



Kelley Kronenberg Turns Focus To Medical Marijuana In Fla.

Law360, Miami (September 22, 2014, 6:29 PM ET) -- Florida-based [Kelley Kronenberg](#) has become the latest firm to focus on medical marijuana with the Monday announcement of a new practice group to address legal issues expected to arise out of the legalization of medical cannabis in the state.

The firm has added Michael C. Minardi and Seth Hyman to oversee the regulated substances practice group, which is comprised of members who have dedicated their careers to medical marijuana issues, according to the firm.

"We formed this practice group because we anticipate that many of our business clients will have questions as it relates to cannabis as a medicine and we want to be able to give them the best advice possible," Howard L. Wander, the firm's chief operating officer, said. "The clash between the law and the workplace significantly impacts how traditional businesses handle labor issues that could come from the potential legalization of medical cannabis."

He added that there will be legal questions related to employers' and workers' rights, as well as with the manufacturing, ordering, distribution, marketing, sale, administration and consumption of medical marijuana.

Minardi, who joins the firm as a partner in its West Palm Beach office, previously worked in his own firm, Minardi Law, where he represented clients in medical marijuana matters. He focuses his practice on the medical necessity defense and has won several medical cannabis cases, according to the firm.

Hyman, who was hired as business development and special projects director in West Palm Beach, has lobbied in Tallahassee to get medical marijuana legislation passed. The issue is a personal one for him, as he has a daughter with a genetic disorder that makes her prone to seizures.

"While many lawyers are first scrambling to learn the industry and start niche practices to advise their clients, our team has years of invaluable knowledge and first-hand involvement with the medical cannabis laws in Florida," Wander said.

Florida's [medical marijuana legislation](#), which passed on the final day of the 2014 legislative session, allows patients diagnosed with cancer or suffering from serious medical conditions that cause chronic seizures or muscle spasms to obtain nonsmokable oil extracts from particular strains of cannabis, including one known as Charlotte's Web, that possess high concentrations of the medicinal component cannabidiol but no more than 0.8 percent of the psychoactive ingredient tetrahydrocannabinol, or THC.

The legislation requires the state Department of Health to create an Office of Compassionate Use by Jan. 1, 2015, to establish a system for cultivation, distribution, monitoring and research of low-THC cannabis.

The department will award licenses for five regional dispensing organizations to handle cultivation and distribution. Applicants will have to meet numerous requirements intended to ensure quality control, security and financial stability.

Kelley Kronenberg is the third firm in Florida to set up a practice group to help clients with the medical marijuana issue. [GrayRobinson PA](#) announced a new [regulated products practice group](#) in July, just two months after [Akerman LLP](#) said it would be creating a [regulated substances task force](#) to help clients navigate the changes in this arena.