

**From:** Carl Olsen  
**To:** ["jarad.klein@legis.iowa.gov"](mailto:jarad.klein@legis.iowa.gov)  
**Cc:** ["Bob.Kressig@legis.iowa.gov"](mailto:Bob.Kressig@legis.iowa.gov); ["joel.fry@legis.iowa.gov"](mailto:joel.fry@legis.iowa.gov); ["Hager, Kristi \[LEGIS\]"](#)  
**Subject:** HSB 164  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 28, 2017 6:04:00 AM  
**Attachments:** [CVCV007415\\_2009.pdf](#)  
[05771\\_CVCV051068\\_ATAT\\_2771705.pdf](#)  
[09-1789\\_2010.pdf](#)

---

Dear Rep. Klein,

The only time the pharmacy board has not followed federal scheduling is when I sued them in 2009. They recommended reclassification of marijuana in 2010 after I sued them and won.

I see no reason to tell the board to recommend rescheduling of a product before it is approved by the FDA and the DEA. The board does that all the time on a routine basis after a drug products has been approved by the FDA and the DEA.

The board also uses emergency scheduling for extremely bad substances that the FDA and the DEA hasn't gotten around to scheduling yet. They never use their emergency scheduling power for a new FDA and DEA approved drug.

The pharmaceutical company lobbying for this (Greenwich Biosciences, Inc.) is taking advantage of the situation. Every pharmaceutical company could make the same argument they are making, "my drug is so special it should get emergency approval."

I am attaching some of the documents I am referencing, the court ruling, the board ruling, and the Iowa Supreme Court ruling.

Another issue is that the DEA moved hydrocodone "combination" products to schedule 2 in 2014 or maybe earlier. The board has been asking the legislature to reschedule hydrocodone combination products from schedule 3 in Iowa to schedule 2 since that time.

The legislature has not acted on it.

What harm has resulted?

None.

Doctors have to have both state and federal licenses, so hydrocodone combination products are effectively in schedule 2 in Iowa unless Iowa moves them to schedule 1. The more severe of the two (state and federal scheduling) prevails, because doctors and pharmacists have to have both state and federal licenses to prescribe and dispense pharmaceutical drugs.

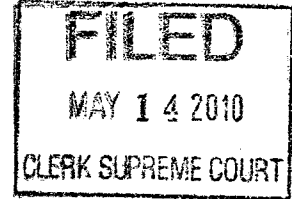
The legislature could put Epidiolex into schedule 2 today, or any schedule the legislature wants. There is no reason to force the board to make a recommendation back to the legislature. There's no point. If the board is not giving its advice, there's nothing for the board to do.

**IN THE SUPREME COURT OF IOWA**

No. 09-1789

Polk County No. CVCV007415

O R D E R



**GEORGE MCMAHON and  
BARBARA DOUGLASS,  
Petitioners-Appellants,**

**and**

**CARL OLSEN,  
Intervenor-Appellant,**

**vs.**

**THE IOWA BOARD OF  
PHARMACY,  
Respondent-Appellee.**

---

This matter comes before the court, Cady, Appel, and Baker, JJ., upon petitioners' motion to vacate judgment and remand to the district court with instructions. The intervenor has filed an objection to the motion to vacate judgment and a supplement to the objection. The respondent, the Iowa Board of Pharmacy, has filed a resistance to the motion to vacate judgment. The board's resistance includes a request to dismiss this appeal as moot. The intervenor has filed a resistance to the board's request. The petitioners have filed a reply to the board's request.

The petitioners and the intervenor are appealing from the district court's ruling denying them additional judicial review of the pharmacy board's denial of their requests to recommend marijuana's reclassification as a controlled substance under Iowa Code chapter 124. On February 17, 2010, while this appeal was pending, the pharmacy board recommended that the legislature reclassify the scheduling of marijuana as a controlled substance under Iowa Code chapter 124

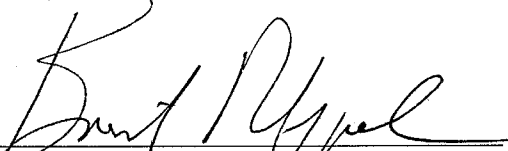
(2009). The board ultimately made the reclassification recommendation sought by the petitioners and the intervenor. This reclassification decision ended any justiciable existing controversy that an appellate decision on this case could affect. See *Grinnell College v. Osborn*, 751 N.W.2d 396, 398-399 (Iowa 2008) (need for existing controversy to justify an appeal). The appeal brought by the petitioners and the intervenor is moot.

