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*Financial Services*  
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**INDIVIDUAL TAX RETURN PREPARATION ENGAGEMENT LETTER**

**Tax Year 2017**

**IMPORTANT: This engagement letter MUST be signed, dated and returned with your completed tax organizer to our office BEFORE we may begin any work on your individual tax returns.**

*-Place client label here-*

Please make any corrections below:

Client Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please read, sign and date on the last page.**

This letter is to confirm and specify the terms of our engagement with you and to clarify the nature and extent of the services we will provide.

We will prepare your **2017** federal income tax return, and income tax returns for your home state, if required, and any additional states as may be required (collectively, the “returns”). If there is a state tax return that you would not want to engage us to prepare for you, you will need to communicate that to us in writing prior to the preparation of your other tax returns. This engagement pertains only to the **2017** tax year, and our responsibilities do not include preparation of any other tax returns that may be due to any taxing authority, unless you engage us via a separate engagement letter for those other tax returns. Our engagement will be complete upon the delivery of the completed returns to you. Thereafter, you will be solely responsible to file the returns with the appropriate taxing authorities, unless you authorize us in writing to electronically file your tax returns on your behalf. In this regard, we will provide you the necessary forms that you may sign, date and return to our office within a reasonable time prior to the filing deadline.

Your returns may be selected for review by one or more than one taxing authority. Any proposed adjustments by the examining agent are subject to certain rights of appeal. In the event of such government tax examination, we will be available upon your written request to represent you during the examination and/or during any appeal. Any such representation will be the subject of, and governed by, a separate engagement letter.

We will prepare the returns from information which you will furnish to us. It is your responsibility to provide all the information required for the preparation of complete and accurate returns. We will furnish you with questionnaires and/or worksheets as needed to guide you in gathering the necessary information. Your use of such forms will assist us in keeping our fee to a minimum. To the extent we render any accounting and/or bookkeeping assistance, it will be limited to those tasks we deem necessary for preparation of the returns. In certain cases, your use of estimates without proper documentation to support your claim may not be acceptable to the taxing authorities. Under such cases, you agree to take full responsibility for those estimates and also agree to hold us harmless as to the inclusion of your estimates on your tax returns.

The timeliness of your cooperation is essential to our ability to complete this engagement. Specifically, we must receive sufficient information from which to prepare your returns within a reasonable period of time prior to the applicable filing deadline. Accordingly, if we do not receive information from you, as noted above, by **March 20, 2018**, it may be necessary for us to pursue an extension of the due date of your returns, although we continue to reserve the right to prepare an extension on your behalf regardless of when we received your tax return information. We also reserve the right to suspend our services or withdraw from this engagement at any time without recourse.

We will not audit or otherwise verify the data you submit. Accordingly, our engagement cannot be relied upon to disclose errors, fraud, or other illegal acts that may exist. However, it may be necessary to ask you for clarification of some of the information you provide, and we will inform you of any material errors, fraud or other illegal acts that may come to our attention.

You are responsible for maintaining an adequate and efficient accounting system, for safeguarding assets, for authorizing transactions, and for retaining supporting documentation for those transactions, all of which will, among other things, help assure the preparation of proper returns. Furthermore, you are responsible for evaluating the adequacy and results of the services we provide.

The law provides various penalties and interest that may be imposed when taxpayers underestimate their tax liability. You acknowledge that any such understated tax, and any imposed interest and penalties, are your responsibility, and that we have no responsibility in that regard. If you would like information on the amount or circumstances of these penalties, please contact us.

We may encounter instances where the tax law is unclear, or where there may be conflicts between the taxing authorities' interpretations of the law and other supportable positions. In those instances, we will outline for you each of the reasonable alternative courses of action, including the risks and consequences of each such alternative. In the end, we will adopt, on your behalf, the alternative which you select after having considered the information provided by us.

