



PLDW

PANNONE LOPES DEVEREAUX & WEST LLC

counselors at law

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Former RI Child Advocate and a MA Public Defender Join PLDW

Providence, RI – August 22, 2016 – Pannone Lopes Devereaux & West LLC ([PLDW](http://www.pldw.com)) Managing Partner Gary R. Pannone today announced that attorneys Regina M. Costa and Sarah O. Clifton have joined the firm’s Alternative Dispute Resolution and Special Masterships teams as Associates. Attorney Costa is the former Child Advocate for the State of Rhode Island and Attorney Clifton was a staff attorney for the Massachusetts Committee for Public Counsel Services, Public Defender Division.

Regina M. Costa

Attorney Costa was appointed Child Advocate in 2011 by Governor Lincoln D. Chafee. In this leadership position, she was responsible for protecting the legal rights and interests of children in state care, reviewing and investigating all complaints of potential maltreatment of children in institutions and residences, and making recommendations for positive changes to policies and programs in the Department for Children, Youth and Families (DCYF). Prior to her five-year tenure as Child Advocate, she worked for both DCYF and the Rhode Island Department of Corrections in multiple positions for more than 25 years serving as a social caseworker, social service analyst, probation and parole counselor, supervisor and senior legal counsel.

Attorney Costa earned her J.D. from New England School of Law in Massachusetts. She graduated with a Masters of Social Work and a Master of Arts in Agency Counseling from Rhode Island College and earned a B.A. in Elementary Education from Stonehill College in Massachusetts. She is also certified as a mediator from the Center for Mediation & Collaboration Rhode Island and holds a certification in negotiations from Harvard School of Law, Harvard Negotiation Institute. Attorney Costa is admitted to

practice law in state and federal courts in Rhode Island, and is a member of the Rhode Island Bar Association. To contact [Attorney Costa](#), please call 401-824-5100 or email rcosta@pldw.com.

Sarah O. Clifton

Attorney Clifton was a staff attorney for six years for the Massachusetts Committee for Public Counsel Services, Public Defender Division, representing individuals in criminal matters in Plymouth County, Norfolk County and Suffolk County. Earlier in her career, she interned for the Federal Defenders of San Diego, Inc. and the California Innocence Project, and was a summer law clerk for the Los Angeles County Public Defender.

She earned her J.D. from the University of Southern California Gould School of Law in Los Angeles, her LL.M. in Trial Advocacy from the California Western School of Law in San Diego, and a B.A. in sociology with a double minor in psychology and criminal justice from the University of Connecticut, Storrs. She is admitted to practice law in state courts of Massachusetts and federal and state courts in California. To contact [Attorney Clifton](#), please call 401-824-5100 or email sclifton@pldw.com.

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, Google+ and Facebook.

About Pannone Lopes Devereaux & West LLC

The attorneys and staff at Pannone Lopes Devereaux & West LLC (PLDW) are committed to delivering cost-effective solutions for their clients as well as supporting the community in a meaningful way. Many of the lawyers at PLDW were formerly members of international law firms and are trained in multiple disciplines including the areas of corporate and business law, special masterships, government relations and legislative strategies, municipal infrastructure, civil litigation, real estate development and commercial lending, nonprofit law, health care, white collar defense, estate planning, probate and trust litigation. The core values of integrity, quality services and responsiveness are stressed each day at PLDW. For more information, visit www.pldw.com.