



*Bianca and Rob Sullivan*

# THE SULLIVANS' QUEST TO PROVIDE SAFE ALTERNATIVES TO PHARMACEUTICALS

*by The Evolution Staff*

**T**he Kansas City, MO, born Fresh Green Dispensaries company will submit its application on August 17 in hopes of securing a Missouri medical marijuana dispensary license.

The Fresh Green Dispensaries company team members include Rob and Bianca Sullivan, Anthony Johnson and Sarah Duff. While the Sullivans are the majority members, Johnson and Duff bring years of cannabis industry experience and will be actively involved in the operation of the business. Both Johnson and Duff are native Missourians whose advocacy dates to the early 2000s. In 2004, they moved to Oregon and played integral roles in the legalization campaign there. They are excited to get back to their home state of Missouri and be involved in the business.

“My goal for Fresh Green is to be unique from other dispensaries through our dedication to constantly putting the patient first,” said Rob Sullivan. “We will do whatever we can to help patients who need medical marijuana and offer discounts wherever possible or necessary for patient access. Our company has two strong advocates for patients in Bianca and Sarah Duff. Both have long histories of support from the medical perspective. With these two accomplished leaders on our team, I am certain Fresh Green will set itself apart in the industry.”

Rob Sullivan, an attorney at Sullivan Law, LLC, of Kansas City, MO, has been involved in cases through his career that resulted in settlements or verdicts over \$100 million. Sullivan is a former member of the Board of Governors for the Missouri Association of Trial Attorneys, serving for over ten years and the former Chair of the Executive Committee for the Railroad Law Section of the American Association for Justice. Currently, Sullivan handles cases from coast to coast. Sullivan’s regulatory compliance experience includes Treasurer for Teresa Loar’s 2000 campaign for the U.S. House of Representatives seat for Missouri’s 6th Congressional District. He was responsible for all donation compliance and filings with the Federal Elections Commission.

Rob Sullivan says, “Bianca is the stimulus for me wanting to open this new business.” Attorney Bianca Sullivan lived in Southern California for six years, and that’s where her cannabis story launched.

“She [Bianca] has been passionate about the legalization for patients benefits for many years,” said Rob. “Most of the education I have acquired on the subject came from her. Beyond that, I have an inherent desire to help people facing difficult obstacles, especially in the face of adversity that is difficult for them to overcome. I have spent my entire legal career helping injured people and families that have lost loved ones and often faced battles against companies that would be impossible without our help. I feel similarly about the challenges that patients have faced for years trying to gain access to the medicine they need. I am happy to help those people and finally offer them that access.”

Bianca says, “My original goal was to carry on with my education in medical school, but as is often the case, life things happen and you take a different path. I first became interested in the cannabis industry when I was an undergrad at UCLA when California was in the early stages of medical legalization. Some of my earliest exposure to the medicinal properties of cannabis came while volunteering at an AIDS non-profit group in Los Angeles. We helped educate patients and the community on Proposition 215, the Compassionate Use Act of 1996, which was the first state to legalize medical cannabis. With many states now having legalized marijuana in one form or another I’m proud to say I was a part of its inception.”

Outside of supporting such causes, Bianca and her husband (Rob) opened the Sullivan Law firm, and they regularly take on pro bono cases to help those with no other options.

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“When Missouri began seriously considering legalizing cannabis for medical purposes, I was immediately interested in being involved,” said Bianca. “I saw another way to help some of my clients and others that would benefit from legalization.”

“Early on in my legal career I found ways to help others,” says Bianca. “I got great satisfaction from working with the Midwest Innocence Project, an organization with a mission to educate about, advocate for, and obtain and support the exoneration and release of wrongfully convicted people in the Midwest.”

“I continue to get the most satisfaction from helping others in need. At Sullivan Law, we have done that for nearly ten years now, and we have always represented individuals that face long odds and uphill battles to get well or at least be made as whole as possible after their injuries. Along the way, I was fortunate to be involved in pro bono cases where I was able to help people and families that could not afford to help themselves and would certainly have been crushed under the power of legal authorities or government agencies without lawyers willing to fight for them — without being paid.”

Bianca will take all her experience and education, from her undergrad in Biology to foodservice and law, to open Fresh Green dispensary.

Sarah Patrice Duff of Portland, OR, is on a quest to “Save the world one earned smile at a time,” she says.

Duff has a long professional history in the Medical Marijuana Dispensary business. In 2011, Duff opened Johnson Consulting in Oregon. A cannabis consultant business that established a network of 230 patients and 25 growers to educate them about the legalities and pitfalls of utilizing the Oregon Medical Marijuana Program (OMMP). Duff assisted growers on how to grow for low-income patients. “We accepted the medicine on behalf of the growers, so we can try to give patients the right form and strain of medicine tailored to their condition,” said Duff.

Currently Duff is the project manager of GroHi Station Dispensary in Portland, OR. She assisted GroHi Station’s opening, worked to transition the business into a recreational dispensary, structured the business, established standard operating procedures, security procedures, training regimens, continued training policies, and ordered and maintained inventory.

Duff says, “At GroHi Station Dispensary I had to establish strict cash handling policies to prevent theft and ensure that tax payments were made on time. At first, the business did not have a bank account. Eventually, we found a bank willing to do business with a cannabis business.”

Anthony Johnson of Portland, OR, opened his private law practice in 2005. Soon after, in 2008 Johnson joined the Coalition for Patients’ Rights/Measure 74 PAC Oregon as Director where he co-authored

and was chief petitioner of Measure 74, a ballot proposal to legalize Oregon medical cannabis dispensaries. He was responsible for compliance with petition signature gathering and campaign finance laws. He served as chief spokesperson and worked in all aspects of the political campaign, including public relations, overall campaign strategy, debate preparation, research, and fundraising.


Currently, Johnson is President/Co-Owner of Duff Johnson Consulting, a consultant cannabis and ancillary businesses on all aspects of marijuana law, specializing in the adult-use system in Oregon, including licensing and compliance. He is the Director for New Approach Oregon PAC, whose efforts are to reform cannabis laws in Oregon and various locales across the nation. Johnson also serves as an Oregon Recreational Marijuana Rules Advisory Committee Member advising the Oregon Medical Marijuana Program on general rules regulated commerce through Oregon’s regulated medical cannabis dispensaries.

The Fresh Green team no doubt has the background to qualify for a Missouri medical marijuana dispensary license — but will they? December can’t come soon enough for that answer.

“Beyond our message to patients, which I think has already been stated here, I want the public to know that the people that make up our Fresh Green company have years of experience as advocates and professionals who take the responsibility of providing this medicine to patients,” said Rob. “We want to benefit and reassure the community that our company will always operate responsibly within the industry — very seriously!”

With three attorneys on the Fresh Green team and Sarah Duff as a proven champion on behalf of patients, the public, who may have reservations about this industry, can take comfort in the fact that the character of the members of this company is unquestionable. “We don’t take our responsibility to our patients and members of the community where we do business lightly,” said Rob.

Bianca emphasizes, “Above all else, I want Fresh Green Dispensaries as a company and as a dispensary to fulfill the mission of bettering the lives of those patients that will benefit from cannabis but may not be able to afford it. Of course, the company will have to profit to survive, but a dedicated percentage of that profit will always be earmarked for discounts available to veterans and low-income patients in need.”

With companies like Fresh Green Dispensaries vying for dispensary and growing licenses, the Missouri medical cannabis industry begins its growth with qualified professionals. The public should feel assured that their needs will be well served. 

For more about Fresh Green Dispensaries visit [www.freshgreen.com](http://www.freshgreen.com).

