



Sep. 13 - 14, 2022



Hyatt Regency  
Baltimore, MD



networkforphl.org  
/summit

# PUBLIC HEALTH LAW SUMMIT

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Baltimore, MD

## Preliminary Session Descriptions

### Navigating the Fast-Changing Landscape of Equity and Cannabis Law and Policy

The Public Health Law Summit is organized by:



**The Network**  
for Public Health Law



*Days and times of sessions to be determined.*

## **Cannabis Sessions**

### **Addressing Social Justice and Equity in the Shadow of the War on Drugs**

While communities of color are disproportionately impacted by the War on Drugs, these same communities are being left out of the legal cannabis boom. This session will focus on how to address the issues of restorative justice, including expungement of cannabis crimes, community reinvestment, and social equity measures in the cannabis industry.

### **Cannabis Legalization: Legislator Panel**

This session will focus on issues of social justice, equity, consumer safety, local control, youth access, and other important public health issues related to cannabis. State legislators will discuss the critical challenges and opportunities presented by the adult-use legalization process.

### **Critical Cannabis Case Law Developments**

Hear from a panel of legal experts who will discuss and analyze recent cannabis case law that critically impacts public health.

### **Cultivating the Cannabis Regulatory Environment**

There are challenges in creating and enforcing a cannabis regulatory system that promotes equity and public health. In this session, State cannabis regulators will discuss these challenges and emerging trends in both medical and adult-use cannabis regulation.

### **Non-delta 9 THC Products: Addressing the Regulatory Void**

Following the 2018 Farm Bill's legalization of industrial hemp, there was an explosion of non-delta 9 THC products. These products present a serious public health challenge given the lack of federal regulation. This session will examine existing federal authority that could be used to address these products and state efforts to fill the regulatory void.

### **The Evolution of Cannabis Science**

In the session, experts from the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy will discuss the basics of cannabis science, our evolving understanding of the medical benefits and health risks associated with cannabis, and the challenges of cannabis research.

### **The Future of Federal Cannabis Policy**

This session will focus on efforts to change the legal status of cannabis under federal law, federal efforts to facilitate scientific cannabis research, and the impacts of federal banking laws on the cannabis industry.



## **Transitioning from a Medical State to an Adult-Use State**

State cannabis policy generally evolves in steps, with states legalizing medical cannabis first and then adult-use cannabis. This session will address the challenges regulators, local authorities, public health stakeholders and cannabis business must prepare for in this process.

## **Health Equity Sessions**

### **Collaborative for Anti-Racism and Equity Workshop**

The Collaborative, a group of partners working to support the movement to address racism as a public health crisis, will lead an interactive workshop. Participants will learn about the Collaborative's work centering and amplifying community-led efforts and community-generated ideas to advance health equity, racial equity, and justice. Group engagement will focus on tips and tools for assessing, designing, and sharing legal and policy solutions that advance health, racial equity and anti-racism efforts.

### **Data Collection and Disaggregation for Marginalized Population**

The availability of data related to a patient's status as a member of a community experiencing health inequities as a result persistent discrimination and marginalization is limited, and yet, this data is imperative to gaining a better understanding of the impacts of those inequities. Changes in law that would give rise to better data collection and disaggregation could support changes in law and policy to reduce those inequities. This panel will tackle the quality and quantity of data collection as is and as envisioned.

### **Disability and Health Equity**

People with disabilities face myriad health challenges and are often marginalized in our health care and public health systems, creating persistent health inequities. This panel will speak to the role law and policy plays in exacerbating these inequities and in minimizing them, with focus on specific populations and public health issues.

### **Health Equity by Design (Plenary)**

This plenary will include a discussion of why and how health information technology should be designed to gather information about the social determinants of health and will explore the role that federal and state law can play in mandating data collection and use.

### **Reproductive Justice and Health Inequities**

Across the country, access to safe and effective reproductive health care is disparate, with marginalized populations suffering under legal and policy constraints that profoundly limit care. The decision anticipated from the Supreme Court in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health* will allow for expansion of those constraints, exacerbating existing health inequities and creating new ones. Legal experts will dissect the *Dobbs* decision, explain the public health impact, and specifically address the role of Tribal, state, and local health agencies in states that will ban abortion and contraception access and states that will protect abortion and contraception access.





### **Racial Health Equity Partnerships**

This session will feature a presentation of the Network for Public Health Law's collaboration with several community-based organizations working on myriad issues in public health, including maternal health disparities, seniors' access to nutritious food, limitation of health care, employment for individuals with criminal records, and other issues impacting our communities.

### **Substance Use/Harm Reduction and Health Equity**

In the session, speakers will discuss the dynamics of harm reduction and health inequities. Though modest and slow, some progress has been made to mitigate the epidemic of drug-related harm by altering the outdated, punitive-focused approach to drugs and individuals who use them. These harm reduction strategies can reduce health inequities that persist in the substance use arena, but careful policy design is imperative to avoid further entrenchment or growth of the disparities.

### **Tribal Access to Health Data**

The interplay between Tribal, federal, and state law regarding Tribal access to health data is complex and can impede access that is essential to public health in Tribal communities. In this session, lawyers and epidemiologists will discuss how to work within current law and what changes are needed to allow for broader access for Tribal communities.

### **Using Community Health Benefits and Voluntary "Tax" Payments to Reduce Health Inequities**

Non-profit hospitals are required by federal law to engage in the Community Health Needs Assessment process, identifying community health inequities and designing programming to mitigate them. State and local law can also impact how non-profit hospitals meet their Community Health Benefit requirements and how other non-profit organizations can positively impact public health through voluntary "tax" payments. This session will include a discussion of the dynamic state and local laws and proposed policy changes designed to maximize the positive public health impact of contributions from non-profit organizations.

### **Vaccination Policy and Health Inequities**

The rapid development of a vaccine for COVID-19 and federal funding of free vaccinations played a significant role in the pandemic with respect to public health and the future of vaccine law and policy. Free access to COVID vaccines did not equate with equitable access. Opposition to vaccine mandates and incentives reinvigorated the anti-vaccine community and led to proposed (and passed) legislation to reduce mandatory childhood vaccinations across the country. This panel will discuss inequities associated with the COVID vaccine and how changes in vaccine law could further embed inequities.

**For questions about the 2022 Public Health Law Summit:**

- Sponsorship: Ann Phi-Wendt, Managing Director, [aphiwendt@networkforphl.org](mailto:aphiwendt@networkforphl.org)
- Registration: Anna Schmalzbauer, Deputy Managing Director, [aschmalzbauer@networkforphl.org](mailto:aschmalzbauer@networkforphl.org)

**Thank you to our sponsor**

