



How Robert Raich legally paved the way for California's Cannabis businesses and helped invent the term "Dispensary"

The only lawyer to bring two cannabis-related cases to the Supreme Court

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[Robert Raich](#) is a long-term cannabis business expert, and although he is rather mild-mannered, he is a fearsome warrior in the battle for cannabis rights. In fact, as detailed on his web site (robertraich.com [1]), Robert Raich has been making history in the service of cannabis-related causes for decades.

He continues to make history today.

"I believe it's not only a matter of personal choice, I believe it is about human rights." says Mr. Raich, when speaking about his decades-long passion for defending the rights of cannabis business owners and cannabis consumers.

A graduate of Harvard University and the University of Texas School of Law, he is listed as one of the "30 Powerful Cannabis Litigators Every Business Operator should know" [2] because of his known expertise and dedication to helping cannabis consumers and businesses have the freedom to pursue a future free of local and national government interference.

Robert Raich is the only lawyer in America to take two cannabis rights cases all the way to the Supreme Court. He was the attorney in both of the U.S. Supreme Court cases ever to consider medical cannabis issues: *United States v. Oakland Cannabis Buyers' Cooperative*, 532 U.S. 483 (2001), and *Gonzales v. Raich*, 545 U.S. 1 (2005).

He was a founder, board member and speaker for the National Cannabis Bar Association (NCBA) [3] and is a founding member and spoke at events hosted by the National Cannabis Industry Association (NCIA)—[4]the national trade association advancing the interests of the responsible cannabis industry.

Mr. Raich's clients were the very first cannabis businesses to obtain permits in Oakland, California. Mr. Raich is responsible for the naming convention used to refer to locations where Americans may legally purchase cannabis.

Mr. Raich explained "In the 90's, a client of mine was working on keeping open their medical cannabis retail facility--they were, at the time, planning on calling their place of business a 'club' but I advised them against this term, as it might seem as overly casual. I

also suggested they not call it a 'clinic' as that would, I advised, suggest that it was an actual medical facility. I suggested they use the term 'dispensary' instead. They took my suggestion and, the name caught on throughout California and nationwide."

Today, there are hundreds of legal cannabis dispensaries in California, and many more thousands nationwide, thanks to the efforts of Mr. Raich on behalf of his clients.

Robert Raich has spoken across the United States and internationally on the regulation of cannabis and he has taught classes on cannabis to cadets at Police Departments, Police Academies, as well as continuing education classes to other lawyers. Mr. Raich has also appeared before dozens of tribunals throughout the country, lobbying with respect to cannabis legislation and litigating cannabis cases.

Mr. Raich recently spoke in the Nation's capital building about the current cannabis law and freedom of choice, policy, and best practices for cannabis businesses. He is AV-rated by lawyer rating service Martindale-Hubbell (the "AV" is a designation for preeminent professional status as well as impeccable ethics).

Mr. Raich's cases have been featured in a variety of media outlets including CNN, NBC, New York Times, the Washington Post, Fox News, USA Today, and more.

It is hard to say where the cannabis business growth will go over the next few years, though it has been growing rapidly in recent years. In regard to its history, it is clear to see that one of the pioneers in the fight for cannabis freedom has been, and continues to be Robert Raich, a soft-spoken lawyer in a corner office in Oakland. For more about the Law Offices of Robert Raich, go to RobertRaich.com or call (510) 338-0700.

Links:

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- [1] <http://robertraich.com/>
 - [2] <https://eprnews.com/mg-magazine-releases-the-2018-list-of-30-powerful-cannabis-litigators-every-business-operator-should-know-378731/>
 - [3] <https://www.canbar.org/>
 - [4] <https://thecannabisindustry.org/>

Rich Greenwood
Public Relations
+1 4083290452
[email us here](#)

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