



**Berkshire Bank Promotes Commercial Lending Executive Matthew Emprimo to
1st Vice President of Commercial Lending**

Pittsfield, Mass., - June 30, 2011 - Berkshire Bank, America's Most Exciting Bank™, recently promoted Matthew Emprimo, former Vice President Commercial Loan Officer, to 1st Vice President, Commercial Lending. Based at the Great Barrington, Mass. Berkshire Bank location, Emprimo will continue to develop and implement all commercial lending strategies, including, expansion and performance.

Emprimo joined Berkshire Bank in August 1998 and has held positions as Mortgage Loan Servicing Representative, Credit Analyst, Commercial Lender Trainee, Commercial Loan Officer, AVP Commercial Loan Officer and, most recently, VP Commercial Loan Officer.

In his new role as 1st Vice President, Emprimo will focus on development and service of a variety of mid-to-large size loans based primarily in southern Berkshire County. In addition, he is responsible for business development in the region and will play an integral part in ensuring the successful merger of the Berkshire and Legacy commercial loan portfolios. His proven track record of success and building relationships in the community enable him to continue driving growth in the business.

Michael Ferry, senior vice president for Berkshire Bank commented, "Over the last 13 years, Matt has held roles of increasing responsibility and thrived with each promotion. We are confident that in his role of 1st Vice President he will continue to demonstrate a clear understanding of the needs of Berkshire Bank's customers."

Emprimo is a graduate of Bentley College with a Bachelor of Science in Economics and Finance and the American Institute of Banking with degrees in commercial lending, residential lending and general banking. Emprimo resides in Great Barrington, MA.

BACKGROUND

Berkshire Hills Bancorp is the parent of Berkshire Bank - [America's Most Exciting Bank\(SM\)](#). The Company has \$3.2 billion in assets and 48 full service branch offices in Massachusetts, New York, and Vermont. The Company provides personal and business banking, insurance, and wealth management services. Berkshire Bank provides 100% deposit insurance protection for all deposit accounts, regardless of amount, based on a combination of FDIC insurance and the [Depositors Insurance Fund](#) (DIF). The Company completed the acquisition of Rome Bancorp on April 1, 2011 and currently has a pending agreement to acquire Legacy Bancorp which is expected to be completed in July, 2011. For more information, visit www.berkshirebank.com or call 800-773-5601.

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