



Melissa N. Sanchez
Founder and Attorney,
Harvest Law Group

Harvest Law Group founder Melissa N. Sanchez created the firm to focus on her passion of helping her clients become and stay compliant with cannabis laws. She practices law the same way she lives her life: with intrepid enthusiasm, resourceful creativity and commitment to sustainability.

Melissa is a veteran in counseling clients on compliance with cannabis laws. Since beginning her cannabis compliance legal practice in 2009 as a sole practitioner, she has represented and advocated for the craft cannabis industry. Melissa's work extends beyond the traditional role of attorney, advising key California decision makers and assisting in the development of the Medical Cannabis Regulation and Safety Act (MCRSA). She is dedicated to carving a niche for specialty cultivators and manufacturers, and provides clients with unsurpassed strategic counsel.

In 2012, she was proud to be asked by the University of California to organize and moderate the Continuing Education of the Bar's first continuing legal education class on medical cannabis. The class featured Assistant United States Attorneys from the Eastern District of California and respected attorneys in the field.

Melissa founded Harvest Law Group in 2012 (formerly known as MS Law), in the wake of viable proposed legislation creating a state regulatory system for medical cannabis. In 2015, the firm officially became Harvest Law, highlighting her combined legal expertise and policy understanding in a way that provides her clients a path to thrive in a very complex and ever-changing industry.

Since its inception in 2015, Melissa has served as policy advisor to the California Growers Association, the trade group for cannabis farmers. In January 2016, Melissa launched the Sacramento Chapter of Women Grow, giving her the unique opportunity to connect with and educate the next generation of cannabis industry leaders.

Melissa is the co-founder and Executive Director of Restore California, a charitable organization that raises funds from the cannabis industry to pay for the restoration and remediation of California's lands destroyed by illegal cannabis cultivation.

Melissa received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics and International Relations from the University of California, Davis in 2004, where she earned a Regents Scholarship, the most prestigious award presented by the University. In 2007, she received her Juris Doctor degree from Columbia University School of Law in New York City, where she was a Robert L. Lieff Scholar. Upon graduation, Melissa moved to Los Angeles to work as an associate in the Corporate and Finance division of a highly-respected national law firm.