

EXPANDING CANNABIS OPERATIONS IN LATIN AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN



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Jurisdictions, Contacts, and Information

(Current as of June 1, 2019)

As many people are aware, Canada recently became the first G7 country to legalize and regulate the medical and adult-use of cannabis. This change in legislation has led to Canada holding a unique position in the emerging global cannabis market. Canada is home to some of the largest cannabis companies in the world.

This Practice Group was created because of rapid development that is occurring in the cannabis global industry. Notably, much of this growth is occurring in Latin America.

A strong relationship now exists between Canadian cannabis companies and the Latin America cannabis market.

Due to this new relationship, our Ottawa affiliate, Brazeau Seller Law, has been working closely with our Colombian affiliate, Posse Herrera Ruiz. As the cannabis industry will only continue to grow in Canada, Latin America, and beyond, Meritas has taken the proactive step of creating this Practice Group with a view to offering clients top-notch legal services for cannabis ventures in every major Latin American market.

The Practice Group is led by Mario Torres from Brazeau Seller Law in Ottawa, Canada and Monica Bonnett from Posse Herrera Ruiz in Bogota, Colombia.

Mario is a member of Brazeau Seller's CannaLaw group and has experience assisting clients as they expand their cannabis operations into Latin America.

Mario's skill set makes him extremely well positioned to assist clients with interests in Latin America. He is able to communicate fluently, both orally and in writing, in English and Spanish. Mario was born in Costa Rica, has lived in Guatemala, and obtained his M.A. in Latin American Studies from Columbia University.

Mario has experience working on legal matters in several Latin American countries and can be reached at mtorres@brazeauseller.com or 613-820-8301.

Monica is an Associate at Posse Herrera Ruiz. Her practice focuses on Intellectual Property.

Her experience includes filing, prosecution and enforcing patents, industrial designs and utility models rights. Due to her experience, handling big patent portfolios from U.S., Asia and Europe, Monica is the person in charge of developing business relationships with international clients.

She has advised American, European and Asian clients in various fields of technology: bio, life-science, telecommunications, software, consumer products and pharmaceutical industries. Likewise, she has participated in technology-transfer negotiation processes between Colombian and multinational companies, achieving win-win agreements.

ABOUT MERITAS

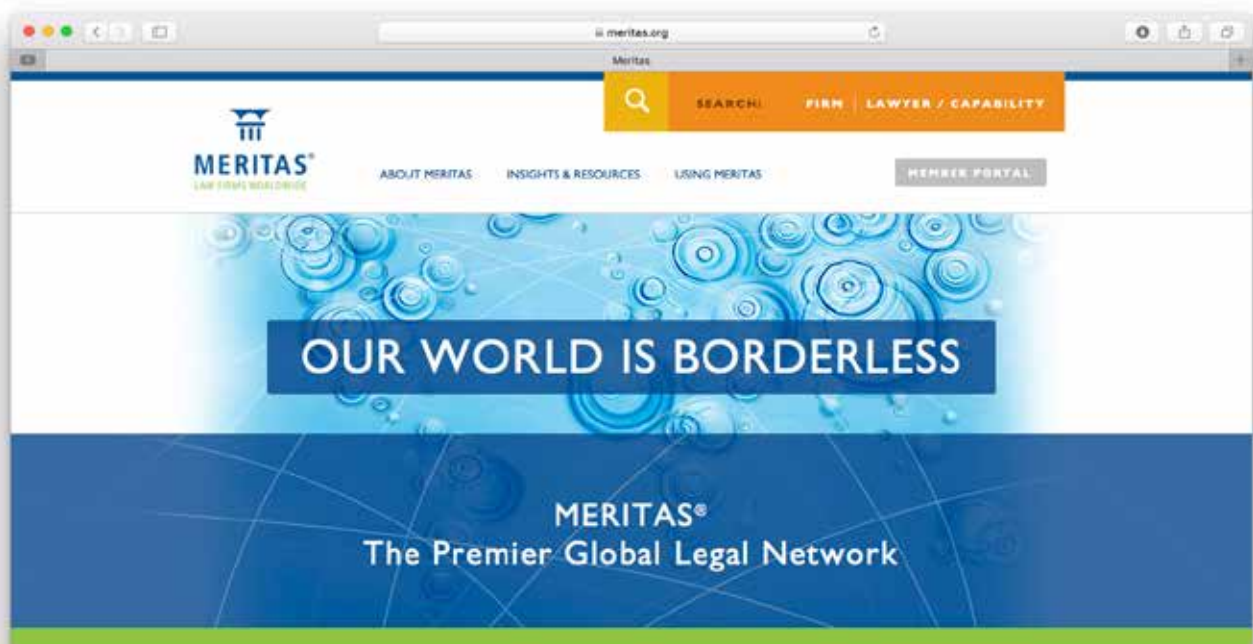
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CURAÇAO

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Medical Use	Yes, with leave of the Minister of Health.
Recreational Use / Adult Use	Import, export, transport or possession of 0-5 grams without leave or exemption although illegal is generally not prosecuted, unless in combination with another crime.
Current Regime / Legislation (or Proposed Legislation)	Opiumordinance (Opiumlandsverordening) and instructions of the Prosecutor General Nr. 2015/03 of June 10, 2015.
Import / Export Opportunities	Import and export of hemp, extract of hemp and usual preparations such as hashish, esrar, chiras and djamba with leave of the Minister of Health.
Market Size	Population: 160.000, Tourism: + 1 million visitors per year (cruise and stay over).
Current Context	Curacao is investigating the (controlled) legalization of cannabis (growing, import, processing, export).
Cultural Considerations	Current government seeks economic growth and has a moderate liberal approach, opposition to be expected mostly on religious grounds.
Investment Considerations	Located in the Caribbean Sea, north off Venezuela, with an area of 444 km ² Curaçao is the largest Dutch Overseas Territory. Within the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Curaçao has country status alongside the Netherlands. Curacao can function as a logistic hub between South America, North America and Europe (sea and air). Products originating in Curacao could qualify for preferential duty rates at the EU border (includes medicinal plants). The climate of Curacao with 28 degrees Celsius year-round, could allow for low cost cultivation of Cannabis. There are also opportunities in investment structuring, as Curaçao has Bilateral Investment Treaties with over 100 countries, including most South and Central American countries.

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Latin America/Caribbean

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