



JANA D. WELTZIN

Owner of JDW Counsel

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ABOUT JANA D. WELTZIN

When Alaska legalized recreational cannabis in 2014, Jana Weltzin felt the call to return home. Born and Raised in Fairbanks, Alaska, Weltzin started her law practice in Phoenix, Arizona representing medical marijuana non-profit corporations and related marijuana businesses. Before she ventured out from her previous employer law firm and became the founder of JDW Counsel, which now represents over 100 marijuana businesses across the United States of America in one of the most uncharted and highly regulated industries we have seen in our lifetime.

As soon as legalization was on the horizon in Alaska, Weltzin started to prepare herself to become her own business owner – she figured if she was going to advise and counsel new start up businesses in a highly controversial market, and ask them to have faith in her to guide them through the densely regulated legal market, she was going to have to put a little faith in herself, and start her own law firm so she could understand first hand, the fears and challenges that accompany being a new business owner.

Though still a young firm, JDW Counsel has managed to be one of the top legal leaders in the marijuana industry nationwide – the firm assists companies in OR, AZ, AK, and WA. Weltzin herself was named one of the top 40 most influential people in the cannabis industry nationwide, in the leading publication Marijuana Venture in 2017. Weltzin's top two essential team members include Valerie Mastolier, a paralegal who jumped on board with Weltzin when the company was just a start-up and operated out of a small one room (windowless) office space and has been vital to the growth of the company – her focus is the local government land use permitting process and streamlining fire marshal and health departments' approval of these new facilities. Christina Thibodeaux, who used to be a staffer for the Alaska Marijuana Control Board, switch from the regulatory side to the industry, and now is a key part of the JDW Counsel team. Christina plays an integral role in the license application drafting and permitting functions of the firm's licensing section.

Arctos, also pictured, is the firm's office companion, security dog, and an all-around client and staff favorite furry stress reliever.

Weltzin is also a founding board member of the Alaska Marijuana Industry Association, maintains an appointed seat on the local platting board and continues to expand the firm through strategic alliances and political relationships.

CONTACT

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*Licensed in Alaska and Arizona

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