



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **LACDL Adopts Marijuana Policy Statement**

March 10, 2014, Baton Rouge, La. –The Louisiana Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers<sup>2</sup> (LACDL) voted today to adopt an official policy statement related to the possession and use of marijuana. The 2014 legislative session has a number of marijuana-related bills up for debate. The LACDL Marijuana Policy Statement is as follows:

We believe that marijuana prohibition financially burdens taxpayers, encroaches upon civil liberties, engenders disrespect for the law, and disproportionately impacts students, lower income classes, African Americans, and other ethnic minorities who bear the brunt of cannabis arrests and prosecutions. The responsible consumption of marijuana by adults in private should not be defined as criminal behavior deserving of arrest, potential jail time, a criminal record, and the lifelong stigma that accompanies it. Criminalizing marijuana is a disproportionate response to what, at worst, is a health issue, not a criminal justice issue.

The LACDL Board of Directors unanimously voted to adopt the official Marijuana Policy Statement during a special telephone conference requested by President Robert S. Toale.

#### **About LACDL**

The Louisiana Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (LACDL) is the only professional association of attorneys devoted exclusively to the profession of Criminal Defense. The LACDL mission is to promote a fair, accurate, and humane criminal justice system through education, advocacy, and the development of effective and professional defense lawyers. For more about LACDL, please visit [www.LACDL.org](http://www.LACDL.org).

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