Press Coverage | July 20, 2023

Troutman Pepper Gains Cannabis Industry Lawyer With More Than 100 Clients

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Jean E. Smith-Gonnell | Agustin E. Rodriguez

Jean Gonnell, a partner in Troutman Pepper's Regulatory Investigations, Strategy + Enforcement Practice Group, and Agustin Rodriguez, a partner in Troutman Pepper's Cannabis Industry Group, were quoted in the July 20, 2023 *Daily Report* article, "Troutman Pepper Gains Cannabis Industry Lawyer With More Than 100 Clients" discussing Jean joining the firm.

Rodriguez said in an interview the firm had been working to expand the practice's client base and Gonnell's addition significantly increases the practice's experience in regulatory matters.

It also potentially adds her clients, which represent 15% of all licensed cannabis businesses in Colorado, Rodriguez said.

"It certainly gives us more experience and, in some ways, gives us more credibility with respect to certain areas in which folks wouldn't have thought of us first," Rodriguez said.

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Rodriguez said Gonnell's addition to Troutman's North Carolina office is "good timing" because state lawmakers are considering the legalization of medical marijuana. The firm could be positioned to represent the companies seeking licenses to cultivate the product, he said.

In a statement, Gonnell said she was "thrilled to join Troutman Pepper due to its strong regulatory presence."

"I chose the firm because it allows me to maintain top client service, while also giving me the network to expand my practice to new fronts," she said. "I'm excited to continue working with my clients in Colorado, while also expanding my client base here in North Carolina."

Our Cannabis Practice provides advice on issues related to applicable federal and state law. Marijuana remains an illegal controlled substance under federal law.

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