

**Pennsylvania's New Medical Marijuana Law:
Navigating the Legal
and Regulatory Framework**

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Senator Daylin Leach
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Michael Bronstein

Michael Bronstein is the co-founder and president of Bronstein & Weaver, Inc. – one of the country’s leading Democratic political media, strategic messaging, and government affairs firms. Michael has garnered national recognition for his strategy and has been named: a member of the Democratic “Dream Team” of American Political Consultants, a “Mover & Shaker” by *Politics Magazine*, a *Campaigns & Elections Magazine’s* Rising Star, a “Top Ten” political consultant by PA2010.com, a “40 under 40” consultant by the American Association of Political Consultants, and one of the 500 most “influential” political consultants in the country by *Campaigns & Elections Magazine*.

Michael has been a thoughtful voice of the emerging cannabis industry and serves as the lead consultant for the American Association for Cannabis & Hemp (ATACH) where he directs all national and state level strategy. He has been called “one of Philadelphia’s Mover & Shakers in marijuana” by *Philadelphia Voice* and featured as “One of 11 People Leading the Charge for Legal Pot” *Philadelphia Magazine* for his leadership of ATACH’s Pennsylvania medical cannabis strategy. Michael also serves as: a national executive board member of the Coalition for Responsible Cannabis Production, a campaign strategist for New Jersey United for Marijuana Reform, as well as a member of Florida’s United for Care policy committee.

He is a frequently sought commentator and has appeared in numerous media outlets including: Wall Street Journal, Politico, Roll Call, BBC World News, CBS Radio, Radio France, BBC 5 Live, and Reuters - to name just a few. Michael has served as a guest lecturer on campaign strategies at Campaigns & Elections “Art of Political Campaigning” conference, George Washington University’s Graduate School of Political Management, University of Pennsylvania’s Fels Institute of Government, and Columbia University’s School of International and Public Affairs.

Michael’s political work has received numerous awards. In 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, and 2013, Michael’s work has either won or been a finalist for the Stanley F. Reed Award for excellence in political advertising - including in the categories of “Best Bare-knuckled Street Fight Victory”, “Best Campaign Comeback”, and “Toughest Radio Ad”. In 2015, his work was honored with a Pollie Award for the “Best Television Advertisement for a Democratic State Legislative Candidate” in the United States. In 2016, Michael has won a Reed Award, Goldie Award, and Pollie for Independent Expenditure and Issue Advocacy advertising work.

Before co-founding Bronstein & Weaver, Inc., Michael worked for the British Labour Party for Prime Minister Tony Blair’s reelection campaign, where he helped manage the design and creation of the Labour Party’s national media. Prior to the 2005 General Election, Michael worked in the House of Commons where he served as a parliamentary researcher to Rt. Hon. James Purnell MP.

Michael has served in many political capacities such as an appointed mayoral advisor in upstate New York, an intern in the Clinton White House, and is a member of many civic boards. In 2010, Michael was elected to the board of the American Association of Political Consultants mid-Atlantic chapter where he currently serves as the chapter’s vice president. Additionally, Michael was recently named to Campaigns & Elections’ Magazine’s prestigious ‘Publisher’s Circle’, serves as an Ambassador for the New Leaders Council, and served as the National Deputy Issue Advocacy Adviser to the Young Democrats of America.

Michael earned his undergraduate degree in American Studies from Cornell University and attended the London School of Economics as a Hansard Scholar. He currently resides in Philadelphia, PA.

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Senator Daylin Leach

Sen. Daylin Leach (D-Montgomery/Delaware) was born in Philadelphia in 1961. He attended Temple University, where he graduated with a degree in Political Science, and earned a Law Degree from the University of Houston Law Center in 1983. After law school, Daylin moved back to Southeastern Pennsylvania where he practiced law for 17 years focusing on general litigation. He focused on constitutional, Criminal, Corporate and appellate litigation. In 1998, Daylin moved to Montgomery County. First elected to the General Assembly in the fall of 2002, Daylin has focused on civil rights, environmental protection, education, health care and political reform. Notable accomplishments include his measures signed into law that introduce hybrid cars into the state fleet and provide, for the first time, state funds for breast and ovarian cancer screening for low-income women. He also passed legislation banning the shackling of pregnant female prisoners, creating a new corporate entity known as a B-Corp which gives corporations more flexibility in engaging in public service. He also authored legislation which made Pennsylvania one of the leading states in the nation in fighting human trafficking. In 2016 his medical marijuana bill passed the House and the Senate and was signed into law on April 17, 2016. After his election into the Pennsylvania State Senate in 2008, Daylin was honored to be named Minority Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee. He also serves as a member on the State Government, Policy, Education, Environmental Resources & Energy and Appropriations. Daylin has also continued to pursue advanced academic training on government and legislative matters, winning a Flemming Fellowship and a full scholarship to Harvard's Kennedy School of Government for legislative studies. Daylin has quickly become known as the leading progressive voice in the Pennsylvania legislature. He has championed countless important causes including marriage equality, repealing the Voter ID law, environmental stewardship, and redistricting reform and campaign finance reform. In recent years he has been proud to receive legislative achievement awards from Environmental, Educational, Animal Rights and Human Rights Organizations. Locally, Daylin serves on a number of Boards of Directors in his community. He is married to Jennifer Anne Mirak, a psychologist, with whom he has two children, Brennan and Justin.

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Clifford B. Levine, Esq.

