



Dedicated to Improving the Standards & Practices of Liquor Law Enforcement

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If you have Alcohol Law Enforcement news to share please send it to Carrie Christofes, Executive Director at [carrie.christofes@nllea.org](mailto:carrie.christofes@nllea.org)

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## 2021 NLLEA Training Symposium Registration

You can choose to attend one or more of the following webinars. Time shows in Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Day 1 - May 11, 2021 12:45 pm Opening Remarks - 1-5 pm Workshops

Day 2 - May 18, 2021 12:45 pm Opening Remarks - 1-5 pm Workshops

Day 3 - May 25, 2021 12:45 pm Opening Remarks - 1-5 pm Workshops

The 2021 NLLEA Training Symposium will be held May 11th, 18th and 25th from 1pm to 5pm EST in a webinar format, and is **FREE** to all paid NLLEA memberships. Click on the agenda for more information on the enforcement and leadership workshops. If you are not yet a member please visit <https://nllea.org/Registration> to create an account or contact Carrie Christofes at [carrie.christofes@nllea.org](mailto:carrie.christofes@nllea.org). We encourage all law enforcement and regulatory agencies to take advantage of this training, so please share with your partner agencies and encourage them to sign up for a membership.



Save the Date for the 2021 Annual Conference, **November 15-17** in Montgomery, Alabama at the Renaissance Montgomery Hotel & Spa at the Convention Center, in collaboration with the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency (ALEA) State Bureau of Investigation. Conference registration and hotel accommodations will be available in April. Thank you for your extraordinary efforts to keep your communities safe

## Licensing Out of State Retailers for Home Delivery of Alcohol Threatens the Balance of Regulation

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Retailers in several states want to be able to sell alcohol products and ship them to customers throughout the country like wineries do in many states. Some have filed unsuccessful lawsuits claiming that, due to recent court rulings, states must allow out of state retailers to deliver alcohol if they grant that privilege to in state licensees. But, at the present time, there is no way to do that without giving out of state retailers a major competitive advantage.

[Link to Article](#)

## The Alcohol E-commerce Battle Heats Up

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The three-tier system of beverage alcohol regulation established a traditional sales model where suppliers (wineries, breweries, distilleries, and importers) sell to wholesalers, wholesalers sell to retailers, and retailers sell to consumers. Delivery apps and marketplaces like Drizly and Vivino, often referred to as the “fourth tier” of the industry, are a relatively new phenomenon. Delivery apps typically facilitate sales from retailers after products have traveled fully through the three- tier system, whereas marketplaces typically facilitate sales from manufacturers or retailers that ship across state lines direct-to-consumers (DTC) using common carriers like FedEx and UPS. The rapid growth of sales originating from this fourth tier will force regulators and legislators to establish new frameworks and policies for regulating these unlicensed entities that solicit on behalf of different types of licensees.

[Link to Article](#)

## Men Accused of Tricking Banks Into Aiding Marijuana Sales Head to Trial

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The trial of two men accused of devising a scheme to trick banks into approving around \$160 million of marijuana-related transactions began Monday in Manhattan federal court, in a case that could have profound consequences for the U.S. marijuana industry and shed light on its place on the fringes of the mainstream banking system. While the purchase and sale of marijuana for personal use has been decriminalized in many states, it remains illegal under federal law. Most U.S. banks **steer clear of doing business related to marijuana**, and have policies against processing its sale, leaving cannabis businesses reliant on cash or private mobile-payment processors.

[Link to Article](#)

## KDA hails passing of direct-to-consumer legislation

The House Bill 415 was ‘overwhelmingly’ passed by Kentucky’s House of Representatives last week. It will now go forward to the state’s Senate for consideration. Trade group the Kentucky Distillers’ Association (KDA) said the law will allow the use of third-party fulfilment centres to proficiently ship bottles; set a level playing field for state tax collection on distillery gift shop sales; and create guidelines for shipping alcohol samples to media, business and marketing partners, among other measures. The legislation is an ‘important update’ to the direct-to-consumer (DTC) alcohol shipping measure that was implemented in 2020, the KDA added. KDA president Eric Gregory said there are now more than 15 states considering introducing or extending DTC rules, which will create many new reciprocal markets to ship Kentucky-made spirits, wine and beer.

