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PLDW Attorneys' Report on the Nation's Medical Marijuana Regulatory Landscape Featured in *Rhode Island Bar Journal*

Providence, RI – May 13, 2015 – Pannone Lopes Devereaux & West LLC (PLDW) Municipal Infrastructure and Business Law attorneys, Partner Bruce H. Tobey and Associate David M. DiSegna, were featured contributors on the nation's regulatory landscape of the burgeoning marijuana industry in the May/June edition of the *Rhode Island Bar Journal*. The comprehensive report, entitled [*The Regulatory Landscape for the Medical Marijuana Business in Rhode Island and Across the U.S.*](#), explores the various regulatory challenges faced by marijuana businesses in today's market and examines the history of the federal treatment of marijuana, as well as the influence of the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) over state regulators. The in-depth report draws on the co-authors' significant industry knowledge of state-specific legal and regulatory compliance issues related to the medical cannabis marketplace and their representation of clients in several states, including New York, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Florida, Illinois and Washington.

"The regulatory landscape in this rapidly expanding industry is changing and there is a lot at stake for businesses cultivating or dispensing cannabis, as well as owners of various ancillary companies," said Attorney Tobey. "From facility security and armed protected transportation services, to financing, product testing, seed-to-sale tracking of product, to the manufacturers of secure packaging, and others, this area of law can have a major impact. This report was prepared as a resource to assist business owners currently working in the medical marijuana industry and those considering entering the industry to make informed decisions."

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

creation. Nearly half the states in the nation allow cultivation and retail sale of marijuana for medical and/or recreational use. The article takes a deep look at various regulatory schemes across the U.S. and provides information on requirements for entering into the marijuana business and how the evolving federal outlook on marijuana has produced a change in state regulations over time. It also covers the federal Controlled Substances Act and the enforcement priorities of the DOJ with regard to marijuana offenses that are articulated in various DOJ memoranda, which have influenced state regulators in designing various regulatory regimes, which govern the marijuana industry in states that have legalized the sale and use of cannabis for medical or recreational purposes.

To learn more, contact Attorney Tobey or DiSegna, email btobey@pldw.com or ddisegna@pldw.com or call 914-898-2400. For more information 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 masterhips, 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.