



**MEDIA CONTACT:**

Grace Stanton

Stanton & Associates PR

303.246-3131 (mobile)

[gstanton@stantonpr.com](mailto:gstanton@stantonpr.com)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Partner Colorado Credit Union Announces Safe Harbor Services**

*Matthew Cochran Named as President of Newly Formed Company*

**ARVADA, Colo. (July 19, 2017)** -- Partner Colorado Credit Union announced today that it has created Safe Harbor Services, LLC, a company to sell and distribute its Safe Harbor cannabis banking program and appointed Matthew Cochran as its president. Sundie Seefried, Partner Colorado's CEO, will remain at the helm of the 32,000-member credit union and Safe Harbor's internal Colorado division.

"After long in depth contemplation, the Partner Colorado Board decided to launch its own company as a majority owner," said Seefried. "We want to expand the cannabis banking program nationally and help other financial institutions solve the safety issue of the unbanked cannabis industry. Appointing a separate president to run operations and expansion, will relieve the credit union staff from such a time-intensive and monumental task."

Safe Harbor's newly appointed president, Matthew Cochran, is a business and product development executive with more than 20 years of credit union and community bank experience."Building a team and launching Safe Harbor's cannabis banking program nationally is an exciting opportunity," said Cochran. "I'll be staffing the company over the next few months and launching a multi-state BETA test with banks and credit unions in September," he added.

The national launch of Safe Harbor is scheduled for the MJ Biz Conference, Nov. 14-17, 2017, in Las Vegas.

Safe Harbor offers a fully compliant banking program to cannabis businesses who previously found it difficult to open checking and savings accounts in federally insured financial institutions. The result was a law-abiding industry forced to pay its bills in cash creating risk and a community safety issue. Safe Harbor now banks \$80 million monthly from Colorado's cannabis businesses, taking that cash off the streets and keeping communities safer. Praised by regulators, industry leaders and legislators, including Congressman Ed Perlmutter as a "pioneering banking program for the marijuana industry," Safe Harbor has deposited, validated, reported and monitored over \$1 billion from Colorado's cannabis industry.

## **About Partner Colorado Credit Union**

Established in 1931, Partner Colorado Credit Union is a member-owned not-for-profit cooperative with total assets exceeding \$340 million. The credit union serves more than 31,000 members throughout the Denver metro area. Partner Colorado offers a wide range of financial products and services, including checking, savings, home and auto loans. Members benefit from the advantages of a credit union, including lower interest rates on loans and higher yields on savings. Partner Colorado actively supports the community by donating funds and employee volunteer hours to many Denver Metro area organizations. In 2016, the Mountain West Credit Union Association Foundation awarded Partner Colorado the Community Impact Award and the Philosophy in Action Award for its Safe Harbor program. The credit union is federally insured by the NCUA and is an Equal Housing Lender. For more information, visit [partnercoloradocu.org](http://partnercoloradocu.org).

## **About Sundie Seefried**

Sundie Seefried is CEO and president of Partner Colorado Credit Union located in Denver, Colorado. She has served in the credit union industry since 1983 and as CEO since 2001. She holds a bachelor's in business management from the University of Maryland and an MBA in finance from Regis University. At Partner Colorado, Seefried has focused on establishing a culture of service and sales excellence. Under her leadership, and with the support of the board and the staff, Partner Colorado was named to a top-10 list of Best Places to Work in Denver for eight consecutive years, from 2005 to 2012. Poised to retire in 2014, Seefried instead embarked on what has been the biggest challenge of her eventful career: designing and building a full-scope cannabis-banking program. The program she devised, tested and launched has not only withstood the scrutiny of federal and state regulators, it has succeeded financially. Just as important, by banking an industry that once had little choice but to execute all its transactions in cash, Seefried and her Partner Colorado team have made communities all over the state safer. Sundie also authored a groundbreaking how-to book on cannabis banking *Navigating Safe Harbor: Cannabis Banking in a Time of Uncertainty* and hosts a webinar series to address how credit unions and other financial institutions can help their communities and membership by offering a cannabis banking program. For more information, visit [safeharborprivatebanking.com](http://safeharborprivatebanking.com).

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