

**Pannone Lopes Devereaux & West Attorney Rebecca E. Dupras  
'Raising the Bar' Through Law-Related Mentoring Program**

**Providence, RI** (June 3, 2010) – Rebecca E. Dupras, an attorney with Pannone Lopes Devereaux & West LLC (PLDW), is helping local high school students learn more about the law profession as a founding member of the American Bar Association's Championing Our Students (ABA COS) initiative.

Launched in November 2009, COS is a law-related mentoring program that matches youth with legal professionals. COS was introduced in five cities across the country, including Providence. The YMCA of Greater Providence, COS' designated service provider, recruits, trains, and matches local high school age youth with mentors from law-related professions. The program consists of an integrated law-related curriculum involving mentors and students communicating weekly online and at monthly workshops providing the opportunity for all program participants to meet and interact.

Ms. Dupras is currently mentoring 15-year old Lauren Roy, a Coventry resident and sophomore student from The Met School in Providence, RI. Ms. Roy became interested in law at age 12 and is now gaining valuable hands-on experience at the law office of PLDW, under the guidance of Ms. Dupras, and recruiting more students around the state to get involved with the program.

"At first, I contacted several local law firms and no one would return my call or give me 15 minutes for an informational meeting," said Roy. "Rebecca and the entire PLDW firm welcomed me into the mentoring program, and changed my whole life. Not only am I learning about the various aspects of law and our legal system, I'm building professional relationships. This is a huge opportunity that I'm truly thankful for."

"Lauren is a bright and self-motivated high school student that has enormous potential, no matter what path her career takes," said Dupras. "I want to express my gratitude to PLDW who has

supported me throughout the ABA COS program. By encouraging bright students to pursue their goals in law, we are helping to ensure the dynamic future of our industry."

Ms. Dupras is an experienced lawyer in the practice areas of estate planning, estate and trust administration, and probate litigation. She earned her J.D. from Suffolk University Law School and is admitted to practice law in Rhode Island. Most recently, Ms. Dupras was appointed Vice Chair of the American Bar Association's Young Lawyers Division (ABA YLD), Committee on Public Education. The ABA YLD Public Education Committee focuses on increasing the public's understanding of and access to the legal system. Ms. Dupras is also a member of the Board of Directors for the Women's Center of Rhode Island.

For information about PLDW, contact PLDW Director of Administration David Sweet at 401-824-5100 or email: [dsweet@pldw.com](mailto:dsweet@pldw.com). For more information about ABA's YLD or COS programs, please visit <http://www.abanet.org>.

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#### **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, government relations, 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](http://www.pldw.com).