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FILED

JUN 10 2002

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

JUN 11 2002

EXTENDED IN CIRCUIT MARKET

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

315

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

v.

CANNABIS CULTIVATOR'S CLUB, et al.,

Defendants.

Nos. C 98-00085 CRB
C 98-00086 CRB
C 98-00087 CRB
C 98-00088 CRB ✓
C 98-00245 CRB

MEMORANDUM AND ORDER

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

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

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

19 the mere fact that the District Court had discretion does not suggest that the
20 District Court, when evaluating the motion to modify the injunction, could
21 consider any and all factors that might relate to the public interest or the
22 conveniences of the parties, including the medical needs of the Cooperative’s
23 patients. . . . A district court cannot, for example, override Congress’ policy
24 choice, articulated in a statute, as to what behavior should be prohibited. . . .
25 Their choice . . . is simply whether a particular means of enforcing the statute
26 should be chosen over another permissible means; their choice is not whether
27 enforcement is preferable to no enforcement at all. Consequently, when a
28 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.

Id. 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

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

4 DISCUSSION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

18 CONCLUSION

19 In light of the serious penalties faced by the individual defendants in a criminal
20 proceeding and the unavailability of a medical necessity defense, the Court concludes in its
21 discretion that civil enforcement of the Controlled Substances Act in the circumstances of
22 these related cases is appropriate. Accordingly, the Court will issue permanent injunctions in
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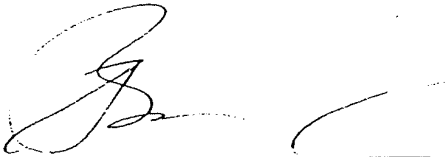
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25 ¹For example, assuming an individual defendant does not have any prior criminal history,
26 and is convicted of distributing, or aiding and abetting the distribution of, 10 kilograms of
27 marijuana, he would fall within a sentencing range of 21 to 27 months. U.S.S.G. § 2D1.1(c).
28 A conviction involving 80 kilograms of marijuana would result in a sentence of almost five
years. Id. 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).

United States District Court
For the Northern District of California

1 these related actions enjoining defendants from the distribution of marijuana in violation of
2 the Controlled Substances Act.²

3
4 IT IS SO ORDERED.

5 Dated: June/0, 2002


6 CHARLES R. BREYER
7 UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

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27 ²Plaintiff filed these related actions to enjoin the distribution of marijuana, not possession
28 for personal use. The issue of personal use is not before the Court and the Court declines to reach that issue.

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

* * CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE * *

Case Number:3:98-cv-00088

USA

vs.

Oakland Cannabis

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

Gary G. Grindler, Esq.
Department of Justice
Civil Division, Room 1078
901 E Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20530

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

Thomas V. Loran III, Esq.
Pillsbury Winthrop LLP

PO Box 7800
50 Fremont St
5th Flr
San Francisco, CA 94105

Terence Hallinan, Esq.
SF District Attorney
850 Bryant St, 3rd Floor
San Francisco, CA 94103

Johanna Roberts, Esq.
Morrison & Foerster LLP
425 Market St
San Francisco, CA 94105-2482

James J. Brosnahan, Esq.
Morrison & Foerster LLP
425 Market St
San Francisco, CA 94105-2482

Andrew A. Steckler, Esq.
Morrison & Foerster LLP
425 Market St
San Francisco, CA 94105-2482

Gerald F. Uelmen, Esq.
Santa Clara University
School of Law
Santa Clara, CA 95055

Robert A. Raich, Esq.
1970 Broadway
Oakland, CA 94612

William G. Panzer, Esq.
Ste 3
370 Grand Avenue
Oakland, CA 94610

Randy Barnett, Esq.
Harvard Law School - Griswold 308
1525 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02138

Taylor S. Carey, Esq.
California Attorney General's Office
1300 I Street
P.O. Box 944255
Sacramento, CA 94244-2550

Richard E. Winnie, Esq.
County of Alameda
1221 Oak Street, Suite 463
Oakland, CA 94612-4296

