



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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COMMENTS OF THE INSTITUTE FOR A DRUG-FREE WORKPLACE **ON THE NEW QUEST**

“More workers are getting hurt, and the impact on public safety and health is correspondingly greater,” said the Director of the Institute for a Drug-Free Workplace, an employment law firm Jackson Lewis.

“The Quest Diagnostics Drug Testing Program,” our law firm’s clients already know, is a program that identifies abusers in our workplaces and they are a part of many years of increasing success in the workplace. The trend has steadily and disturbingly increased, and we reevaluate and reinvigorate their drug testing programs,” said de Bernardo.

“Why the reversal?” Mr. de Bernardo said. “The Controlled Substances Act has been replaced by legalization statutes, public opinion has become more permissive, and employers are more likely to hire and retain workers who are not drug-free.”

“The DTI statistics for the last five years underscore the threat to employers – and employees – from drug abusers in our workplace. The numbers on hair testing – the methodology with the longest look-back and therefore a more telling measurement of regular use – show a 34-percent positive-rate increase for illegal drug use by the general workforce in the last five years.”

“However, all the numbers for various testing methodologies confirm this disturbing trend and should provide a wake-up call to employers to do more to combat workplace substance abuse and to do it more effectively,” he continued.

“On urine tests alone, there were more than 49,000 more employees testing positive in 2015 than in 2011 for illegal drug use, and more than 35,000 more employees testing positive for marijuana in the same period,” stated Mr. de Bernardo.

“Of course this is just for those being tested. What about those who are not subject to drug testing, are subject to testing using other methodologies, and/or who are subject to testing which is not as frequent or effective as it might or should be? The numbers are climbing, and the DTI results are just part of the picture.”

“For many employers, what you are doing now is not enough,” Mr. de Bernardo concluded.

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About the Institute for a Drug-Free Workplace

Founded in 1989, the Institute for a Drug-Free Workplace is a national coalition of major employers and employer organizations dedicated to serving the common interests of employers and employees in promoting substance-abuse-free workplaces.