

OHIO PATIENT NETWORK

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Available for Interview

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SUBJECT: PATIENTS AVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEW ON RAICH DECISION
Ohio Medical Marijuana Patients Offer Their Insights about Supreme Court Decision

(Columbus, OH) A decision by the Supreme Court of the United States in the historic Ashcroft vs. Raich case is expected any day. This case, heard in November 2004, pitted Attorney General, John Ashcroft, against Angel Raich and Diane Monson both of California in a dispute over the non-commercial transfer and use of marijuana for medicinal purposes in States that permit it. At issue was the power of the federal government to regulate or control the intrastate personal cultivation and possession of cannabis for medical purposes pursuant to State law.

The following members of the Ohio Patient Network are available for interview regarding this decision:

Mary Jane Borden. Mrs. Borden is a co-founder of the Ohio Patient Network, which was formed in 2001 to provide networking, education, and support to patients who use cannabis therapeutically in the State of Ohio. She is also an expert in marijuana policy and currently serves as Business Manager for DrugSense and its Media Awareness Project (<http://www.mapinc.org>). She is the author of the comprehensive analyses, "The People Have Spoken: Medical Marijuana Public Opinion Polling 1996-2002" (http://www.ohiopatient.net/projects/Poll_Analysis.htm) and "Therapeutic History of Cannabis: A Timeline of Marijuana Research and Regulation" (http://www.ohiopatient.net/pdf/History_of_MMJ_Research.pdf).

Borden's background includes an MBA from the University of Dayton, presidency of the Columbus Chapter of Women in Communications and its Columbus Matrix Foundation, and nine years in pharmaceutical marketing with the former Adria Laboratories in Dublin, Ohio. Borden has the same rare congenital bone condition as Irvin Rosenfeld who is among only seven people in the U.S. to legally receive cannabis each month from the federal government as a part of the now defunct Compassionate Investigational New Drug Program.

Deirdre "Dee Dee" Zoretic. At the age of 27 while working as a waitress, Mrs. Zoretic fell and severely injured her right arm, contracting a progressive, incurable nerve condition called Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy. After exhausting legal medical options, she discovered a government report that cannabis might be useful for treating her condition. She subsequently began using it therapeutically. As a result, she regained the use of her once completely atrophied right arm. Today, she is the Director of Patient Advocacy for the Ohio Patient Network where she works to educate the public, media, and governmental officials about the scientific evidence concerning marijuana's efficacy as a medication through her own personal experience.

Zoretic, was arrested on charges of cultivating marijuana, her chosen medication, within days of the introduction of the Ohio Medical Marijuana Act, known as Senate Bill 74. Her case exposes the harsh reality and cruelty imposed on our most vulnerable citizens by the government's prohibition of marijuana and its use in medicine.

The Ohio Patient Network is a 501(c)(3) non-profit coalition of patients, caregivers, medical professionals, concerned citizens, and organizations who support the compassionate use of cannabis for various medicinal purposes. Information about OPN can be found at <http://www.ohiopatient.net>. OPN also provides speakers for group, club, church or other organizational meetings. Please call 1-888-OH-Patient for more information.

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