Barbara J. Parker, Esq.
Oakland City Attorney's Office
One City Hall Plaza
6th Flr
Oakland, CA 94612

Graham A. Boyd, Esq.
American Civil Liberties Union Foundation
85 Willow Street
New Haven, CT 06511


Ann Brick, Esq.
American Civil Liberties Union
Foundation of Northern CA Inc
1663 Mission St Ste 460
San Francisco, CA 94103

Jordan C. Budd, Esq.
American Civil Liberties Union Foundation of San Diego
110 West C Street, Suite 901
San Diego, CA 92101

Peter Eliasberg, Esq.
American Civil Liberties Union Foundation of S CA, Inc.
1616 Beverly Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90026

Richard W. Wieking, Clerk

BY:


Deputy Clerk

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MORRISON & FOERSTER

FILED

JUN 10 2002

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

JUN 11 2002

FILED IN CIV. DOCKET

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

316

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

No. C 98-00088 CRB

Plaintiff,

JUDGMENT; PERMANENT
INJUNCTION

v.

OAKLAND CANNABIS BUYERS'
COOPERATIVE and JEFFREY JONES,

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 Oakland Cannabis Buyers' Cooperative and Jeffrey Jones as follows:

1. Defendants Oakland Cannabis Buyers' Cooperative and Jeffrey Jones 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 Oakland Cannabis Buyers' Cooperative and Jeffrey Jones are hereby permanently enjoined from using the premises at 1755 Broadway, Oakland, California for the purposes of engaging in the manufacture and distribution of marijuana; and

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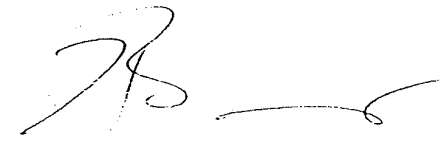
3. Defendant Jeffrey Jones is hereby permanently enjoined from conspiring to violate the Controlled Substances Act, 21 U.S.C. § 841(a)(1), with respect to the distribution of marijuana, the possession of marijuana with the intent to distribute, or the manufacture of marijuana with the intent to distribute.

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: June 10, 2002



CHARLES R. BREYER
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

F I L E C O P Y

bae

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

* * CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE * *

Case Number:3:98-cv-00088

USA

vs

Oakland Cannabis

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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

Gary G. Grindler, Esq.
Department of Justice
Civil Division, Room 1078
901 E Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20530

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

Thomas V. Loran III, Esq.
Pillsbury Winthrop LLP

PO Box 7800
50 Fremont St
5th Flr
San Francisco, CA 94105

Terence Hallinan, Esq.
SF District Attorney
850 Bryant St, 3rd Floor
San Francisco, CA 94103

Johanna Roberts, Esq.
Morrison & Foerster LLP
425 Market St
San Francisco, CA 94105-2482

James J. Brosnahan, Esq.
Morrison & Foerster LLP
425 Market St
San Francisco, CA 94105-2482

Andrew A. Steckler, Esq.
Morrison & Foerster LLP
425 Market St
San Francisco, CA 94105-2482

Gerald F. Uelmen, Esq.
Santa Clara University
School of Law
Santa Clara, CA 95055

Robert A. Raich, Esq.
1970 Broadway
Oakland, CA 94612

William G. Panzer, Esq.
Ste 3
370 Grand Avenue
Oakland, CA 94610

Randy Barnett, Esq.
Harvard Law School - Griswold 308
1525 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02138

Taylor S. Carey, Esq.
California Attorney General's Office
1300 I Street
P.O. Box 944255
Sacramento, CA 94244-2550

Richard E. Winnie, Esq.
County of Alameda
1221 Oak Street, Suite 463
Oakland, CA 94612-4296

Barbara J. Parker, Esq.
Oakland City Attorney's Office
One City Hall Plaza
6th Flr
Oakland, CA 94612

Graham A. Boyd, Esq.
American Civil Liberties Union Foundation
85 Willow Street
New Haven, CT 06511

