

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 4, 2011



Development Specialists, Inc.'s Geoffrey L. Berman Named President of the American Bankruptcy Institute

Industry Veteran Leads the Nation's Largest and Most Influential Insolvency Association as Risk of Municipal Insolvencies, Global Sovereign Debt and Japanese Natural Disasters Stand to Push the Country Back into Recession

LOS ANGELES, April 4, 2011 – [Development Specialists, Inc.](#) (DSI) announced today that [Geoffrey L. Berman](#), a Vice President in the firm's Los Angeles office, was elevated last Saturday to the position of President of the American Bankruptcy Institute (ABI). The American Bankruptcy Institute is the largest multi-disciplinary, non-partisan organization dedicated to research and education on all matters related to insolvency. The ABI was founded in 1982 and currently includes over 13,000 members. In fulfillment of its mission to provide information to its members, journalists, Congress and the public, the ABI has become the nation's leading provider of quality bankruptcy education programs and practices. Policy-makers on Capitol Hill have long relied on the expertise of the ABI for the evaluation of existing bankruptcy laws as well as efforts to improve the nation's bankruptcy system.

Mr. Berman has worked extensively with the ABI for 20 years, including serving on the Board of Directors since 2002, as the Vice President of Publications from 2007 until last year and as a member of ABI's Executive Committee since 2007. As a true leader in the industry, Berman has also been a member of the Association of Insolvency and Restructuring Advisors for 12 years and a member of the separate Los Angeles, Orange County and Bay Area Bankruptcy Forums (all members of the California Bankruptcy Forum) for over 30 years.

Mr. Berman draws on his over 35 years experience in providing financial advisory services to companies, unsecured creditors, secured lenders and other parties in bankruptcies, restructurings, turnarounds and out of court workouts to assist the wide variety of clients his firm routinely sees. Over the past several years Berman has also become an accomplished mediator and currently serves as a member of the Bankruptcy Mediation Panel for the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Central District of California and as a member of the Registrar of Mediators for the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Delaware. In addition to these endeavors and his thriving practice, Berman regularly finds time to speak and publish on matters of interest to the industry.

Among the many seminal publications articles and speaking engagements by Mr. Berman are the following:

Publications:

Co-Author, *Creditors' Committee Manual* (American Bankruptcy Institute Unsecured Trade Creditors Committee) (1994 and later editions)

Editor, *ABI Preference Handbook* (2002)

Author, *General Assignment for the Benefit of Creditors, A Practical Guide*, (American Bankruptcy Institute 2000) and *General Assignments for the Benefit of Creditors, The ABCs of ABCs*, (American Bankruptcy Institute 2006)

Editor, *Mediation Manual* (American Bankruptcy Institute 2006)

Articles:

"Priority of U.S. Government Claims in Non-Bankruptcy Proceedings: The Application of 31 U.S.C. Section 3713," Web posted and Copyright February 1, 2005, American Bankruptcy Institute and the *American Bankruptcy Institute Journal*

"The Receivership Alternative – A Response," (co-author), Web posted and Copyright August 1, 2001, American Bankruptcy Institute

Recent Speaking Engagements:

"Bankruptcy Alternatives: Receiverships, Foreclosures and Workouts—In Search of a Better Way," presented at the American Bankruptcy Institute's 17th Annual Southwest Bankruptcy Conference, September 2009, Incline Village, Nevada

"Non-Bankruptcy Alternatives for Distressed Healthcare Entities," presented at the Financial Lawyers Conference, January 2008, Los Angeles, California

As the President and voice of the American Bankruptcy Institute, Berman is active in the debate regarding the issues facing the U.S. economy as it pulls itself out of the deepest recession in recent memory. Berman remains confident that the ABI will be both a driving force as well as a source of reference for expertise on such new challenges as municipal insolvency, municipal debt restructuring and the impact of health care and entitlements as they continue to affect companies, consumers and the demands of state and Federal budgets

About Development Specialists, Inc.

[DSI](#) is a leading provider of management and consulting services on behalf of lending institutions, secured and unsecured creditors, shareholders, bondholders, and business owners. For over 30 years, DSI has been guided by a single objective: Maximizing value for all stakeholders. With our highly skilled and diverse team of professionals, offices throughout the United States and in Europe, and an unparalleled range of experience, DSI not only achieves that objective, but has also built a solid reputation as an industry leader. Development Specialists, Inc. offers turnaround and consulting services including crisis management, receiverships, as well as other fiduciary services. In addition DSI offers forensic accounting and litigation support services.

DSI is proud to announce the establishment of a new venture, DSI Civic, which is a joint venture with ASGK Public Strategies will provide financial advice to governments, municipal bond holders and others in the municipal finance arena. This new venture will be co-chaired by John Filan, the former Chief Operating Officer and Director of the Office of Management and Budget for the State of Illinois as well as Bill Brandt, the President and CEO of DSI. DSI Civic will offer advice on private-public investments and partnerships, bond financing, fiduciary services and financial restructuring to municipalities and governmental units experiencing fiscal difficulties.

For media inquiries, please contact:

Steve Victor, Vice President
Development Specialists, Inc.
312-263-4141