



Contact Info:

☎ 401-824-5156

✉ mlopes@pldostrategies.com

Northwoods Office Park
1301 Atwood Avenue, Suite 215N
Johnston, RI 02919

Matthew A. Lopes Jr., Esq.

Principal

Matthew A. Lopes Jr. is a Principal with Pannone Lopes Devereaux & O’Gara LLC. He is a nationally-recognized Special Master for the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of California, in the matter of *Coleman v. Newsom*, overseeing prison reform and compliance with orders of the Court concerning care of seriously mentally ill inmates. As Special Master, Mr. Lopes heads a team of deputy special masters, mental health clinical experts, mental health management/custodial experts, and monitors. Mr. Lopes’ work as Special Master involves addressing complex constitutional law issues relating to the Eighth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. He assists the court and the Coleman parties in the design and implementation of mandatory mental health screening, diagnosis, and treatment of more than 30,000 mentally ill prisoners throughout the 34 institutions within the California prison system. He also reports extensively to the Coleman court on his findings in the California prisons, as well as on other issues as ordered by the court. Mr. Lopes’ experience in court oversight of correctional systems extends back over thirty years of continuous work in the area of court-ordered prison reform, as a special master, deputy special master, and court monitor, in three additional major remedial correctional cases under the supervision of the United States District Courts of Texas, Georgia, and Rhode Island.

In addition to his practice as a Special Master, Mr. Lopes leads the firm’s Alternative Dispute Resolution practice and PLDO Strategies LLC, the government relations arm of the law firm. He has more than 30 years of experience in government affairs and legislative advocacy. Mr. Lopes possesses a unique blend of legal, analytical, and relationship skills, which he credibly employs in assisting clients with their government relations, lobbying and legislative/strategic planning needs. He combines legal expertise with a common sense and pragmatic approach to problem-solving and has a loyal and long-standing government relations client base, representing organizations ranging from Fortune 100 companies to nonprofit businesses, including organizations within the education, food service, health care, pharmaceutical, and transportation industries, among others.



Education

University of Pennsylvania Law School,
Philadelphia, PA

- J.D. – 1987

Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH

- A.B. – 1984

Certificates

Center for Dispute Settlement

- Advanced Mediation Techniques, 1999

Harvard Law School, Cambridge, MA

- Mediation, 1988

Bar Admissions

Rhode Island, 1988

Areas of Practice

Government and Legislative Strategies

Special Masterships and Alternative
Dispute Resolution

Honors and Awards

Best Lawyers in America

Cape Verdean Gala Hall of Fame

Casque and Gauntlet Sr. Honor Society

Clay Osborne Achievement Award, Music
One

East Providence Hall of Fame

Lawyer of the Year, Best Lawyers

Member of two Ivy League Co-Champion
football teams

Nine-time First Team All-State selection
in Track and Football—East Providence
High School

Providence Gridiron Hall of Fame

Rhode Island International Athlete

Scholar Hall of Fame

Fraternities

Alpha Phi Alpha

His proudest accomplishments include successfully advocating for the Council of State Governments (CSG) Justice Center's Justice Reinvestment Initiative to improve Rhode Island's criminal justice system through the enactment of legislation supporting rehabilitation and informed decision-making in sentencing, probation, and parole. Mr. Lopes also proudly served as part of a successful lobbying effort which advocated for the creation of a board of trustees at the state's flagship educational institution, the University of Rhode Island. He was also intimately involved in the successful Rhode Island 2020 ballot initiative to remove the centuries-old word "plantations" from the official name of the State of Rhode Island.

Having once interned for former Chief Justice of the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, A. Leon Higginbotham Jr., Mr. Lopes has also been inspired to promote and advocate for increased minority representation and diversity in the selection and appointment of Rhode Island's judiciary.

Mr. Lopes earned his J.D. from the University of Pennsylvania Law School and his Bachelor's Degree from Dartmouth College. He is admitted to practice law in the State of Rhode Island.

Professional Associations and Memberships

- American Bar Association
- NAACP Lifetime Member
- National Museum of African American History & Culture
- Potomac Coalition
- Rhode Island Bar Association
- Rhode Island Bar Association/Committee on Minority Involvement (Past Member)
- State Law Resources, Inc. (Board Member, Past Chairman)
- Top 100 National Black Lawyers
- Thurgood Marshall Law Society of Rhode Island

Public Service/Charitable Activities

- Amica – Board Member
- Boys & Girls Club of East Providence
- East Providence Heritage Days Committee
- Friends of Townie Athletics
- Jeffrey Osborne Foundation
- Rhode Island Public Expenditure Council—Board Member
- Ronald McDonald House Providence
- URI Advisory Committee to the Presidential Search Committee
- URI Presidential Transition Committee