



AFDO Cannabis, Hemp, & Natural Psychedelics Committee Webinar Series

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Special Advisor



Cat Packer is the Director of Drug Markets & Legal Regulation at the Drug Policy Alliance, where she leads the organization's efforts to replace prohibition with regulatory systems grounded in public health, fairness, and evidence-based policy.

Packer also serves as a Distinguished Cannabis Policy Practitioner in Residence at The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law Drug Enforcement and Policy Center and an Affiliated Researcher with the Project on Psychedelics Law and Regulation (POPLAR) at the Petrie-Flom Center for Health Law Policy, Biotechnology, and Bioethics at Harvard Law School.

Packer is a founding board member of the Cannabis Regulators of Color Coalition, where she currently serves as Special Advisor, regularly providing policy counsel to state and local cannabis regulators across the U.S. Packer is an advisor to the Parabola Center for Law & Policy and has served as a contributing author to the Thomas Reuters Cannabis Law Deskbook, where she has authored chapters on local authority and cannabis social equity programs.

From 2017 to 2022, Packer served as the first Executive Director of the City of Los Angeles Department of Cannabis Regulation, where she led the implementation of cannabis business licensing, regulation, and equity programming in what High Times Magazine described as "one of the largest, most challenging cannabis markets in the world." Under her leadership, the City of Los Angeles licensed more than 1,200 cannabis businesses, generated over \$320 million in cannabis tax revenue, and became one of the first jurisdictions in the country to implement programs promoting ownership and employment



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opportunities in the cannabis industry for individuals and communities disproportionately impacted by cannabis criminalization and the war on drugs. Through this role, Packer became the first person of color in the United States to oversee a combined medical and adult-use cannabis program.

Today, Packer supports governments and stakeholders—including local communities, public health professionals, legal experts, advocates, and community-based organizations—in advancing drug policies that promote equity and public health. She regularly shares her expertise across jurisdictions at the international, national, state, and local levels.

Among her many contributions, Packer has testified before the U.S. Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs; the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine; and the London Drugs Commission. She has also presented to the European Union Drugs Coordinators at the invitation of the Office of the Government of the Czech Republic and her work with Malta's Authority for the Responsible Use of Cannabis helped shape training programs for the country's Cannabis Harm Reduction Associations.

Packer earned a bachelor's degree in Political Science, a master's degree in Public Policy and Management, and a Juris Doctor from The Ohio State University, where she was named the recipient of the Moritz College of Law Outstanding Recent Alumna Award in 2020.