This court agrees with the board that the proper disposition of a moot appeal before this court is dismissal. *Martin-Trigona v. Baxter*, 435 N.W.2d 744, 745-46 (Iowa 1989). Accordingly, it is ordered:

1. The petitioners' motion to vacate judgment is denied.
2. The respondent board's request to dismiss is granted. The appeal by petitioners and the intervenor is dismissed as moot.

Dated this 14<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2010.

THE SUPREME COURT OF IOWA

  
Brent R. Appel, Justice

Copies to:

Carl Olsen  
130 E. Aurora Avenue  
Des Moines, IA 50313

Randall Wilson  
505 Fifth Avenue, Suite 901  
Des Moines, IA 50309

Scott Galenbeck  
Assistant Attorney General  
Hoover Building  
LOCAL MAIL

Clerk of District Court  
Polk County Courthouse  
L O C A L

# Exhibit #10

State of Iowa  
**Board of Pharmacy**

RiverPoint Business Park  
400 S.W. Eighth Street, Suite E, Des Moines, Iowa 50309-4688  
<http://www.state.ia.us/ibpe>

Telephone: (515) 281-5944 Facsimile: (515) 281-4609

**BOARD MEMBERS**

EDWARD L. MAIER, R. Ph.  
Mapleton

SUSAN M. FREY, R. Ph.  
Villisca

MARGARET WHITWORTH  
Cedar Rapids

VERNON H. BENJAMIN, R. Ph., Argyle  
*Chairperson*

LLOYD K. JESSEN, R. Ph., JD., West Des Moines  
*Executive Director*

**BOARD MEMBERS**

DEEANN WEDEMEYER OLESON, Pharm. D.  
Guthrie Center

ANN DIEHL  
Osceola

MARK M. ANLIKER, R. Ph.  
Emmetsburg

**MINUTES**

**February 17, 2010**

The Iowa Board of Pharmacy met on February 17, 2010, in the conference room at 400 SW Eighth Street, Des Moines, Iowa at 9:00 a.m. Chairperson Benjamin called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Vernon H. Benjamin, Chairperson  
Susan M. Frey, Vice-Chair  
Mark M. Anliker  
Annabelle Diehl  
Edward L. Maier  
Peggy M. Whitworth

STAFF PRESENT

Lloyd Jessen, Executive Director  
Scott Galenbeck, Esq., Assistant Attorney  
General  
Therese Witkowski, Executive Officer  
Debbie Jorgenson, Administrative Assistant  
Becky Hall, Secretary

MEMBERS ABSENT

DeeAnn Wedemeyer Oleson

Compliance Officers Present:

Bernie Berntsen  
Jim Wolfe

I. Medical Marijuana.

After the Board held four public meetings and reviewed a substantial amount of medical marijuana material, the Board met to deliberate the possible reclassification of marijuana from Schedule I of the Iowa Controlled Substances Act (Act) into Schedule II of the Act.

Motion (Maier/Anliker) the Iowa Board of Pharmacy recommends that the legislature reclassify marijuana from Schedule I of the Iowa Controlled Substance Act (Act) into Schedule II of the Act with the further recommendation that the legislature convene a task force or study committee comprised of various disciplines including but not limited to the following: a representative of a seriously ill patient; a representative of law enforcement; a representative of the Iowa Attorney General; a representative of an HIV organization or a physician caring for an AIDS patient; a

substance abuse treatment representative; a person living with a serious illness; a hospice or palliative care representative; a representative of the Iowa Board of Nursing; a representative of the Iowa Board of Medicine; and a representative of the Iowa Board of Pharmacy, for the purpose of making recommendations back to the legislature regarding the administration of a medical marijuana program. Roll call vote. Yes: Anliker, Benjamin, Diehl, Frey, Maier, Whitworth; No: None; Abstain: None; Absent: Oleson. Passed: 6-0-0-1.

Motion (Maier/Frey) to adjourn the meeting. Passed: 6-0-0-1. Absent: Oleson. Meeting adjourned at 12:47 p.m. on February 17, 2010.

Becky Hall

Becky Hall  
Recording Secretary

Lloyd K. Jessen

Lloyd K. Jessen  
Executive Director

Vernon H. Benjamin

Vernon H. Benjamin  
Board Chair

APPROVED THIS 9<sup>th</sup> DAY OF March, 2010.

