

Time To Legalize?

A Public Discussion On Marijuana Law And Policy

March 5, 2014

6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

UAA Wendy Williamson Auditorium

Sponsored by the UAA Justice Center and the UAA Justice Club

Ethan Nadelmann, Keynote Speaker

Ethan is the founder and executive director of the [Drug Policy Alliance](#), the leading organization in the United States promoting alternatives to the war on drugs. He received his B.A., J.D., and Ph.D. from Harvard and taught at Princeton University for seven years. He has authored two books on the internationalization of criminal law enforcement – *Cops Across Borders* and (with Peter Andreas) *Policing The Globe* – and his writings have appeared in most major media outlets in the U.S. as well as top academic journals. He and his colleagues have played pivotal roles in most major legislative and ballot initiative campaigns in the United States on issues ranging from medical marijuana and marijuana legalization to prison reform, harm reduction, drug treatment, and reform of asset forfeiture laws.

Dean Guaneli

Dean is a former Chief Assistant Attorney General for the State of Alaska. By the time he retired from the Alaska Attorney General's Office, he had worked under six governors and ten attorneys general. In his 30-year career, Dean prosecuted criminal cases, litigated civil cases, and had a hand in drafting nearly all Alaska prosecution policies and criminal justice legislation, including Alaska's medical marijuana law in 1999, and the re-criminalization of non-medical marijuana in 2006. But with a second career as an artist, his business card now reads: "Ceramicist, sculptor, and attorney-at-law." He resides in Juneau.

Ben Cort

Ben's passion for recovery, prevention, and harm reduction comes from his own struggle with substance abuse. Sober since June 15, 1996, Ben has been a part of the recovery community in almost every way imaginable: as a recipient, a provider, and a spokesperson. He has a deep understanding of the issues, and a personal motivation to see the harmful effects of drug and alcohol abuse minimized. In 2012, Ben was appointed to the Board of Directors of [Project SAM \(Smart Approaches to Marijuana\)](#). He is also a Junior Fellow at the University of Florida's Drug Policy Institute, serves on the Board of Directors for Denver-based Stout Street Foundation, and leads the business development team for CeDAR, a world-class center for residential addiction and co-occurring disorders treatment in Aurora, Colorado.

Lance Buchholtz

Sheriff Lance Buchholtz (Ret.) served the Green Lake County Sheriff's Office in Wisconsin for 26 years until his retirement in 2005. As sheriff for 10 years, Lance had a broad view of the criminal justice system by overseeing the county's 911 center, investigations, patrol, and jail. Unfortunately, when he became sheriff, he was shocked by the ineffectiveness of the drug units. He was also saddened by the danger that his officers were put in when they made felony drug arrests. Lance joined [Law Enforcement Against Prohibition \(LEAP\)](#) in 2013 when he decided to be one of the voices speaking up. A fifth-generation farmer, Lance lives with his wife of over 35 years in Wisconsin. He is keeping busy in retirement; in addition to his farming and work with LEAP, he is also a beekeeper and an ordained minister.

Taylor Bickford

Taylor Bickford is the Director of Alaska Operations for Strategies 360, one of the country's leading strategic communications firms. He serves as a spokesperson and advisor for the [Campaign to Regulate Marijuana Like Alcohol in Alaska](#). Born and raised in Alaska, Taylor is a graduate of West Virginia University with a B.A. in political science and philosophy. He currently lives in Anchorage.