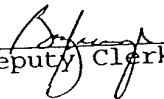
Ann Brick, Esq.
American Civil Liberties Union
Foundation of Northern CA Inc
1663 Mission St Ste 460
San Francisco, CA 94103

Jordan C. Budd, Esq.
American Civil Liberties Union Foundation of San Diego
110 West C Street, Suite 901
San Diego, CA 92101

Peter Eliasberg, Esq.
American Civil Liberties Union Foundation of S CA, Inc.
1616 Beverly Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90026

Richard W. Wieking, Clerk

BY:


Deputy Clerk

Graham A. Boyd, Esq.
American Civil Liberties Union Foundation
85 Willow Street
New Haven, CT 06511

Ann Brick, Esq.
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Foundation of Northern CA Inc
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Peter Eliasberg, Esq.
American Civil Liberties Union Foundation of S CA, Inc.
1616 Beverly Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90026

Richard W. Wieking, Clerk

BY: 
Deputy Clerk

7/12

FILED

JUL 29 2002

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

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United States District Court
For the Northern District of California

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

No. C 98-00088 CRB

Plaintiff,

**ORDER GRANTING DEFENDANTS'
MOTION FOR PARTIAL JUDGMENT**

v.

OAKLAND CANNABIS BUYERS'
COOPERATIVE and JEFFREY JONES,

Defendants.

Now before the Court is defendants' motion for partial separate judgment pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 54(b). As the government does not oppose the motion, and the Court concludes that all the claims against defendants have been finally adjudicated, such claims are severable from the claims remaining in the litigation, and there is no just reason to delay entry of the judgment, defendants' motion is GRANTED..

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: July 29, 2002



CHARLES R. BREYER
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

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

* * CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE * *

Case Number:3:98-cv-00088

USA

vs

Oakland Cannabis

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That on July 29, 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

Gary G. Grindler, Esq.
Department of Justice
Civil Division, Room 1078
901 E Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20530

Mark T. Quinlivan, Esq.
USDJ-Civil Division
901 E Street NW
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Margaret S. Schroeder, Esq.
Pillsbury Winthrop LLP
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5th Flr
San Francisco, CA 94105

Thomas V. Loran III, Esq.
Pillsbury Winthrop LLP

PO Box 7800
50 Fremont St
5th Flr
San Francisco, CA 94105

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SF District Attorney
850 Bryant St, 3rd Floor
San Francisco, CA 94103

Johanna Roberts, Esq.
Morrison & Foerster LLP
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San Francisco, CA 94105-2482

James J. Brosnahan, Esq.
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425 Market St
San Francisco, CA 94105-2482

Andrew A. Steckler, Esq.
Morrison & Foerster LLP
425 Market St
San Francisco, CA 94105-2482

Gerald F. Uelmen, Esq.
Santa Clara University
School of Law
Santa Clara, CA 95055

Robert A. Raich, Esq.
1970 Broadway
Oakland, CA 94612

William G. Panzer, Esq.
Ste 3
370 Grand Avenue
Oakland, CA 94610

Randy Barnett, Esq.
Harvard Law School - Griswold 308
1525 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02138

Taylor S. Carey, Esq.
California Attorney General's Office
1300 I Street
P.O. Box 944255
Sacramento, CA 94244-2550

Richard E. Winnie, Esq.
County of Alameda
1221 Oak Street, Suite 463
Oakland, CA 94612-4296

Barbara J. Parker, Esq.
Oakland City Attorney's Office
One City Hall Plaza
6th Flr
Oakland, CA 94612

Graham A. Boyd, Es
American Civil Liberties Union Foundation
85 Willow Street
New Haven, CT 06511


Ann Brick, Esq.
American Civil Liberties Union
Foundation of Northern CA Inc
1663 Mission St Ste 460
San Francisco, CA 94103

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American Civil Liberties Union Foundation of San Diego
110 West C Street, Suite 901
San Diego, CA 92101

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American Civil Liberties Union Foundation of S CA, Inc.
1616 Beverly Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90026

Richard W. Wieking, Clerk

BY:


Deputy Clerk

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JUN 06 2005

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,

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

v.

