

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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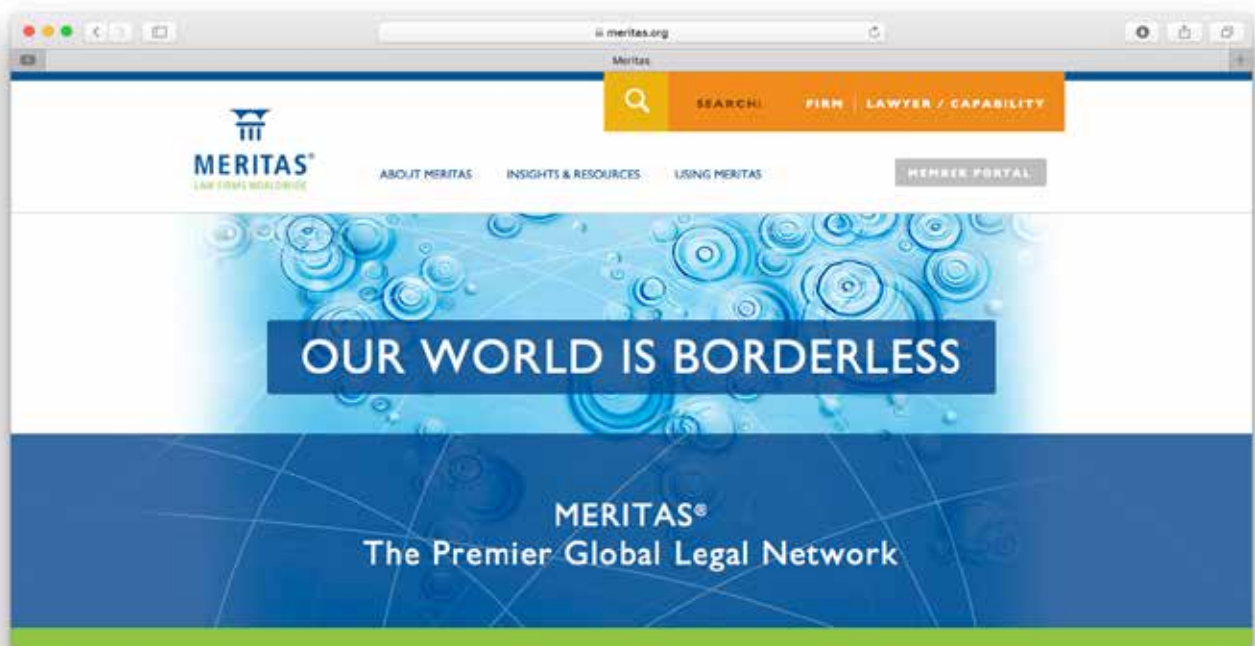
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BOLIVIA

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Medical Use	<p>Legal regulation is in place since 2017 and some doctors are importing cannabis for medical use (mostly for children/epilepsy). As stated below, under Law No. 1008 possession is prohibited and illegal in the country. Nonetheless, there is evidence that doctors, patients and patients' family members are introducing to the country medical cannabis for personal use. Companies are not importing medical cannabis, nor is Health Ministry is granting authorizations.</p> <p>We have been informed that family members who bring medical cannabis from countries like Uruguay and who are asked by authorities about its use, show medical records and reports on the patient's condition and cannabis usage. Authorities apparently are giving the green light on importing the products in situ. This information has not been verified.</p>
Recreational Use / Adult Use	<p>Under Law No. 1008 production, conservation and distribution of cannabis is prohibited.</p>
Current Regime / Legislation (or Proposed Legislation)	<p>Under Law No. 1008 if any drugs or medical products contain controlled substances, they must be imported and commercialized with express authorization by the Health Ministry.</p>
Import / Export Opportunities	<p>Cannabis for medical use is imported (though not legal) – with the authorization of the Health Minister. Please see the information above.</p>
Market Size	<p>Population: 11 million.</p>
Current Context	<p>Currently, no new legislation regarding legalization of cannabis for any purpose than for those mentioned above. In August 2018 the Prime Minister appointed a committee to examine the issue of cannabis and possible legislative reforms, and to make recommendations to the government accordingly.</p>
Cultural Considerations	<p>The legalization of cannabis is not included in the current government's agenda. During 2016/2017, organizations that were in favor of legalization protested for legalization and decriminalization, but there has not been any major developments as of yet.</p>
Investment Considerations	<p>There is not any significant investment in the industry at this time.</p>

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