

**CRIMINAL TRIAL LAWYERS ASSOCIATION
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The Criminal Trial Lawyers Association of Northern California (CTLA/NC), comprised of Northern California attorneys devoted to safeguarding liberty and the fair administration of criminal justice, strongly opposes the federal government's recent threat to shutter medical marijuana dispensaries and criminally prosecute those who, while compliant with laws enacted by the State of California, are deemed to run afoul of federal law.

Action taken by the U.S. Department of Justice to prohibit State-legalized medical marijuana clubs from operating near schools would -- among other detriments -- require virtually all such clubs in San Francisco to close, resulting in the suffering of numerous patients afflicted with painful and chronic medical conditions.

The federal government's campaign against medical marijuana will work foolhardy and dangerous consequences, including forcing sick patients and their caregivers to forego pain relief or seek medical marijuana from unregulated sources, as well as depriving the State of California and its municipalities of legitimate tax revenue.

As ill-conceived as the federal government's misbegotten prohibition of alcohol in the early twentieth century, the Justice Department's wielding of its prosecutorial sword over the heads of medical marijuana users reveals its ignorance of the lessons of history.