



OHIO CANNABIS CONFERENCE

Hosted by the Ohio Division of Cannabis Control in partnership with the Ohio Cannabis Coalition and the Ohio Independent Operators

Thursday, October 22, 2026

Regency Ballroom and South Foyer, 3rd Floor
350 N. High St., Columbus, OH 43215

[View parking information](#)

[Complete the registration form](#)

AGENDA

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

Registration Breakfast Buffet

9:00 AM – 9:10 AM

Welcome & Opening Remarks

David Bowling

Executive Director, Ohio Cannabis Coalition

Sherry Maxfield

Director, Ohio Department of Commerce

9:10 AM – 10:00 AM

State Regulatory Perspectives

(0.75 hours of CLE credit)

Andrew Makoski

Senior Legal Counsel, Division of Cannabis Control

Ambika Shoemaker

Director of Laboratory Compliance and Testing,
Division of Cannabis Control

Patrick Vasil

Director of Compliance and Enforcement,
Division of Cannabis Control

Stephen Wilson

Product Administrator, Division of Cannabis Control

Moderated by **Emily Groseclose**

Deputy Superintendent, Division of Cannabis Control

10:00 AM – 10:50 AM

State of the Industry: Federal Landscape

(0.75 hours of CLE credit)

Professor Douglas A. Berman

Newton D. Baker-Baker & Hostetler Chair in Law and
Executive Director of the Drug Enforcement and Policy
Center at the Moritz College of Law, The Ohio State University

Cory Harris

Senior Policy Advisor, Cannabis Roundtable and American
Trade Association for Cannabis and Hemp

Chris Lindsey

Director of State Advocacy and Public Policy at the American
Trade Association for Cannabis and Hemp

Moderated by **Katie Cornelius**

Attorney, Division of Cannabis Control

10:50 AM – 11:40 AM

State Legislative Update

(0.75 hours of CLE credit)

The Honorable Shane Wilkin

Senator of the Ohio State Senate, District 17

The Honorable Tex Fischer

Representative of the Ohio House of Representatives,
District 59

Victor Hipsley

President and Chief Executive Officer,
Governmental Policy Group, Inc.

Moderated by **Caroline Henry**

Co-Chair, Ohio Cannabis Coalition Policy Committee

11:40AM – 12:30 PM

Lunch Buffet Networking

12:30 PM – 1:20PM

Legal & Compliance Update

(0.75 hours of CLE credit)

Tom Haren

Partner, Frantz Ward Cannabis Law Practice Group

Thomas Kern

Attorney/Owner, Kern Law Firm

Andrew Makoski

Senior Legal Counsel, Division of Cannabis Control

John Oberle

Partner, Ice Miller Government Affairs & Regulatory Law Group
and Government Law Group

Moderated by **Darcy Moulin**

Senior Attorney, Division of Cannabis Control

1:20 PM – 2:10 PM

Public Health & Preventing Cannabis Misuse

(0.75 hours of CLE credit)

Alisha Nelson

Executive Director, OneOhio Recovery Foundation

Pete Nischt

Vice President of Compliance and Communications,
Klutch Cannabis

Sara Payne

Vice President of Government Affairs and Policy Counsel, Jushi

Moderated by **Kristen Castle**

Director of Strategic Initiatives, Division of Cannabis Control



2:10 PM – 3:00 PM

Enforcement & Public Safety

(0.75 hours of CLE credit)

Detective Joshua Espitia

Cincinnati Vice Unit

Deputy Scott Gaines

Delaware County Sheriff's Office

Agent-in-Charge Adam Johnson

Ohio Investigative Unit

Chief Deputy Aaron Reese

Cuyahoga County Sheriff's Office

Retired Sheriff Al Solomon

Law Enforcement Liaison, Division of Cannabis Control

Moderated by **Patrick Vasil**

Director of Compliance and Enforcement,
Division of Cannabis Control

3:00 PM - 3:10 PM

Afternoon break

3:10 PM - 4:00 PM

State of Cannabis in Ohio – Licensee Perspectives

(0.75 hours of CLE credit)

Tom Hobson

Chief Executive Officer, Wellspring Fields

Jess Laurello

Director of Operations, Italian Herbs Dispensary

Andy Rayburn

President and Chief Executive Officer, Buckeye Relief

Brian Scotese

Chief Executive Officer and Board Chair, Lighthouse Sciences

Dan Shaker

Commercial General Manager, Green Thumb Industries

Moderated by **Emily Groseclose**

Deputy Superintendent, Division of Cannabis Control

4:00 PM - 4:10 PM

Closing Remarks

Jim Canepa

Superintendent, Division of Cannabis Control