



NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: *Christina Dakkak*
301-963-7555

Peoria Retirement Plan Professionals Receive Highly Regarded Designations

Peoria, IL (April 7, 2004) – Alliance Benefit Group of Illinois (ABG) is pleased to announce the designation of three of its top employees by the American Society of Pension Actuaries (ASPA) in the areas of retirement plan design. The recipients of these prestigious designations are Keely Nieu Kirk, Colleen Taylor and Stacey Hall.

Events over the past few years at many prominent companies have sparked an urgency to ensure company-sponsored retirement plans are designed in ways to allow for participant flexibility and ease of investment choice. The draining of participant accounts at companies like Enron and WorldCom have created a desire among retirement plan design and implementation professionals to seek accreditation and certification to demonstrate a high level of knowledge and understanding. The professionals at ABG are among that group of professionals.

Alliance Benefit Group of Peoria is proud of our new Qualified 401(k) Administrator (QKA) professionals who have achieved a high level of qualified retirement plan development and implementation knowledge.

Keely Nieu Kirk is the Manager of Client Services at ABG and is responsible for managing the conversion and client service teams. Ms. Nieu Kirk has been with ABG for six years and has been working within the retirement plan industry for ten.

Colleen Taylor is a Client Service Team Leader at ABG and supervises a team of client service associates who provide the primary contact to client relationships. Ms. Taylor will celebrate her 10-year anniversary with ABG in September 2004.

Stacey Hall is a Senior Client Service Associate in ABG's Consulting Department where she works with both defined contribution and defined benefit pension plan clients. Besides receiving the QKA designation, she has also received the QPA (Qualified Pension Administrator) designation. The QPA designation indicates that Ms. Hall is qualified to perform the technical and administrative functions of qualified plan administration.

"We are proud and excited that three of our professionals have received these distinguished designations," said John Blossom, president of Alliance Benefit Group. "It requires months of hard work and dedication to acquire the QKA designation. The designation is an indicator that a professional has met and surpassed the industry-

required standards. ABG is proud to have the designation represented by members of our staff.”

ABOUT ALLIANCE BENEFIT GROUP

Alliance Benefit Group, headquartered in Peoria, IL, has independently owned and operated offices in more than seventeen cities across the United States and provides retirement plan services for more than 3,200 plans with over \$4.8 billion under investment management. Alliance Benefit Group strives to provide employers with the “perfect plan” through knowledge and independence.

###