ORDER


MARIN ALLIANCE FOR MEDICAL
MARIJUANA, and LYNETTE SHAW,
Defendants.

AND RELATED CASES

Before issuing an opinion on the merits of defendants' consolidated appeals, the Ninth Circuit remanded these related actions to this Court for reconsideration after the United States Supreme Court issues its decision in Gonzales v. Raich, cert. granted, 524 U.S. 936 (2004). United States v. Marin Alliance for Medical Marijuana, 372 F.3d 1047 (9th Cir. 2004). Raich is a Commerce Cause challenge to federal regulation of intrastate noncommercial cultivation and use of marijuana. In light of the Supreme Court's opinion issued today, Gonzales v. Raich, ___ S.Ct. ___, 2005 WL 1321358 (June 6, 2005), the Court declines to reconsider its earlier rulings.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: June 6, 2005


CHARLES R. BREYER
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

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CIRCUIT RULE 3-2 REPRESENTATION STATEMENT

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25
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28

1. Defendants/Appellants are OAKLAND CANNABIS BUYERS' COOPERATIVE and JEFFREY JONES.

Counsel for Defendants/Appellants are:

Robert A. Raich
1970 Broadway, Suite 1200
Oakland, California 94612
Telephone: (510) 338-0700
Facsimile: (510) 338-0600

Gerald F. Uelmen
Santa Clara University, School of Law
Santa Clara, California 95053
Telephone: (408) 554-5729
Facsimile: (408) 554-4426

Randy E. Barnett
Boston University Law School
765 Commonwealth Avenue
Boston, Massachusetts 02215
Telephone: (617) 353-3099
Facsimile: (617) 353-3077

Annette P. Carnegie
Heather A. Moser
Morrison & Foerster LLP
425 Market Street
San Francisco, California 94105-2482
Telephone: (415) 268-7000
Facsimile: (415) 268-7522

2. Plaintiff/Appellee is the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Counsel for Plaintiff/Appellee is:

Mark T. Quinlivan
United States Attorneys' Office
John Joseph Moakley Courthouse
One Courthouse Way
Suite 9200
Boston, MA 02210
Telephone: (617) 748-3606
Facsimile: (617) 748-3953

1
2 3. Defendants MARIN ALLIANCE FOR MEDICAL MARIJUANA and LYNETTE SHAW.
Counsel for Defendants is:

3 Gregory Anton
4 P.O. Box 299
Lagunitas, CA 94938
5 Telephone: (415) 789-8535
Facsimile: (415) 663-0350

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

7
8 Counsel for Defendants is:

9 Susan B. Jordan
515 South School Street
10 Ukiah, CA 95482
Telephone: (707) 462-2151
11 Facsimile: (707) 462-2194

12 5. *Amicus Curiae* AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION.

13 Counsel for *Amicus Curiae* are:

14 Graham A. Boyd
American Civil Liberties Union Foundation
15 1101 Pacific Avenue, Suite 333
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
16 Telephone: (831) 471-9000
Facsimile: (831) 471-9676

17 Ann Brick
18 American Civil Liberties Union
Foundation of Northern California, Inc.
19 1663 Mission Street
San Francisco, CA 94103
20 Telephone: (415) 621-2488
Facsimile: (415) 255-1478

21 Jordan C. Budd
22 American Civil Liberties Union Foundation of San Diego & Imperial Counties, Inc.
110 West C Street, Suite 901
23 San Diego, CA 92101
Telephone: (619) 232-2121
24 Facsimile: (619) 232-0036

25 Peter Eliasberg
American Civil Liberties Union Foundation of Southern California, Inc.
26 1616 Beverly Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90026
27 Telephone: (213) 977-9500
Facsimile: (213) 250-3919
28

1 6. *Amicus Curiae* STATE OF CALIFORNIA.

