1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Natural Medicine, including psilocybin,[[1]](#footnote-1) is currently decriminalized in Colorado. In November of 2022 Colorado voters passed Proposition 122, the Colorado Natural Medicine Act of 2022 (the “NMHA”). The NMHA both decriminalized statutorily-defined Natural Medicine and provided a relatively narrow and tightly regulated path for adults to legally cultivate, process, and purchase psilocybin products and consume them through personal use or at a licensed healing center under the supervision of a licensed facilitator. During the 2023 legislative session the Colorado General Assembly passed SB 290, which provided an additional legislative framework for implementing the NMHA. Administrative rulemaking to create implementing rules governing Natural Medicine facilitators and healing centers is ongoing, with the license application window set to open in late 2024 or early 2025.

The impact of this is that Colorado voters and the General Assembly have authorized brand new classes of economic activity and professional licensing. As the second state to pass laws decriminalizing and regulating Natural Medicine, Colorado will be at the forefront of developing laws and better practices in this area. These changes to the Colorado legal and economic landscape are happening now, and it will be crucial for business people, government officials and other Colorado residents to have access to competent and well-informed attorneys to help them understand and navigate this rapidly changing legal landscape. The Colorado Bar Association should provide resources to Colorado lawyers to navigate this rapidly developing, cutting-edge new area of the law. There are approximately 25 people who have expressed an interest in forming this committee.

We respectfully ask the Colorado Bar Association Executive Council to approve the formation of a new Natural Medicine Law Committee within the Colorado Bar Association.

1. MISSION STATEMENT

The purpose of the Natural Medicine Law Committee (the “Committee”) is to advocate and advance the conscientious integration of the substances covered in the NMHA in a legal and regulated setting. These include psilocybin, psilocin, mescaline, ibogaine, and dimethyltryptamine (DMT) (hereinafter, “Natural Medicine”).

Our mission is to bring together stakeholders and attorneys licensed in Colorado to provide education, support, guidance and promote better practices and ethical standards within the Natural Medicine landscape.

The Committee aims to contribute to the emergence of a well-regulated, compassionate, and equitable Natural Medicine landscape, where the potential medical, health, and spiritual benefits of these substances can be realized in a safe and legal manner.

The Committee may accomplish the goals listed above through:

* *Educational Programming.* The Committee will act as a bridge to the greater legal community by inviting experts to speak at events. Such experts might include (a) those experienced with regulated cultivation, processing, and administration of substances covered by the NMHA; (b) politicians leading natural medicine policy, regulation, and compliance efforts; (c) business owners, religious and spiritual practitioners, and therapy providers in the field of Natural Medicine; and (d) legal counsel within the regulated natural medicine and psychedelic substance industries.
* *Networking Events.* The Committee should facilitate introductions with industry experts and advocates across the wide range of business, policy, and research fields related to natural medicine and psychedelic law, by attending, planning or coordinating events.
* *Internship Opportunities.* Internships provide students with valuable real-life experiences, skill development, networking, and overall professional development. The Committee would support connecting students and new lawyers with locally licensed natural medicine law practices and consulting firms as well as with licensed businesses and therapy providers.
* *Ethics Guidance and Development.* Given the relatively novel nature of natural medicine decriminalization and regulated therapy, questions and issues are sure to arise that raise professional and practical ethical dimensions. This Committee’s professional expertise and analytical skill set may be complementary to a rigorous and coherent assessment of ethical issues and development.
* *Social Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion.* It is important to communicate and preserve the Committee’s values in our efforts to provide services, education, and inclusive outreach to the greater legal community, stakeholders, practitioners, and legislators.

1. MEMBERSHIP

Any person in good standing with the Colorado Bar Association is eligible for membership in the Committee. The Committee will not charge dues and will charge fees for programming. Funds will be used for operational expenses as well as issuing scholarships, start-up grants, legal resources, and other charitable purposes within the greater natural medicine community, as practicable. The Committee may invite any non-Committee member to attend meetings or meet with Committee members.

1. MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

General Committee meetings shall be held monthly at least six (6) times per year. Notification of a general Committee meeting must be provided to all members seven (7) days prior to the meeting.

1. BOARD OF EXECUTIVES

The Committee will be governed by a 5-personboard (the “Board”) all of whom must be licensed members in good standing of the Colorado Bar and will include a Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary-Treasurer, and two Members at Large.

1. ELECTIONS

Terms will initially be for two years and thereafter will be one-year terms. The Vice-Chair will succeed the Chair. After the first two years, the Board (other than the Chair) will be selected by members of the Committee at an annual meeting.

Elections will be held annually, and each member of the Committee will have one vote for each executive position.

The elections will conform with the Colorado Bar Association’s customary election procedures regarding scheduling and administration.

1. REMOVAL: VACANCIES

Any member of the Board may be removed for just cause by a majority of Board members voting in the affirmative. The vote may be held in-person, virtually, or via email. Three consecutive absences, without notice or communication to the Board, from scheduled committee meetings represents just cause for removal. The member of the Board in question shall be given the opportunity to speak prior to a vote being held. The member of the Board subject to removal is not eligible to vote on this matter.

In the event that a member of the Board is removed or otherwise unable to fulfill their executive duties, the remaining Board members will vote to appoint a new member to fulfill the absent Board member’s duties until the next election.

1. EXECUTIVE DUTIES

The Chair will be responsible for convening meetings of the Board and guiding the overall direction and objectives of the Committee. Typical duties may include:

* Sending regular updates on initiatives, events, and meetings to the Members and any parent organization, such as the Cannabis Law Section and/or the Colorado Bar Association;
* Acting as the point of contact for all internal committee communications;
* Leading the planning and execution of short-term and long-term goals;
* Maintaining committee email accounts and membership lists; and
* Facilitation of meetings.

The Vice-Chair will be responsible for presiding over Committee meetings in the absence of the Chair and assist with facilitating communication among Committee members. Typical duties may include:

* Maintaining Chapter Bylaws and Mission Statement;
* Preparing of meeting agendas; and
* Facilitation of membership meetings in the Chair’s absence.

The Secretary-Treasurer will be responsible for maintaining records of Committee meetings and managing the financial aspects of the Committee. Typical duties may include:

* Documentation of Board meeting minutes;
* Updating and organizing the Committee’s calendar;
* Ensuring the Committee is acting in accordance with the Colorado Bar Association’s financial regulations;
* Planning and execution of short-term and long-term fundraising strategy; and
* Maintaining financial records of programming fees and fundraising proceeds.

The Members at Large will be responsible for attending Board meetings and are encouraged to actively participate in the Committee and its events.

1. CONCLUSION

Due to the rapidly evolving legal landscape surrounding Natural Medicine, particularly in Colorado, it is evident that there is an urgent need for a dedicated and knowledgeable legal body to address the complex issues arising from its decriminalization and regulation. With Proposition 122 and the subsequent SB 290, Colorado has positioned itself as a trailblazer in this field, ushering in new classes of economic activity and professional licensing. The formation of the Natural Medicine Law Committee within the Colorado Bar Association is not only timely but crucial to assist individuals, businesses, and government officials in navigating this uncharted territory.

This Committee's mission, as outlined in this proposal, reflects a commitment to responsible integration, ethical standards, and equitable practices within the Natural Medicine landscape. By providing educational programs, networking opportunities, internship connections, ethics guidance, and a strong focus on social equity and inclusion, this Committee aims to support and advocate for the conscientious integration of the NMHA in a legal and regulated setting. We believe that such a Committee, comprised of legal experts and stakeholders, will play a pivotal role in shaping the future of this industry in Colorado. Therefore, we respectfully request the Colorado Bar Association's Executive Council to approve the establishment of the Natural Medicine Law Committee, recognizing the significant impact it can have on the evolving legal and economic landscape in our state.

1. Psilocybin is commonly found in certain species of psychoactive mushrooms. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)