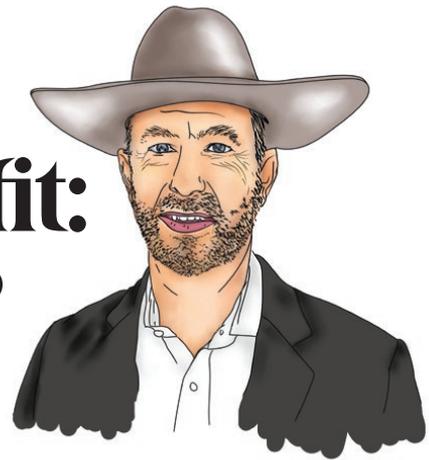


From prison to profit: a narc prosecutor's journey into the global cannabis industry.



I spent the early part of my legal career on the front lines of Richard Nixon's War on Drugs. I was fourteen when Ronald Reagan was first elected President and was smitten by his swagger. Yes, I was one of those kids who grew up in a Nancy Reagan "Just Say No" kind of childhood in middle class America (I even have one of her t-shirts). Never did drugs and never dated girls who did—as I recall. I was a true believer, just like President Reagan. I went on to serve my country as a United States Marine, prosecuting marijuana drug runners in Southern California before signing up to run a DEA Drug Task Force as a Task Force Commander. I sent many young men to prison for their illicit business interests in what we were told was the "Devil's weed."

Reagan helped guide me through the transition from law enforcement to giving legal assistance to some of the top cannabis companies in the world, by his use of a by his use of

regulations towards profitable businesses. My clients make millions of dollars profiting in an industry I once would have sent them to prison for.

I would like to say that I have seen it all when it comes to the \$150 billion cannabis marketplace. And yes, you read correctly, according to a new report by Grand View Research, Inc., cannabis is expected to be a one hundred and fifty billion dollar industry by 2025.

The green rush is on and here to stay. If you are not yet in the industry, some say it is already too late. I'm not one of them, but I do advise that if you are looking to profit from the green rush, remember what Ronnie was famous for saying: trust but verify.

There are some real shady characters out there—that is the

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a well-known Russian proverb - *Doveryai, no proveryai* - trust but verify. He adopted this phrase at the signing of a nuclear arms treaty with the Soviet Union. Was Reagan reluctant to begin pulling our troops out of the Soviet Union in the late 1980s? I could only imagine so. But that's where the trust came in... both countries had something to gain, but everything to lose. And what resulted? The Fall of the Soviet Union.

I have witnessed first-hand the promising world of weed and the prosperity cannabis induced for Colorado. I have watched CBD and hemp markets bring in new tax revenues on a scale never before seen. I have learned of real medicines being discovered and tested in hospitals and universities with actual, positive, clinical results. Hurting veterans are finding legitimate relief for their PTSD from a plant that has been prescribed by doctors for over 3,000 years. Big weed earned my trust.

So, I tossed my badge, gun and gear to the side (I kept my Colorado DEA cowboy hat, of course) and began speaking all over the globe on the ever-evolving world of cannabis and hemp and guiding my law firm's clients through the maze of

verify part. Beware of valuations and businesses that promise what we all know are impossible to deliver.

Watch out for the penny stock predators and the snake oil cultivators and extractors. Be wary of evangelical Canadian business valuations that will lead straight to Hades. Think twice of the unicorns that claim to have a secret sauce or a way to water plants that no one in the history of mankind has thought of, and seriously evaluate partnering with those who operated in the former black market of the cannabis world. The need to verify everything in this industry is a must, and it is important to surround yourself with an experienced, professional team.

Regardless of your own personal beliefs, in my opinion, cannabis is a viable industry. I see marijuana today much like asking someone what their personal beliefs are toward red wine, coffee or aspirin. Sure, some folks don't consume any of them for a wide variety of reasons, but no longer is the debate a personal attack on one's morality.

Weed is here to stay. Trust but verify.