



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Berkshire Bank Promotes Three Members of Commercial Team in Pioneer Valley**

*Robert R. Chateauf, Steve Parastatidis, and Melissa M. Taylor*

**SPRINGFIELD, MA. – July 25, 2011** – Berkshire Bank, America's Most Exciting Bank<sup>SM</sup>, has promoted three experienced bankers to its Springfield, Mass. team at 1259 East Columbus Avenue. Robert R. Chateauf and Steve Parastatidis have been promoted to commercial loan officers, and Melissa M. Taylor to senior commercial credit underwriter.

Robert R. Chateauf has been with Berkshire Bank for 12 years, starting as an assistant branch manager in Southwick, Mass. He then became the branch manager in South Hadley and Westfield, managing over \$175 million in deposits before serving as the business development officer for the Pioneer Valley. In his new role as Commercial Loan Officer, Chateauf will focus on commercial and industrial loans and real estate transactions throughout the Pioneer Valley and Northern Connecticut.

Steve Parastatidis has also been promoted to commercial loan officer, covering Hampden, Hampshire and Franklin counties in Massachusetts, as well as Northern Connecticut. He specializes in commercial real estate, commercial and industrial, and not-for-profit lending. Parastatidis focuses on generating new loan business for Berkshire Bank and has six years of direct commercial and lending experience.

Melissa M. Taylor has been with Berkshire Bank since November 2004, starting her career in the South Hadley branch as an assistant branch manager before being promoted to bank manager for one of the Southwick branches. She then transitioned to commercial underwriter where her experience centers on commercial and industrial loans and commercial real estate loans.

"Robert, Steve and Melissa significantly enhance the bench of talented, experienced, customer-centric employees at Berkshire Bank," said Thomas R. Creed, senior vice president, commercial, Pioneer Valley. "They will each continue to make strong, positive impacts in their new roles."

Chateauf is a Massachusetts native, born in South Hadley, and graduated from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst in 2000. He is an active member of his community, being the second vice president of the South Hadley Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, and serving on the membership, executive and finance committees. He is also a member of the board of directors for the Center for Human Development in Springfield. Chateauf currently resides in Agawam with his wife, Shauna, and two sons, Evan and Bryce.

A native of Berkshire County, Parastatidis graduated from Western New England College in 2005 with a degree in Finance. Since that time he has been employed by Berkshire Bank and remains involved with the charity events sponsored by the Berkshire Bank Foundation. Presently, Parastatidis resides in Hampden, with his wife, Ashley, and son, Jack.

Taylor received a MBA from the University of Massachusetts in Amherst Isenberg School of Management in 2007. In May 2003, she graduated from Franklin Pierce University with a Bachelor of Science in Financial Management with a minor in Marketing. Taylor's extensive education provides her with a strong financial background to analyze and assess the trends of existing and new commercial borrowers.

## About Berkshire Bank

Berkshire Hills Bancorp is the parent of Berkshire Bank, America's Most Exciting Bank<sup>SM</sup>, and has more than \$4 billion in assets. The company has more than 60 full service branch offices in Massachusetts, New York, and Vermont providing 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). For more information, visit [www.berkshirebank.com](http://www.berkshirebank.com) or call 800-773-5601.

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