The Life She Deserves
[MEDICAL MARIJUANA IN THE UNITED STATES]

Monday, November 5 | 6:00 - 7:30 PM
Greenspun Hall Auditorium
University of Nevada, Las Vegas

“The Life She Deserves,” is an intimate portrait of Jennifer Collins and her family’s struggle to find a treatment to control her debilitating epilepsy. Because her legal pharmaceutical treatments cause severe side effects, Jennifer and her mother move across the country to access medical marijuana. The therapy provides Jennifer and her family with the relief they once feared was unobtainable, but they are now faced with the stigma and legal uncertainty that surround the use of medical cannabis.

Followed by a discussion with

JOHN HUDAK
Senior Fellow
The Brookings Institution

GEORGE BURROUGHS
Film Director
The Brookings Institution

MARITZA BERMUDEZ
VP Business Development
Cannabis Commerce Group Consulting

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Greenspun Hall Auditorium, UNLV Campus

Brookings Mountain West at UNLV is pleased to offer a screening of
a new documentary short film by the Brookings Institution.

ABOUT THE FILM:
“The Life She Deserves” is an intimate portrait of Jennifer Collins and her family’s
struggle to find a treatment to control her debilitating epilepsy. Because her legal
pharmaceutical treatments cause severe side effects, Jennifer and her mother move
across the country to access medical marijuana. The therapy provides Jennifer and
her family with the relief they once feared was unobtainable, but they are now faced
with the stigma and legal uncertainty that surround the use of medical cannabis. The
Collins family’s struggle to treat Jennifer’s illness sheds light on the dysfunctional
relationship between federal and state laws that results in confusion and unimaginable
obstacles and uncertainty for patients and families who need help.

Following a screening of the film, our panelists will respond to a brief set of questions
posed by the moderator, and audience members will have an opportunity to ask
additional questions.

MODERATOR

William E. Brown, Jr. serves as UNLV Director of Brookings Mountain West. He
coordinates the programs, lectures, and activities of Brookings Mountain West in Southern Nevada,
including the Brookings Public Policy Minor at UNLV. He has published a diverse array of scholarly
works in American history, literature, politics, and related fields. Brown received his undergraduate
degree from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst in 1978 and his graduate degree from the
University of Michigan in 1981. He has held appointments as an academic research librarian, faculty
member, and administrator at Yale University, the University of Miami, and the University of
California, Berkeley, before joining UNLV in 2005.
PANELISTS

John Hudak
Senior Fellow in Governance Studies
Deputy Director of the Center for Effective Public Management
THE BROOKINGS INSTITUTION

George Burroughs
Film Director
THE BROOKINGS INSTITUTION

Maritza Bermudez
VP Business Development
CANNABIS COMMERCE GROUP CONSULTING

BIOGRAPHIES

John Hudak, Ph.D. is deputy director of the Center for Effective Public Management and a senior fellow in Governance Studies. His research examines questions of presidential power in the contexts of administration, personnel, and public policy. Additionally, he focuses on campaigns and elections, legislative-executive interaction, and state and federal marijuana policy. John’s 2016 book, Marijuana: A Short History, offers a unique, up-to-date profile of how cannabis emerged from the shadows of counterculture and illegality to become a serious, even mainstream, public policy issue and source of legal revenue for both businesses and governments. His 2014 Presidential Pork: White House Influence over the Distribution of Federal Grants demonstrates that pork-barrel politics occurs beyond the halls of Congress. Presidents capitalize on their discretionary funding authority to target federal dollars to swing states in advance of presidential elections. This research explores the balance between political control and bureaucratic expertise in the delivery of public policy. He holds a B.A. in political science and economics from the University of Connecticut and an M.A. and Ph.D. in political science from Vanderbilt University.
George Burroughs is the Creative Director in the Brookings Institution Office of Communications. In this role, Burroughs leads a team that collaborates with the Institution’s scholars to develop dynamic products—through film and design. His own initiatives focus on storytelling. He has written and directed several award-winning projects, including a video that illustrates social mobility through LEGO, an animation unpacking ISIS’s origins, and short documentaries examining climate change and economic mobility for Baltimore youth. Most recently he directed the Brookings Institution’s first documentary, *The Life She Deserves*, which is an intimate portrait of a young epilepsy patient in the United States that finds relief with medical marijuana. He is a graduate of the Pratt Institute with a BFA in film.

Maritza Bermudez is an experienced executive with over a decade of diverse business experience, gained while working at publicly traded multinational companies within the insurance, gaming, retail, and technology sectors. Bermudez is a passionate cannabis activist and patient advocate who served as the Industry Liaison for the Coalition to Regulate Marijuana like Alcohol in support of Question 2. She is an active business member for Las Vegas Medical Marijuana Association and National Cannabis Industry Association, where she demonstrated her commitment towards changing social, cultural and political stigma by participating as Nevada representative during NCIA’s Lobby Days held in Washington D.C. Bermudez holds a Master of Accounting degree from Nova Southeastern University and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics from The University of Texas at Austin. She is also a licensed public Notary for the State of Nevada.