



PLDW

PANNONE LOPES DEVEREAUX & WEST LLC

counselors at law

For information, contact:
Clare Eckert at ceckert@pldw.com
401-855-2601

PLDW Attorneys Help In Grown Farms, LLC Win Illinois Medical Marijuana License in a Highly Competitive Application Process

White Plains, NY – February 23, 2015 – Pannone Lopes Devereaux & West LLC’s team of attorneys leveraged their unique project management and legal experience to help their client, In Grown Farms, LLC, win a coveted license from the State of Illinois to open a cannabis cultivation center as part of the state’s emerging medical marijuana industry.

The license was awarded on February 2, 2015, by the Illinois Department of Agriculture after a rigorous selection process with more than 300 applicants vying for a limited number of cultivation center and dispensary permits. In Grown Farms intends to build a 78,000-square-foot cannabis growing facility at the Mill Race Crossing industrial park in the City of Freeport in Stephenson County. PLDW Partner Bruce H. Tobey and Associate David M. DiSegna led the team of lawyers from multiple disciplines to help counsel, shape, guide, and manage the complex and stringent application process required under Illinois’ groundbreaking legislation, the Compassionate Use of Medical Cannabis Pilot Program Act, which was enacted into law in January 2014.

“We are delighted that our assistance helped In Grown Farms’ team of talented professionals win a license to launch a new business in the medical marijuana industry in Illinois,” said Attorney Tobey. “This project was a true team effort. It was an honor to be a part of In Grown Farms’ exciting new business venture and we are proud of the confidence they placed in our firm.”

In collaboration with their client and working on tight deadlines to submit hundreds of pages of supporting materials that the comprehensive license application required, PLDW attorneys applied project management and legal experience gained from many years of working with both the public and the private sectors on everything from zoning, regulatory and compliance issues, real estate transactions, employment agreements and contract negotiations. In addition, PLDW lawyers supported

negotiations with County officials and community groups to produce a Memoranda of Understanding that resulted in a community benefits program. As part of the program, In Grown Farms pledged 5% of its net profit to be divided up within the County to improve infrastructure at Mill Race Crossing, its health department for drug and alcohol prevention programs, and Highland Community College for scholarships.

The attorneys also collaborated with their client and software consultants to prepare procedures and quality assurance controls for the product chain of custody from “seed to sale” to monitor a seamless system for In Grown Farms’ primary purposes of growing, harvesting and processing cannabis and its by-products.

Once completed, In Grown Farms expects to hire about 25 people and plans to grow more than 12,000 pounds of medical marijuana a year within a grow facility that will also house a security vault, kitchen, testing facility and offices.

“We are extremely pleased with the team of PLDW lawyers that helped us maneuver the intricacies of a very complicated license application to bring safe medicine to the patients of Illinois,” said Keith McGinnis, co-founder of In Grown Farms, LLC. “The attorneys were always ready to take on the next task and dive into the very tedious process of assisting us shape and create a new business venture in the Illinois medical marijuana industry that is a launching pad for economic development for the entire country. We commend state leaders for their vision and thank our team of PLDW lawyers for their help in managing large projects of this type with finesse and innovation.”

According to industry experts, the legalization of medical marijuana use is sweeping the nation. More states are passing legislation that is creating enormous business opportunities for the cultivation and sale of cannabis, and for the development of ancillary businesses to support this industry and job creator. Illinois is one of 23 states in the nation to allow medical and/or recreational cultivation of marijuana and retail sales.

For further information, contact PLDW Partner Bruce H. Tobey at btobey@pldw.com or call 914-898-2400. To learn more about PLDW, visit www.pldw.com or follow us on Twitter (@pldwllc) and stay up-to-date with the firm’s activities on LinkedIn, Facebook, Google+ and Pinterest.

About Pannone Lopes Devereaux & West LLC

The attorneys and staff at Pannone Lopes Devereaux & West LLC (PLDW) are committed to developing practical and cost-effective solutions while also being supportive of the community in a meaningful way. PLDW has developed a business model that combines international expertise with a more cost-effective delivery system that involves cross training of lawyers and a more practical approach to problem solving. PLDW’s primary practice areas include corporate and business law, nonprofit law, health care law, municipal infrastructure, government relations and legislative strategies, employment law, special masterships, criminal defense, civil litigation, estate planning, probate and trust litigation, and real estate development and commercial lending. The partners demand of themselves and those on the PLDW team, an unparalleled sense of urgency and responsiveness which is derived from an authentic appreciation for their clients and the community in which they serve. For more information, visit www.pldw.com.