

Cannabis Business Blog

Vela's Upcoming Events for the Cannabis Community

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Vela, a cannabis retail shop, and an educational and community-building hub is hosting a [series of free events](#) in September and October that include speakers **David Mendoza**, Senior Policy Advisor for the City of Seattle Office of the Mayor, **Pete Holmes**, Seattle City Attorney, and **Rick Garza**, Director of the Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board to discuss legislative solutions to support the legal market, and the current status and challenges of the marketplace. Come join fellow patrons and partners to learn, discuss and share tips.

September, 29, 2016, Thursday | 7 p.m (tomorrow)

David Mendoza, Senior Policy Advisor for the City of Seattle Office of the Mayor will examine how the Mayor and the City of Seattle have tried to find new legislative solutions to support the legal market, approach enforcement against illicit dealers without resorting to a police-led or criminal law enforcement approach, and develop new legislative tools to expand and improve the legal system.

October 5, 2016, Wednesday | 7 p.m.

Pete Holmes, Seattle City Attorney. Join the discussion about Marijuana Regulation under Washington and Seattle Law and the City's asks for the next legislative session: lounges, delivery, and defelonization.

November 2, 2016, Wednesday | 7 p.m.

Rick Garza, Director of the Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board. Rick will highlight the challenges of pioneering the world's first system of producing, processing and retailing legal cannabis as well as share the current status of the marketplace as well as potential challenges on the horizon.

The shop is located in Seattle's SoDo neighborhood, [1944 1st Ave S, Seattle, WA 98134](#).

For more information on Vela, please visit [their website](#).

Warning Regarding Federal Law: The possession, distribution, and manufacturing of marijuana is illegal under federal law, regardless of state law which may, in some jurisdictions, decriminalize such activity under certain circumstances. Penalties for violating federal drug laws are very serious. For example, a

conviction on a charge of conspiracy to sell drugs carries a mandatory minimum prison term of five years for a first offense and, depending on the quantity of marijuana involved, the fine for such a conviction could be as high as \$10 million. In addition, the federal government may seize, and seek the civil forfeiture of, the real or personal property used to facilitate the sale of marijuana as well as the money or other proceeds from the sale. Although the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) recently rescinded its guidance regarding prioritization of criminal prosecutions of individuals and entities operating in compliance with effective state regulatory systems, DOJ left in place long standing guidance to federal prosecutors regarding how to exercise this discretion. Individuals and companies are cautioned to consult with experienced attorneys regarding their exposure to potential criminal prosecution before establishing business operations in reliance upon the passage of state laws which may decriminalize such activity. Federal authority to prosecute violations of federal law as crimes or through seizures and forfeiture actions is not diminished by state law. Indeed, due to the federal government's jurisdiction over interstate commerce, when businesses provide services to marijuana producers, processors or distributors located in multiple states, they potentially face a higher level of scrutiny from federal authorities than do their customers with local operations.

Tags: David Mendoza, defelonization, Director of the Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board, legislative solutions, marijuana regulation, Rick Garza, Seattle City Attorney, Senior Policy Advisor for the City of Seattle Office of the Mayor, Vela