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**AMHERST PARTNERS ADDS DIRECTOR IN  
REAL ESTATE & DEVELOPMENT PRACTICE**

**Birmingham, Michigan (January 19, 2009)** Amherst Partners today announced that Mark S. Keister has joined the firm as Director in its Real Estate and Development Practice.

Based in Columbus, Ohio, Mr. Keister will focus on troubled real estate deals. He will focus his efforts on servicing lending institutions and assisting them workout of their troubled real estate portfolios.

Mr. Keister is a seasoned construction, facilities management and development professional, who understands development deals from the inside out. He specializes in marrying the vision of owners, architects and engineers with the pragmatic realities of serving the customer's needs, managing costs and making a profit.

In the course of his three decades of experience, Mr. Keister has become an expert in troubleshooting potential cost-overruns and managing costs. He has extensive knowledge of building codes and national and state regulations. Additionally, he is highly skilled in navigating regulatory and political approval processes and helping clients realize a positive return of their investment.

Mr. Keister is a member of the Builders Exchange, Building Industry Association, National Fire Safety Protection Association, Society of Value Engineering, International Code Council and National Association of Homebuilders.

**About Amherst Partners**

Since 1994, Amherst Partners has assisted middle market businesses by providing comprehensive merger and acquisition, corporate restructuring, and management advisory services. With offices in Birmingham and Ann Arbor, Michigan, Chicago, Illinois, and Columbus, Ohio, Amherst brings together skill in the merger and acquisition process, expertise in finance and operational management, and a network of local and global resources. Amherst is a member of IMAP, the world's largest M&A network.

For more information on Amherst Partners, please visit [www.amherstpartners.com](http://www.amherstpartners.com).

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