2 Counsel for *Amicus Curiae* is:

3 Bill Lockyer, Attorney General of California
4 Peter Siggins, Chief Deputy Attorney General
5 Taylor S. Carey, Special Asst. Attorney General
6 1300 I Street
7 Sacramento, CA 95814
8 Telephone: (916) 324-5362
9 Facsimile: (916) 322-0206

7 7. *Amicus Curiae* CALIFORNIA MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

8 Counsel for *Amicus Curiae* are:

9 Alice P. Mead
10 California Medical Association
11 221 Main Street
12 San Francisco, CA 94120-7690
13 Telephone: (415) 541-0900
14 Facsimile: (415) 882-5143

15 Julie M. Carpenter
16 Jenner & Block LLP
17 601 Thirteenth Street, N.W.
18 Washington, D.C. 20005
19 Telephone: (202) 639-6029
20 Facsimile: (202) 639-6066

16 8. *Amicus Curiae* CITY OF OAKLAND.

17 Counsel for *Amicus Curiae* is:

18 John Russo, City Attorney
19 Barbara J. Parker, Chief Asst. City Attorney
20 City Hall
21 One Frank Ogawa Plaza, 6th Floor
22 Oakland, CA 94612
23 Telephone: (510) 238-3601
24 Facsimile: (510) 238-6500

22 9. *Amicus Curiae* COUNTY OF ALAMEDA.

23 Counsel for *Amicus Curiae* is:

24 Richard E. Winnie
25 Alameda County Counsel
26 1221 Oak Street, #450
27 Oakland, CA 94612
28 Telephone: (510) 272-6700
Facsimile: (510) 272-5020

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CIVIL APPEALS DOCKETING STATEMENT**

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Carol J. Peplinski
(typed)

(signature)

SERVICE LIST

United States of America

Mark T. Quinlivan
United States Attorneys' Office
John Joseph Moakley Courthouse
One Courthouse Way
Suite 9200
Boston, MA 02210

Marin Alliance for Medical Marijuana and Lynette Shaw

Gregory Anton
359 Meadow Way
San Geronimo, CA 94963

Ukiah Cannabis Buyer's Club, Cherrie Lovett, Marvin and Mildred Lehrman

Susan B. Jordan
515 South School Street
Ukiah, CA 95482

Oakland Cannabis Buyers' Cooperative and Jeffrey Jones

Robert A. Raich
A Professional Law Corporation
1970 Broadway, Suite 1200
Oakland, CA 94612

Gerald F. Uelmen
Santa Clara University
School of Law
Santa Clara, CA 95053

Randy Barnett
Boston University School of Law
765 Commonwealth Avenue
Boston, MA 02215

Amicus Curiae California Medical Association

Alice P. Mead
California Medical Association
221 Main Street, Third Floor
San Francisco, CA 94120-7690

Julie M. Carpenter
Jenner & Block
601 13th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005

Amicus Curiae County of Alameda

Richard E. Winnie
Alameda County Counsel
1221 Oak Street, #450
Oakland, CA 94612

Amicus Curiae City of Oakland

John A. Russo, City Attorney
Barbara J. Parker, Chief Asst. City Atty.
City Hall
One Frank Ogawa Plaza, 6th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Amicus Curiae State of California

Bill Lockyer, Atty. General of California
Peter Siggins, Chief Deputy Atty. General
Taylor S. Carey, Special Asst. Atty. General
1300 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Amicus Curiae American Civil
Liberties Union**

Graham A. Boyd
American Civil Liberties Union
Foundation
1101 Pacific Avenue, Suite 333
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Ann Brick
American Civil Liberties Union
Foundation of Northern California, Inc.
1663 Mission Street
San Francisco, CA 94103

Jordan C. Budd
American Civil Liberties Union
Foundation of San Diego & Imperial
Counties, Inc.
110 West C Street, Suite 901
San Diego, CA 92101

Peter Eliasberg
American Civil Liberties Union
Foundation of Southern California, Inc.
1616 Beverly Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90026