

EXPANDING CANNABIS OPERATIONS IN LATIN AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN



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Jurisdictions, Contacts, and Information

(Current as of June 1, 2019)

As many people are aware, Canada recently became the first G7 country to legalize and regulate the medical and adult-use of cannabis. This change in legislation has led to Canada holding a unique position in the emerging global cannabis market. Canada is home to some of the largest cannabis companies in the world.

This Practice Group was created because of rapid development that is occurring in the cannabis global industry. Notably, much of this growth is occurring in Latin America.

A strong relationship now exists between Canadian cannabis companies and the Latin America cannabis market.

Due to this new relationship, our Ottawa affiliate, Brazeau Seller Law, has been working closely with our Colombian affiliate, Posse Herrera Ruiz. As the cannabis industry will only continue to grow in Canada, Latin America, and beyond, Meritas has taken the proactive step of creating this Practice Group with a view to offering clients top-notch legal services for cannabis ventures in every major Latin American market.

The Practice Group is led by Mario Torres from Brazeau Seller Law in Ottawa, Canada and Monica Bonnett from Posse Herrera Ruiz in Bogota, Colombia.

Mario is a member of Brazeau Seller's CannaLaw group and has experience assisting clients as they expand their cannabis operations into Latin America.

Mario's skill set makes him extremely well positioned to assist clients with interests in Latin America. He is able to communicate fluently, both orally and in writing, in English and Spanish. Mario was born in Costa Rica, has lived in Guatemala, and obtained his M.A. in Latin American Studies from Columbia University.

Mario has experience working on legal matters in several Latin American countries and can be reached at mtorres@brazeauseller.com or 613-820-8301.

Monica is an Associate at Posse Herrera Ruiz. Her practice focuses on Intellectual Property.

Her experience includes filing, prosecution and enforcing patents, industrial designs and utility models rights. Due to her experience, handling big patent portfolios from U.S., Asia and Europe, Monica is the person in charge of developing business relationships with international clients.

She has advised American, European and Asian clients in various fields of technology: bio, life-science, telecommunications, software, consumer products and pharmaceutical industries. Likewise, she has participated in technology-transfer negotiation processes between Colombian and multinational companies, achieving win-win agreements.

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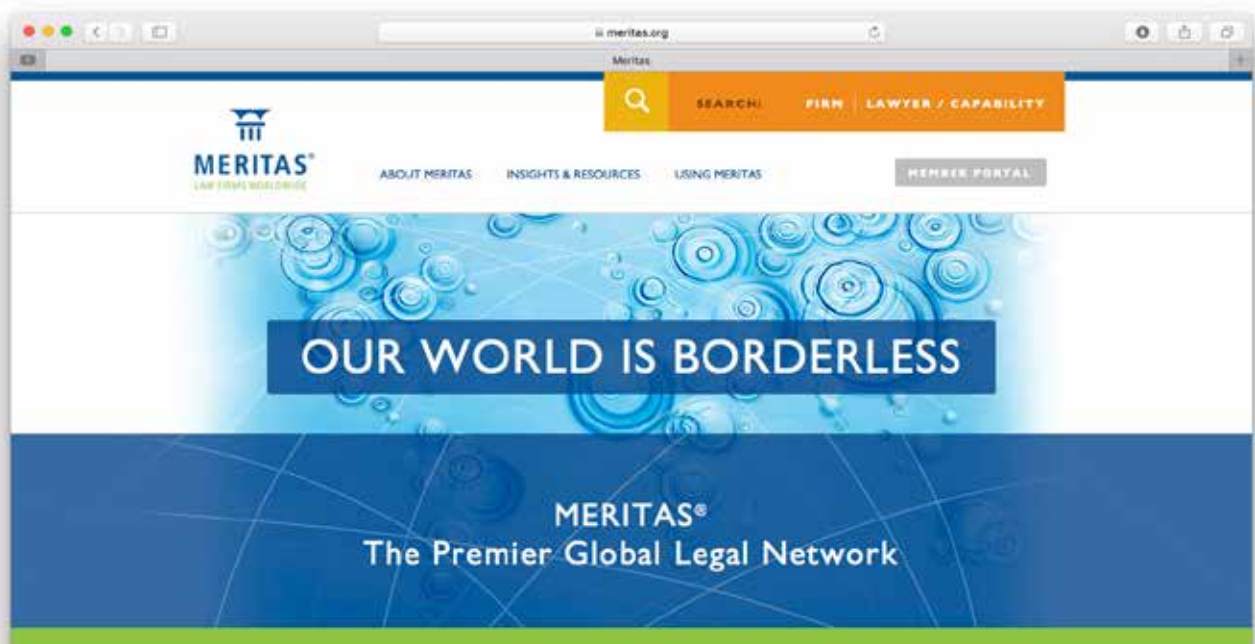
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Medical Use	Yes regulations in place, since 2015.
Recreational Use / Adult Use	In Brazil, recreational/adult use is considered crime accordance with the Drugs Law (Article 28 of the Federal Law 11343/2006).
Current Regime / Legislation (or Proposed Legislation)	Legislation allows the use of cannabis only for medical purposes, provided there is a prescription (according to ANVISA's Resolution). However, there are some decisions from authorities which permit cultivation for medical and scientific purposes.
Import / Export Opportunities	Import of cannabis for medical and scientific purposes only.
Market Size	Population: 207 million.
Current Context	The use of cannabis and the discussion regarding its legalization is a controversial issue in Brazil. In recent years, there have been manifestations and protests in favor of cannabis legalization but there has not been significant movement by government.
Cultural Considerations	The current political context is not favorable to legalization of cannabis. Brazil's president is opposed to the legalization of cannabis.
Investment Considerations	There may be opportunities to invest in the cannabis industry in the future. Public universities and laboratories work in the cultivation and study of cannabis for scientific and medical purposes.

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