country."

City leaders, who passed an ordinance banning the dispensaries by a 14-0 vote in July, have sought for years to control the dispensaries amid complaints that they supply recreational users under the guise of medicine and serve as a magnet for street crime.

"Relief is coming in the form of having a more focused and intense crackdown on these dispensaries that cause problems in our neighborhoods," Los Angeles City Councilman Jose Huizar, who authored the ordinance, said in July. "If we try to move forward to regulate (storefronts), we will fail. It would be an exercise in futility."

A spokesman for Huizar could not immediately be reached for comment. A spokeswoman for Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, who supports the ban, declined to comment on the lawsuit.

City officials estimate there are some 750 registered dispensaries in Los Angeles and as many as 200 more without proper registration, dwarfing any other California city.

California became the first U.S. state to decriminalize medical marijuana in 1996 and was followed by 16 other states and the District of Columbia. But the law has caused friction with federal authorities.

State rules governing the distribution of medical marijuana remain fuzzy, and cannabis is still classified under U.S. law as an illegal narcotic, with no exemption provided for health reasons. (Reporting by Dan Whitcomb; Editing by Dan Grebler)

<http://in.reuters.com/article/2012/08/17/usa-marijuana-los-angeles-idINL2E8JHHP520120817>

Pot trade group sues L.A. to stop ban

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Posted: 08/17/2012 11:53:45 AM PDT

Updated: 08/17/2012 12:24:28 PM PDT

A medical marijuana trade association sued the city of Los Angeles today in a bid to stop a ban on dispensaries taking effect next month.

The Patient Care Alliance, which represents more than 300 dispensaries, argues what the Los Angeles City Council calls a "gentle ban" is unconstitutional, specifically violating the First Amendment right to assemble.

"What's really at stake here is the useless, baseless and systematic denial of access to physician-recommended medicine to hundreds of thousands of patients living in L.A. who suffer everyday from so many debilitating diseases - all forms of cancer, muscle spasticity, Parkinson's, MS, cerebral palsy, autism, glaucoma and a myriad of other ailments," said a PCA press release.

PCA executive director Marc O'Hara said in a news conference in front of the Stanley Mosk County Courthouse this morning he is confident their lawsuit will be a "home run" for dispensaries. http://www.dailynews.com/breakingnews/ci_21337146/medical-marijuana-trade-group-sues-l-over-dispensary

Join the Lawsuit to fight the Los Angeles Medical Marijuana Ban, 420LawOffice.com

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Plo61AzMvMQ>

Fight Back Against The City of Los Angeles and its Illegal Ban on Medical Marijuana Collectives

LA COUNTY'S BAN DECLARED UNCONSTITUTIONAL; CANNABIS LAW GROUP TO FILE LAWSUITS AGAINST THE CITY ON BEHALF ON MEDICAL MARIJUANA COLLECTIVES

July 2012 - The City of Los Angeles has just passed an illegal ban on medical marijuana collectives. **CANNABIS LAW GROUP** IS HERE TO FIGHT FOR YOUR RIGHT TO KEEP YOUR COLLECTIVE DOORS OPEN FOR YOUR PATIENTS WHO NEED THEIR MEDICINE.

The City ban on medical marijuana is unconstitutional pursuant to a recent medical marijuana ruling issued by the Court of Appeal in Los Angeles. On July 2, 2012, the Court of Appeal for the 2nd District (Los Angeles) issued its ruling in the case of *County of Los Angeles v. Alternative Medicinal Cannabis Collective*. **The Court held that the Los Angeles County ban on medical marijuana collectives was unconstitutional** because it was "preempted", or trumped, by California state law which allows collective cultivation of medical marijuana.

This case is a big win for collectives. We believe this case supports the legal conclusion that the newly enacted LA City ban is unconstitutional. It has been reported the City will likely start sending Cease and Desist letters to all of its collectives and their landlords, threatening civil or criminal action if the collectives do not cease operations. We believe the City will use continue to use extortion tactics in an effort to scare collectives into closing. We believe the City will try to intimidate landlords into doing the City's dirty work.

We believe that the Supreme Court will ultimately rule that cities and counties cannot ban collectives but instead can regulate them and impose reasonable restrictions on their operations. However, until the Supreme Court rules, expect more litigation in Los Angeles. If the City is threatening you, or sues you or your landlord, call us for legal representation as we have been fighting for collectives in court for years.

CANNABIS LAW GROUP is the law firm that has been leading the fight against the City of Los Angeles and its unreasonable and unconstitutional medical marijuana zoning ordinances for the past three years. We have already filed several lawsuits against the City of Los Angeles and know what it takes to fight City Hall. The goal of our lawsuits are to have the ordinance declared void and unenforceable and to keep your collective doors open as a result.

CANNABIS LAW GROUP has already filed a lawsuit on behalf of 10+ Los Angeles collectives for due process and equal protection violations, among others. This webpage is an invitation to your collective to join our fight. Join the fight. Our firm offers reasonable litigation fees that will allow you to join our coalition as we fight the City so you can stay open for business.

There is strength in numbers, so don't pack up and leave. Your patients need you and you have rights. **CANNABIS LAW GROUP** is dedicated to protecting medical marijuana collective's rights to safely dispense medicine. Our lawsuit will allow you a cost effective way to fight the City in an effort to stay open at your current location.

<http://www.los-angeles-marijuana-lawyer.com/lawyer-attorney-1593623.html>