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## Alliance Benefit Expands Services/Poised for Growth

**Peoria, IL - February 2010** - Alliance Benefit Group of Illinois, one of the largest full service retirement plan providers in the country, is poised for solid growth in 2010 and creating a new position to oversee expansion of direct services to plan sponsors and their participants.

Patrick Bearss, who brings more than 30 years of finance, insurance and banking experience and expertise, will lead ABG's already proven management team as Vice President serving investment advisory clients with a specific focus on financial institutions.

"Bringing Pat on board is reflective of the firm's strength and growth. It's going to mean additional opportunities for our company to continue to expand, which means more opportunities for employment in Peoria," said John Blossom, CEO of Alliance Benefit Group of Illinois.

Alliance Benefit Group of Illinois, Inc. currently boasts 68 employees and provides recordkeeping, administration and investment advisory services to retirement plans with a total of more than \$1.5 Billion of plan assets. The new position will translate to future growth opportunities allowing ABG to continue to shape competitive retirement benefit programs that are delivered efficiently.

Bearss' new role represents a continuation of a business relationship that has developed over the past six years when Bearss served as Vice President of Trust and Financial Services for a Springfield-based bank. ABG served as the organization's third-party administrator and record keeper.

"A core business belief that we have is to help people retire well. With what's happened in the past two years in the investment world, people have a lot of concerns about their retirement nest egg, how to protect it and make it grow," Bearss said. "I think that's something we do very well."

A financial institution wholesaler for nearly 15 years, Bearss also brings experience as a bank investment representative and insurance producer.

### **ABOUT ALLIANCE BENEFIT GROUP**

*Alliance Benefit Group of Illinois is one of the largest full service retirement plan providers in the country with clients in 40 states. Headquartered in Peoria, Ill., it provides recordkeeping, administration, and investment consulting and advisory services to retirement plans with a total of more than \$1.5 Billion of plan assets.*

*The Peoria-based firm is part of a national network of independently-owned retirement plan consulting, investment advisory, health and welfare consulting and benefits administration firms that operate as licensees of Alliance Benefit Group, LLC. Collectively, ABG serves retirement plans with a total of more than \$13 Billion in assets and nearly 400,000 plan participants.*