

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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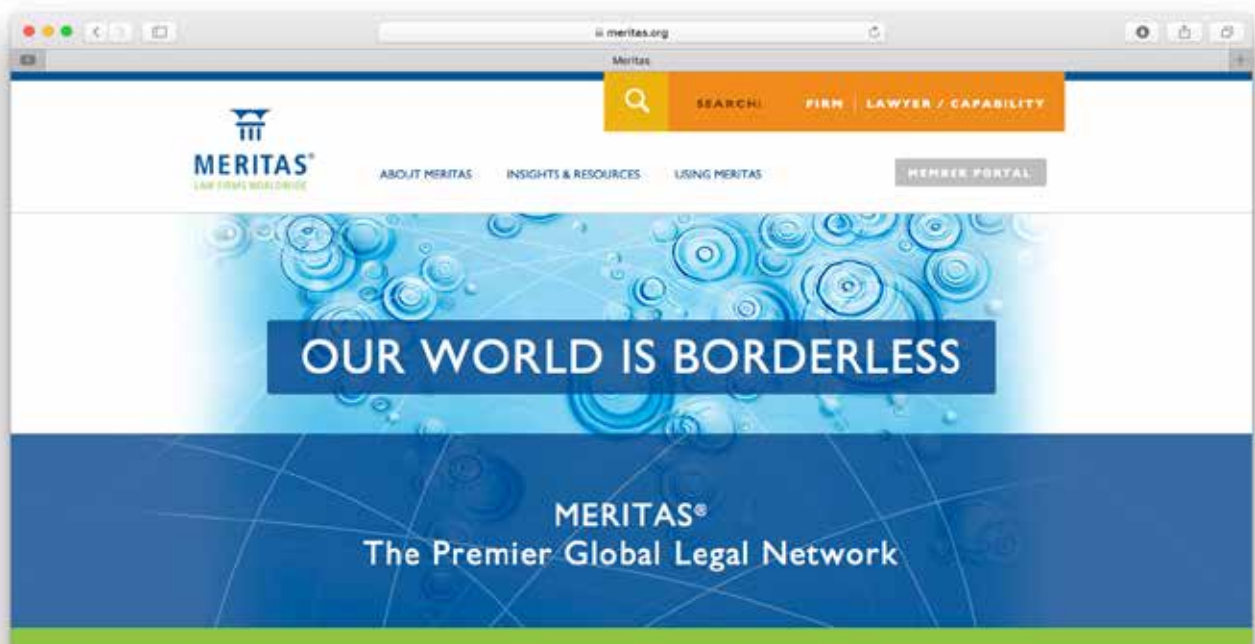
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Medical Use	It's prohibited in accordance to Law 8204 and 5395.
Recreational Use / Adult Use	It's prohibited in accordance to Law 8204 and 5395.
Current Regime / Legislation (or Proposed Legislation)	It's prohibited in accordance to Law 8204 and 5395, but there are some contradictions between the laws that have opened a gray area for potential modifications to interpretation. There is currently a bill that was presented in April under the file number 21.315 regarding the production of Cannabis and CBD for medical purposes, that will go under consideration of the Congress and if approved it would become law.
Import / Export Opportunities	It's prohibited in accordance to Law 8204 and 5395. Nonetheless, there have been important advances regarding importing CBD to sell products, as the Ministry of Health granted an extraordinary permit to one of our clients for its commercialization.
Market Size	There is not a defined margin. Costa Rica's population is approximately 5 million.
Current Context	A series of bills have been proposed over the years, but haven't obtain enough support needed to convert them into law. It doesn't exist any regulation that permits its use in any way or form. Nonetheless, in May the Ministry of Health granted the first permit to one of our clients to commercialize CBD as raw material for the production of foods and beverages.
Cultural Considerations	A strong opposition from religious groups has obstructed the possibility of generating regulations for recreational and medical use.
Investment Considerations	There are several groups interested to enter and invest in the cannabis market, but due to regulations they haven't invested. One particular client has recently obtained the first permit from the Ministry of Health to commercialize products with CBD in foods and beverages, which will open the window for new investors to enter the market.

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