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GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS ALERT

New Puerto Rico Political Campaign Financing Law Approved

On November 18, 2011, Governor Fortuño signed into law Act No. 222-2011, known as the "Act for the Oversight of Political Campaigns Financing in Puerto Rico" (the "Act"). The Act constitutes a major overhaul of Puerto Rico's political campaign financing laws. Among its most significant changes, the Act:

- creates the Office of the Electoral Comptroller, who is in charge of establishing an electoral audit system for contributors, media, advertising agencies, candidates, political parties and political action committees;
- creates the Office of the Contributions' Auditor and the Office of the Expenditures' Auditor in charge of investigating campaign contribution and expenditure law violations, respectively;
- establishes new, substantially higher contribution limits applicable to candidates, political parties and its state and local committees, and political action committees, by adopting federal contribution limits. Contribution limits to individual candidates, which were formerly \$500 per year in a non-election year and \$1,000 per year in an election year, are now \$2,500 per year;
- allows the formation by juridical entities of political action committees ("PAC") and establishes rules modeled after the federal PAC legislation; and
- establishes new rules and reporting requirements applicable to media and advertising agencies involved in political advertising.

A full version of the Act can be accessed [here](#).

If you have any questions or would like our assistance regarding this matter, you may contact any of the following members of our Government Affairs Practice Team:

Arturo J. García-Solá	787-250-5632	aig@mcvpr.com
Samuel Céspedes Sabater	787-250-2610	scs@mcvpr.com
Raúl M. Arias	787-250-2604	rma@mcvpr.com
Francisco J. Pavía	787-250-5670	fjp@mcvpr.com

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