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Pannone Lopes Devereaux & West Principal William E. O’Gara is Named 2013 “Lawyer of the Year” by Best Lawyers’ for his Employment Law Practice

Providence, RI – September 13, 2012 – Pannone Lopes Devereaux & West LLC (PLDW) Principal William E. O’Gara, who leads the firm’s Litigation and Employment Teams, has been named “Lawyer of the Year” by the Best Lawyers’ 2013 peer survey for his practice of Labor Law - Management in Providence, RI. The *Best Lawyers in America*® is the oldest and most respected peer-review publication in the legal profession. This recognition adds to Attorney O’Gara’s recent selection by the publication as a 2013 ‘best lawyer’ in America also for his skilled experience in the area of employment law, employee benefits and labor law.

“The entire PLDW team of attorneys and staff congratulate Bill for this distinguished recognition by the legal community,” said Gary R. Pannone, Principal and Managing Partner. “Those of us who know and work with Bill each day truly appreciate his broad knowledge of the law and the tremendous work he does on behalf of the firm and his clients.”

Mr. O’Gara is a co-founder of PLDW and has been practicing law for over 20 years. His practice is extensive with a significant depth of experience handling diverse matters before federal and state courts and administrative agencies, including the Rhode Island Commission on Human Rights and the Massachusetts Commission against Discrimination. Mr. O’Gara routinely represents employers in matters ranging from sexual harassment to retirement issues. His

diverse practice includes defending wrongful termination and discrimination claims, contract negotiations and matters of union representation.

He is a frequent lecturer on human resources management topics, and is a contributor and editor of human resource and personnel policy handbooks and guides for small and large private and public sector entities. He is also the editor of the firm's monthly *Employment ADVISORY*.

Attorney O'Gara earned his J.D. from Northeastern University and his Master's in Industrial Relations from the University of Rhode Island. He is admitted to practice law in Rhode Island, Massachusetts and Federal courts in Rhode Island and Massachusetts. Prior to co-founding the firm in 2006, Mr. O'Gara's experience includes working with the national law firms of Bingham, Dana & Gould and Holland & Knight.

For more information about PLDW, contact David C. Sweet, Director of Administration, at dsweet@pldw.com or call 401-824-5100, or visit www.pldw.com.

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. With offices in Rhode Island, Connecticut, Massachusetts, New York and Florida, 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. The primary areas of practice for the firm include administrative, corporate and municipal law, civil litigation, employment, government relations, real estate and commercial lending and estate planning and special masterships. 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.