IN THE IOWA DISTRICT COURT IN AND FOR POLK COUNTY

<p><b>GEORGE McMAHON, BRYAN SCOTT and BARBARA DOUGLASS,</b></p> <p><b>Petitioners,</b></p> <p><b>CARL OLSEN,</b></p> <p><b>Intervenor,</b></p> <p><b>v.</b></p> <p><b>IOWA BOARD OF PHARMACY,</b></p> <p><b>Respondent.</b></p>	<p><b>Case No. CV7415</b></p> <p><b>RULING ON PETITION FOR JUDICIAL REVIEW</b></p> <p>FILED POLK COUNTY IOWA 2009 APR 21 PM 4:14 CLERK DISTRICT COURT</p>
---	---

**Introduction**

The above-captioned matter came before the Court for hearing on March 27, 2009. Petitioners were represented by attorney Randall Wilson. Intervenor, Carl Olsen, was present on behalf of himself. Respondent was represented by attorney Scott Galenbeck. Following oral argument and upon review of the court file and applicable law, the Court enters the following:

**Statement of the Case**

Petitioners filed a petition with the Iowa Board of Pharmacy on June 24, 2008, seeking removal of marijuana from Schedule I of Iowa’s Controlled Substances Act. Petitioners argued that Iowa Code section 124.203 requires the Iowa Board of Pharmacy (hereinafter the “Board”) to recommend to the legislature that marijuana be rescheduled because it no longer meets the legislative criteria established for the listing of Schedule I substances. The Board issued a final decision denying Petitioners’ request on October 7, 2008. Petitioners have now appealed the Board’s decision in this action for judicial review, and argue that the Board’s decision is based upon an erroneous interpretation of law.

### Standard of Review

On judicial review of agency action, the district court functions in an appellate capacity to apply the standards of Iowa Code section 17A.19. *Iowa Planners Network v. Iowa State Commerce Comm'n*, 373 N.W.2d 106, 108 (Iowa 1985). The Court shall reverse, modify, or grant other appropriate relief from agency action if such action was based upon an erroneous interpretation of a provision of law whose interpretation has not clearly been vested by a provision of law in the discretion of the agency. IOWA CODE § 17A.19(10)(c). The Court shall not give deference to the view of the agency with respect to particular matters that have not been vested by a provision of law in the discretion of the agency. IOWA CODE § 17A.19(11)(b). Appropriate deference is given to an agency's interpretation of law when the contrary is true, although "the meaning of any statute is always a matter of law to be determined by the court." *Birchansky Real Estate, L.C. v. Iowa Dept of Public Health*, 737 N.W.2d 134, 138 (Iowa 2007); IOWA CODE § 17A.19(11)(c). The agency's findings are binding on appeal unless a contrary result is compelled as a matter of law. *Ward v. Iowa Dept. of Transp.*, 304 N.W.2d 236, 238 (Iowa 1981).

### Analysis

Marijuana is identified in the Iowa Controlled Substances Act as a Schedule I controlled substance. *See* IOWA CODE § 124.204 (2009). Section 124.203 of the Iowa Code sets forth the criteria for classifying controlled substances under Schedule I. Section 124.203 provides:

The board shall recommend to the general assembly that it place in schedule I any substance not already included therein if the board finds that the substance:

1. Has high potential for abuse, and
2. Has no accepted medical use in treatment in the United States; or lacks accepted safety for use in treatment under medical supervision.



IOWA CODE § 124.203. This section further provides that the Board “shall recommend” that the general assembly place a listed Schedule I substance in a different schedule or remove it if it does not meet the previously mentioned criteria. *Id.*

Petitioners argued before the Board that marijuana no longer meets the criteria for classification as a Schedule I controlled substance because marijuana now has accepted medical use in treatment in the United States. In support of their argument, Petitioners cited to the laws of other states that have now authorized the use of marijuana for medicinal purposes. The Board addressed Petitioners’ argument and request for reclassification in its final order by explaining:

While neither accepting or rejecting Olsen’s assertion that the medicinal value of marijuana is established by legislation adopted in other states, the Board notes that before recommending to the Iowa legislature that marijuana be moved from schedule I to schedule II, the Board would also need to make a finding that marijuana lacks a high potential for abuse. *See* Iowa Code 124.203 (2007). There exists no basis for such a finding in the record before the Board, as Olsen’s submission offers no evidence or information on marijuana’s potential for abuse. Absent such evidence or information, Olsen’s request must be denied.

(Order, p. 2).

