**Call for Papers in**

**Legal Strategy, Ethics, and Compliance for business**

**The Center for Legal Studies & Business Ethics in the Spears School of Business at Oklahoma State University and the *American Business Law Journal* to Cohost 2020 Symposium—Legal, Ethical, and Compliance Issues in Emerging Markets: Cannabis in the States**

The Center for Legal Studies & Business Ethics at the Spears School of Business and the *American Business Law Journal* (*ABLJ*) welcome submissions on legal strategy, ethics, and compliance issues in the U.S. cannabis industry for a 2020 symposium. The *ABLJ* anticipates publishing a special issue devoted to the symposium theme.

To date, thirty-three states and the District of Columbia have legalized cannabis in some form, though marijuana (cannabis) remains a Schedule I drug illegal under the federal Controlled Substances Act. State and local governments, producers, consumers, and other stakeholders must deal with the extreme uncertainty created by the legal complexities in this multibillion-dollar industry. The outcome of the 2020 Presidential election also may affect this industry. In early 2018, the Trump Administration rescinded the Cole Memorandum, signaling a change in the federal government’s position on enforcement of federal marijuana laws. Conversely, the public positions of the 2020 Democratic candidates for president range from decriminalization to full legalization of marijuana. This industry therefore provides a unique example of emerging intrastate markets illegal in interstate commerce. How business organizations may best legally and ethically position themselves in this space given these uncertainties is the focus of this symposium.

**We are seeking submissions** that analyze this industry, including the internal and external environments for the business organization from a legal, compliance, and/or ethical perspective. Only submissions on the symposium theme will be considered for presentation. Interdisciplinary submissions are especially welcome. Conflicts between federal law and state law are numerous and provide potential topics related to banking, finance, taxation and federal bankruptcy protection. Organizational behavior and human resource management issues also are present. Medical marijuana, for example, creates potential organizational complexities related to productivity, federal privacy and civil rights laws, environmental regulation and medical waste disposal, among others. Application of ethical frameworks to these issues is also encouraged.

**We anticipate cohosting the symposium in late February or early March 2020.** (TBA, early October 2019) The symposium will be held in Oklahoma City. We anticipate the symposium will take place on a Friday/Saturday, depending on the level of interest and participation. Participants in the symposium must commit to submitting a completed draft of their paper approximately two weeks before the symposium. Participants agree to acknowledge the Center for Legal Studies & Business Ethics at the Spears School of Business, Oklahoma State University, in a footnote, if the article is published in the *ABLJ* or elsewhere.

**If you are interested in presenting at the symposium, please send a one-page abstract of your proposed paper, along with your CV, by September 30, 2019, to** **llucas@okstate.edu**

The *American Business Law Journal* anticipates publishing an issue devoted to the symposium theme. Papers selected for presentation at the symposium are not guaranteed publication, though participation in the symposium will be viewed favorably. The symposium issue will be Volume 57, Issue 4 (2020). Articles submitted for consideration must conform with the The Bluebook (20th Edition). To increase publication opportunities, the *Journal* is soliciting articles 12,000 to 15,000 words in length, inclusive of footnotes.

**To be considered for publication in this issue, you must submit your final paper for peer review directly to the *ABLJ* by Friday, April 3, 2020, at** **abljsubmission@alsb.org**

Laurie Lucas Gideon Mark

Director and Chair in Business Ethics Editor-in-Chief, Volume 57

Center for Legal Studies & Business Ethics *American Business Law Journal*

Spears School of Business Robert H. Smith School of Business

Oklahoma State University University of Maryland