[Link to Article](#)

## Members of Identity Theft Ring Plead Guilty to Fraud Targeting Virginia ABC Stores

Two Norfolk men pleaded guilty today to conspiracy to commit wire fraud and aggravated identity theft as part of a scheme to purchase alcohol for resale from Virginia Alcoholic Beverage Control Authority (ABC) stores with stolen credit, debit, and pre-paid gift card numbers. According to court documents, Dion Melton, 28, and Dominic Smith, 29, joined with two other men to defraud Virginia ABC stores by using credit, debit, and pre-paid gift cards re-encoded with the stolen financial information of identity theft victims. The conspirators obtained the stolen credit and debit card numbers by purchasing the numbers online, among other means. Investigators have identified 31 direct victims of identity theft from Smith's role in the scheme and 18 direct victims of identity theft from Melton's role in the scheme. There are at least 82 victims of the broader conspiracy.

[Link to Article](#)

## **Pennsylvania Casino Raid Results in Criminal Charges, Two Suspects Remain at Large**

The Pennsylvania State Police on August 20, 2020, raided the [Windfall Amusements 777 Casino](#) at the Kenhorst Plaza shopping center in Shillington. Law enforcement confiscated 57 gaming machines that were deemed to be unlicensed gambling devices. More than \$67,700 in cash was also seized.

[Link to Article](#)

## **IA-Police respond to shooting calls at Cube Ultra Lounge, O Face Bar**

The shooting comes a month after the Council Bluffs City Council voted to deny renewing the bar's liquor license in large part because of the number of police calls to the location in recent years. The Cube is able to continue operating pending an appeal hearing before the Iowa Alcoholic Beverages Division.

[Link to Article](#)

## **Pepsi Launches Non-Alcoholic Cocktail Mixer Line, "Neon Zebra"**

Coming in Margarita, Strawberry Daiquiri, Mojito and Whiskey Sour flavor options, the 7.5 oz mini-cans are designed to be a shortcut to great-tasting cocktails. Each option is made with real juice and no artificial sweeteners for a refreshing fresh flavor. Neon Zebra recommends adding 3 oz of any spirit to a full can to prepare two cocktails to share.

[Link to Article](#)

## **Virginia Approves Limits on Police Use of Facial Recognition**

State lawmakers have unanimously voted to tightly restrict local police use of facial recognition technology. The legislation now goes to Gov. Ralph Northam, who hasn't indicated whether he'll sign it — though the unanimous vote makes it all but assured of becoming law regardless.

House Bill 2031, introduced by Del. Lashrecse Aird, D- Petersburg, imposes what she called "a de facto ban" on local police using facial recognition technology by requiring the General Assembly pass a law before a police department or other law enforcement agency can use it. Her bill, which won bipartisan support in both the House of Delegates and the State Senate, also requires a police department to have total control of the technology, which is all but impossible given how tech companies are offering facial recognition services.

[Link to Article](#)

## **Does Alcohol Reduce COVID-19 Vaccine Effectiveness?**

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Whether you are soon getting the SARS CoV-2 (COVID-19) vaccine or you are still trying to avoid contracting the virus, a recently published review of COVID-19 studies recommends avoiding excessive consumption of alcohol as one of the lifestyle interventions to optimize health during the

pandemic (and beyond)

[Link to Article](#)

**NHTSA's Impaired Driving Division Update  
March 2021**



**The National Liquor Law Enforcement Association Releases a Best Practice Guidance Document for Alcohol Sales and Deliveries During and After the COVID-19 Pandemic:**



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