



Call for Papers

The US and Cannabis: Closing Underlying Gaps for Common Sense Laws, Regulations, and Policies

The Bridge: Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Legal & Social Policy
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The Bridge: Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Legal & Social Policy (formerly ECI Interdisciplinary Journal for Legal & Social Policy) is the scholarly publication produced by the Earl Carl Institute for Legal and Social Policy, Inc. (ECI). The Bridge is a peer reviewed journal that provides research-driven articles to equip and empower all of those working in the legal and social policy space to impact policy and practice changes that address the diverse needs of urban populations. It is published bi-annually. Since its inception, Bridge articles have been accessed by 1325 institutions (including academic institutions, commercial organizations, and government agencies) in 155 countries.

As marijuana continues to be decriminalized state by state, its federal status causes various issues within this emerging industry; marijuana remains as a Schedule I drug under the Controlled Substances Act of 1970, and more conservative states continue to demonstrate deference for federal laws by maintaining its illegal status. Despite this, the cannabis industry continues to flourish in both decriminalized and legalized jurisdictions. Today, as marijuana has become more socially acceptable and scientific findings support its medicinal value for neurological disorders, the demand for marijuana decriminalization and legalization is at an all-time high. One stumbling block in the legalization fight is connecting updated cannabis research with a better understanding of how its criminalization impacts members of minority communities within the criminal justice system. Bridging this gap can assist with establishing laws and policies that meets the public demand and today's standards in this developing industry.

We are seeking evidence-based articles that address the history of marijuana, arguments for and against legalization, arguments for and against marijuana as an alternative medicine for mental health issues, negative stigmas associated with minority marijuana users, and the connection between mass incarceration of minorities and marijuana's illegality within the criminal justice system. You are encouraged to submit paired pro and con papers under co-authors on these or other relevant topics.

The Bridge is published in an open-access online format. Manuscripts submitted to the journal are reviewed by one or more referees unless they are deemed inappropriate due to length, style, or topic. Peer review takes place entirely online and submitted manuscripts will not be returned. The editor reserves the right to make changes in all manuscripts to improve clarity, format, and style. It is assumed that the manuscripts have not been submitted to other journals. International manuscripts are encouraged. Please visit [Policies](#) to view submission requirements and policies. Please use this [link](#) to submit your article for consideration. Submissions are due by Monday, August 15th at 5 pm CST.

ECI is a research center on policy issues for Thurgood Law at Texas Southern University. The mission of the Institute is to empower underserved and disenfranchised communities by addressing systemic social issues through legal representation, research, education, and advocacy. For more information, visit ECI at [ECI](#).