Without disclosure in the return itself of the specific position taken on a given issue, we must have a reasonable belief that it is more likely than not that the position will be held to be the correct position upon examination by taxing authorities. If we do not have that reasonable belief, we must be satisfied that there is at least a reasonable basis for the position, and in such a case the position must be formally disclosed on Form 8275 or 8275-R, which form would be filed as part of the return. If we do not believe there is a reasonable basis for the position, either the position cannot be taken or we cannot sign the return. In order for us to make these determinations, we must rely on the accuracy and completeness of the relevant information you provide to us, and, in the event we and/or you are assessed penalties due to our reliance on inaccurate, incomplete, or misleading information you supplied to us (with or without your knowledge or intent), you will indemnify us, defend us and hold us harmless as to those penalties.

We will also provide you with interim and year-end tax planning services on issues that you specifically bring to our attention in writing. Our ability to provide you with appropriate guidance on such issues will be entirely dependent on the timeliness, accuracy, and completeness of the relevant information bearing on the issue which we will rely on you to provide to us. Although we may orally discuss tax planning issues with you from time to time, such discussions will not constitute advice upon which we intend for you to rely for any purpose. Rather, any advice upon which we intend for you to rely, and upon which you will rely, will be embodied in a written report or correspondence from us to you, and any such writing will supersede any prior oral representations between the parties on the issue.

Our fees for this engagement are not contingent on the results of our services. Rather, our fees for this engagement, including tax planning, preparation of your returns, and any representation of your interests during an examination by a taxing authority and/or any subsequent appeal, will be based on our standard rates, depending on the level of expertise necessary in completing the engagement, and/or a rate per form included in the tax returns. In addition, you agree to reimburse us for any of our out-of-pocket costs incurred in connection with the performance of our services. You acknowledge that this range is not a limit to the total fees we may charge for our services, and that our fees may actually exceed that range. However, in the event that we encounter unusual circumstances that would require us to expand the scope of the engagement, and/or if we anticipate our fees exceeding the aforementioned range, we will adjust our estimate, and obtain your prior approval before continuing with the engagement.

Prior to commencing our services, we may ask that you provide us with a retainer. The retainer will be applied against our invoice, and any unused portion will be returned to you upon our collection of all outstanding fees and costs related to this engagement, or you may choose to have it applied to

your future billings. Our fees and costs will be progress billed or at the end of the engagement at our discretion, and are payable upon receipt. Invoices unpaid 30 days past the billing date may be deemed delinquent, and are subject to an interest charge of 1.50% per month. We reserve the right to suspend our services or to withdraw from this engagement in the event that any of our invoices are deemed delinquent. In the event that any collection action is required to collect unpaid balances due us, you agree to reimburse us for our costs of collection, including attorneys' fees.

If we elect to terminate our services for nonpayment, or for any other reason provided for in this letter, our engagement will be deemed to have been completed upon written notification of termination, even if we have not completed your return. You will be obligated to compensate us for all time expended, and to reimburse us for all of our out-of-pocket costs, through the date of termination.

You should retain all the documents, canceled checks and other data that form the basis of income and deductions. These may be necessary to prove the accuracy and completeness of the returns to a taxing authority. You have the final responsibility for the income tax returns and, therefore, you should review them carefully before you sign them.

In connection with this engagement, we may communicate with you or others via email and/or fax transmission. As emails and faxes can be intercepted and read, disclosed, or otherwise used or communicated by an unintended third party, or may not be delivered to each of the parties to whom they are directed and only to such parties, we cannot guarantee or warrant that emails from us will be properly delivered and read only by the addressee. Therefore, we specifically disclaim and waive any liability or responsibility whatsoever for interception or unintentional disclosure of emails and/or faxes transmitted by us in connection with the performance of this engagement. In that regard, you agree that we shall have no liability for any loss or damage to any person or entity resulting from the use of email and/or fax transmissions, including any consequential, incidental, direct, indirect, or special damages, such as loss of revenues or anticipated profits, or disclosure or communication of confidential or proprietary information.