Mr. Levine is a Director at Cohen & Grigsby, P.C., based in Pittsburgh, where he chairs its Public Affairs Practice Group and is a member of its Litigation and Real Estate Practice Groups. He also chairs the firm's Medical Marijuana Practice Group. Businesses interested in the recently legalized medical marijuana industry in Pennsylvania will face an array of permitting, administrative, regulatory, governmental, finance and land use issues. Mr. Levine has broad experiences in these areas of law, having represented both private and public sector clients in complex commercial, construction, public bidding, environmental, and land use matters, as well as in counseling clients on administrative, political and governmental subjects. Mr. Levine has frequently represented real estate developers and entities such as railroads, landfills, and energy projects in addressing a wide array of regulatory and legal issues during the course of project development. Mr. Levine has been counsel to various governmental entities, including the Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority (PWSA) and the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED), where he has served as lead counsel in cases relating to the implementation of Act 47 to fiscally distressed municipalities. He is an elected member of the Allegheny County Academy of Trial Lawyers, and has had numerous appearances before state and federal trial and appellate courts, including the Pennsylvania Supreme, Superior and Commonwealth Courts, and the United States Court of Appeals. Mr. Levine has been involved in a number of landmark Pennsylvania Supreme Court decisions in the areas of land use, energy law, elections, labor and public finance, many of which involved the question of preemption – the interplay between federal, state and local law. *Pennsylvania Magazine* has designated him as a Pennsylvania Super Lawyer for 15 consecutive years. The *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* recently announced that Mr. Levine was selected by his peers as the Western Pennsylvania Lawyer of the Year in the area of Land Use Law (2016). In addition to his legal practice, Mr. Levine has significant governmental and political experience. He served President Barack Obama's campaigns in 2012 and 2008 as a convention delegate, member of the National Finance Committee, and a statewide election law counsel. In 2012, Mr. Levine was the President of Pennsylvania's 57th Electoral College. Mr. Levine currently serves as one of the designated statewide representatives of the Hillary for America campaign. In 2014, Mr. Levine served on the Tom Wolf for Governor Statewide Finance Committee. *Politics Magazine* recently recognized him as one of the 100 most politically influential individuals in the state. Mr. Levine is a Commissioner on the Southwestern Planning Commission, the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the ten counties that comprise Southwest Pennsylvania. Mr. Levine served for 12 years as Vice-Chair of the City of Pittsburgh's Planning Commission and of its Zoning Board of Adjustment. He has participated in commercial and construction arbitrations, is qualified as an AAA Construction and Commercial Law Arbitrator, and has served as a court-appointed special master. Mr. Levine has been a faculty member on numerous Pennsylvania Bar Institute seminars, and has been a guest lecturer at the University of Pittsburgh's Graduate School of Public & International Affairs and Duquesne Law School. He is the author of various articles involving subjects in his practice fields. Mr. Levine received his J.D. degree from Duke University in 1980 and a B.A. degree in economics, *magna cum laude*, in 1977 from the State University of New York at Albany. He served as a law clerk to the Honorable David W. Craig of the Pennsylvania Commonwealth Court.

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Andrew Sacks, Managing Partner

Born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Mr. Sacks received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Grinnell College (1981) and his Juris Doctor degree from Dickinson School of Law (1984).

He is admitted to practice in all Pennsylvania state courts, as well as the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, and the U.S. Courts of Appeals for the Third and Sixth Circuits. Additionally, he is a member of the Bar of the Supreme Court of the United States. Four of his cases have gone before the Supreme Court to date (including *Grefer v. Alpha Tech.*, 901 So. 2d 1117 (La.App. 4 Cir. 2005), *writ den.* 925 So.2d 1248 (La. 2006), *vacated and remanded* 549 U.S. 1249 (2007), *aff'd on remand* 965 So.2d 511 (La.App.4 Cir. 2007), *writ den.* 967 So.2d 523 (La. 2007), *cert. den.* 553 U.S. 1014 (2008)). Mr. Sacks began his legal career practicing personal injury law in Philadelphia. Soon he was also administrating several legal service plans for large labor unions (including Lodge 5 of the Fraternal Order of Police), servicing a collective membership of more than 50,000 members and their families. In 1994, Mr. Sacks purchased his employer's assets and launched the present firm. The firm continued to handle personal injury, medical malpractice, and maritime matters. In addition, significant efforts were now devoted to representing plaintiffs in toxic tort and environmental contamination litigation. The direction of the practice changed immediately, as it diversified in order to represent a broader client base.

A satellite firm was formed in New Orleans, closer to the clients whose land had been contaminated. The firm rapidly pioneered N.O.R.M. litigation, eventually resulting in the largest, single-landowner verdict in the nation's history. We are still one of the country's leading plaintiffs' law firms in N.O.R.M. litigation, as well as in other environmental and toxic tort matters. Within the framework of the new partnership of Sacks Weston Diamond, LLC., Mr. Sacks maintains his dual interests in general practice law and environmental law, with special focus on pursuing litigation against any company or industry that damages the environment or injures property or individuals. He is justifiably proud that he is one of the few U.S. attorneys who has handled two cases in excess of \$1 billion, including a landmark 2001 \$1.06 billion verdict against ExxonMobil, and has settled over a dozen cases each for millions of dollars. On account of these achievements, Mr. Sacks was admitted to membership in the Billion Dollar Lawyers Association as the organization's first member. In addition to pursuing his law-related interests, Mr. Sacks is a member of the Board of Directors of the Philadelphia Tri-State Chapter of the Lupus Foundation of America. In 2015, he was selected by the *American Trade Association for Cannabis and Hemp (ATACH)* as the only lawyer to serve on their State Level Coalition. Sacks has been actively lobbying for the legalization of medical marijuana in Pennsylvania, with a focus on making the drug available for treatment of lupus patients and to provide legal protections for lawyers working with individuals and organizations in the cannabis industry.

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