Section 124.203 of the Iowa Code requires that any controlled substance have (1) a high potential for abuse, *and* (2) no accepted medical use in treatment in the United States before it may be classified under Schedule I. Because the Code imposes both criteria as a prerequisite to Schedule I classification, the failure to meet either would require recommendation to the legislature for removal or rescheduling. *See id.* As such, the Board’s statement that it “would also need to make a finding that marijuana lacks a high potential for abuse” before it could recommend to the legislature that marijuana be moved from Schedule I to Schedule II is based upon an erroneous interpretation of law.<sup>1</sup>

---

<sup>11</sup> Pursuant to Iowa Code section 124.205, Schedule II substances must be found to have “currently accepted medical use in treatment in the United States, or currently accepted medical use with severe restrictions,” in order to be classified as such. *See* IOWA CODE § 124.205. Controlled substances must also be found to have a “high

The Board now argues in this action for judicial review that its decision should be affirmed by this Court because Petitioners failed to make an adequate record before the agency. The Board asserts that Petitioners failed to present evidence addressing all of the factors delineated in Iowa Code section 124.201. However, this is not the Board's stated reason for its decision in its written order. The Court may not rely on the Board's post hoc rationalizations for purposes of affirming the agency action at issue. Petitioners were entitled to a written explanation of the reasons for the Board's decision regardless of whether the agency action at issue was taken in response to a request for the adoption of agency rules, taken in response to a request for a declaratory order, or taken in a contested case proceeding. *See* IOWA CODE §§ 17A.7(1), 17A(4)(d), 17A.16; *Ward v. Iowa Dept. of Transp.*, 304 N.W.2d 236, 238 (Iowa 1981). The Court acknowledges that the factors set forth in Iowa Code section 124.201 are relevant in the Board's determination of whether the statutory criteria for Schedule I classification are satisfied.<sup>2</sup> However, Iowa Code section 124.203 clearly requires that the Board recommend removal of marijuana from Schedule I or reclassification under a different schedule if it is found that marijuana "[h]as no accepted medical use in treatment in the United States, or lacks accepted safety for use in treatment under medical supervision." If the Board believes that the evidence presented by Petitioners was insufficient to support such a finding, it should have so stated in its order. Remand of the Board's decision is required so that Board may address Petitioners'

---

potential for abuse" before they may be classified under Schedule II. *Id.* As such, one of the main characteristics that distinguishes Schedule II substances from those listed in Schedule I is accepted medical use in treatment in the United States. It is therefore erroneous to state that a substance classified under Schedule I cannot be reclassified as a Schedule II substance if the substance is found to present a high potential for abuse. Both Schedule I and Schedule II controlled substances share the same characteristic of having a high potential for abuse. A finding of accepted medical use for treatment in the United States alone would be sufficient to warrant recommendation for reclassification or removal pursuant to the language of Iowa Code section 124.203.

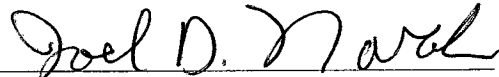
<sup>2</sup> Iowa Code section 124.201 requires that the Board consider these factors before making a rescheduling recommendation to the legislature. The Board is apparently of the position that these factors must also be considered before recommending rescheduling or removal pursuant to the terms of Iowa Code section 124.203.

Petition through proper application of the law. The Board must determine whether the evidence presented by Petitioner is sufficient to support a finding that marijuana has accepted medical use in the United States and does not lack accepted safety for use in treatment under medical supervision.

**ORDER**

**IT IS THE ORDER OF THE COURT** that the Ruling on Appeal of the Iowa Board of Pharmacy is hereby **REMANDED**.

**SO ORDERED** this 21 day of April, 2009.



**JOEL D. NOVAK**, District Judge  
**Fifth Judicial District of Iowa**

Original Filed.

Copies mailed to:

Randall Wilson  
901 Insurance Exchange Bldg.  
Des Moines, IA 50309  
ATTORNEY FOR PETITIONERS

Scott Galenbeck  
1305 E. Walnut Street  
Des Moines, IA 50319  
ATTORNEY FOR RESPONDENT

Carl Olsen  
130 E. Aurora Ave.  
Des Moines, IA 50313  
INTERVENOR

HSB 159, HSB 164, and SF 282 make no sense.

We could do this for every pharmaceutical company from now on.

This pharmaceutical company is taking advantage of us and should not get special treatment any more than any pharmaceutical company that comes out with a new drug. They are all assumed to be beneficial if the FDA and the DEA approve them.

The reason you see medical marijuana laws is because the government has never allowed research. Senator Grassley held hearings on this in 2015 where the Department of Health and Human Services admitted they have been blocking research for decades.

Here's a January 2017 document from the National Academies of Science saying the same thing.

<https://www.nap.edu/catalog/24625/the-health-effects-of-cannabis-and-cannabinoids-the-current-state>

Thank you!

Carl Olsen  
130 E Aurora Ave  
Des Moines, Iowa 50313-3654  
T 515-343-9933  
F 641-316-7358  
[carl-olsen@mchsi.com](mailto:carl-olsen@mchsi.com)  
<http://carl-olsen.com/>  
<http://iowamedicalmarijuana.org/>