It is our policy to retain engagement documentation for a period of seven years, after which time we may commence the process of destroying the contents of our engagement files. To the extent we accumulate any of your original records during the engagement, those documents will be returned to you promptly upon completion of the engagement. It is your responsibility to advise us within 30 days if you believe you did not receive all of your original documents back from us. The balance of our engagement file, other than a copy of your income tax return, which we will provide to you at the conclusion of the engagement, is our property, and we will provide copies of such documents at our discretion and if compensated for any time and costs associated with the effort prior to their release.

Because the income tax returns we are to prepare in connection with this engagement may be joint returns, and because in such case you will each sign those returns, you are each our client. You each acknowledge that there is no expectation of privacy from the other concerning our services in connection with this engagement, and we are at liberty to share with either of you, without the prior consent of the other, any and all documents and other information concerning preparation of your returns. We will require, however, that any request for documents or other information be communicated to us in written form. You also acknowledge that unless we are notified otherwise in advance and in writing, we may construe an instruction from either of you to be an instruction on your joint behalf. Absent a contrary written instruction in the future, from either or both of you, we will communicate with either or both of you at the mailing address as shown on the tax return to be

filed. We may also elect to communicate with either or both of you via other methods, such as by telephone, fax, or email.

In the event we are required to respond to a subpoena, court order or other legal process for the production of documents and/or testimony relative to information we obtained and/or prepared during the course of this engagement, you agree to compensate us at our hourly rates, as set forth above, for the time we expend in connection with such response, and to reimburse us for all of our out-of-pocket costs incurred in that regard. We may require a retainer and continued progress payments for these services.

In the event that we are or may be obligated to pay any cost, settlement, judgment, fine, penalty, or similar award or sanction as a result of a claim, investigation, or other proceeding instituted by any third party, and if such obligation is or may be a direct or indirect result of any inaccurate, incomplete, or misleading information that you provide to us during the course of this engagement (with or without your knowledge or intent), you agree to indemnify us, defend us, and hold us harmless as against such obligation.

You agree that any dispute (other than our efforts to collect an outstanding invoice) that may arise regarding the meaning, performance or enforcement of this engagement or any prior engagement that we have performed for you, will, prior to resorting to litigation, be submitted to mediation, and that the parties will engage in the mediation process in good faith once a written request to mediate has been given by any party to the engagement. Any mediation initiated as a result of this engagement shall be administered within the county of Middlesex, Massachusetts, according to its mediation rules, and any ensuing litigation shall be conducted within said county, according to Massachusetts State law. The results of any such mediation shall be binding only upon agreement of each party to be bound. Participating parties shall share the costs of any mediation proceeding equally.

Any litigation arising out of this engagement, except actions by us to enforce payment of our professional invoices, must be filed within one year from the completion of the engagement, notwithstanding any statutory provision to the contrary. In the event of litigation brought against us, any judgment you obtain shall be limited in amount, and shall not exceed the amount of the fee charged by us, and paid by you, for the services set forth in this engagement letter.

This engagement letter is contractual in nature, and includes all of the relevant terms that will govern the engagement for which it has been prepared. The terms of this letter supersede any prior oral or written representations or commitments by or between the parties. Any material changes or additions to the terms set forth in this letter will only become effective if evidenced by a written amendment to this letter, signed by all of the parties.

If, after full consideration and consultation with counsel, if so desired, you agree to authorize us to prepare your personal income tax returns pursuant to the terms set forth above, please execute this letter on the line below designated for your signature, and return the original of this executed letter to this office along with a completed copy of the enclosed tax organizer and the supporting documentation requested therein. You should keep a copy of this fully executed letter for your records. If this firm receives from you the original of this letter signed and dated, in fully executed form, then such receipt by this office shall be deemed to evidence your acceptance of all of the terms set forth above. If, however, this office receives from you no response to this letter, then this office may elect not to proceed to provide you with any professional services, and may not prepare your income tax returns.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and please contact us with any questions that you may have.

Very truly yours,

**Pilleri Romano, P.C.**

**ACCEPTED AND AGREED:**

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Print name \_\_\_\_\_

Date

Title (if any) \_\_\_\_\_

Joint Taxpayer (if applicable):

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Print name \_\_\_\_\_

Date

Title (if any) \_\_\_\_\_