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**William A.  
Brandt, Jr.**

**Founder and Executive  
Chairman**

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*Bill Brandt has been in the business of workout, turnaround and insolvency consulting for almost 40 years and is widely recognized as one of the foremost practitioners in the field. He is the founder and Executive Chairman of DSI.*

### Professional Profile

For almost 40 years, Bill Brandt has been a fixture on the national stage in the fields of business, civic and political endeavors. A talented business strategist and political counselor, he is the founder and Executive Chairman of Development Specialists, Inc., better known worldwide as DSI and widely recognized as one of the foremost firms in the corporate restructuring industry. While Mr. Brandt and his firm have been and continue to be involved in some of the most celebrated and complex restructuring and insolvency matters in the arenas of business and government reorganization, the firm also lends its expertise to other matters in the broader economic and political realms. An example was its stewardship and resolution of the infamous Ohio "Coin Fund" scandal at the request of the Attorney General of the State of Ohio.

In 2015, Mr. Brandt finished his third consecutive term serving as Chair of the Illinois Finance Authority, having first been appointed by the Governor in 2008 and confirmed unanimously by the Illinois Senate that same year, and then subsequently reappointed as Chair in 2010 and



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## EDUCATION

B.A., St. Louis University, St. Louis,  
Missouri

M.A., University of Chicago

## AFFILIATIONS

American Bankruptcy Institute

California Receivers Forum

Central Florida Bankruptcy Law  
Association

Commercial Law League of America

International Association of  
Restructuring, Insolvency and  
Bankruptcy Professionals (INSOL  
International)

National Association of Bankruptcy  
Trustees

South Florida Bankruptcy Bar  
Association

San Francisco Bay Area Bankruptcy  
Forum

2012. The IFA is one of the nation's largest state-sponsored self-financed entities principally engaged in issuing taxable and tax-exempt bonds, making loans and investing capital for business, nonprofit organizations and local governments. Mr. Brandt, again by gubernatorial appointment, was also a member of the Illinois Broadband Deployment Council, whose mission is to ensure that advanced telecommunications services are available to all of the citizens of Illinois.

Mr. Brandt has advised Congress on matters of insolvency and bankruptcy policy, and in that capacity was the principal author of the amendment to the Bankruptcy Code permitting the election of trustees in Chapter 11 cases. He was involved in drafting several amendments to the Bankruptcy Code revisions enacted into law in April 2005 as part of the Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act, which substantially rewrote the nation's bankruptcy laws. Mr. Brandt has also just recently finished serving as a member of the Commission empaneled by the American Bankruptcy Institute to address the reform of Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code and the nation's corporate restructuring regime.

Referred to several years ago by one media outlet as one of the ten most influential political figures in Illinois, Mr. Brandt was a member of the President's National Finance Board during the Clinton administration, and was elected a Delegate from the State of Florida to the 1996 Democratic National Convention. During that decade as well, and upon the invitation of business and political leaders in the People's Republic of China, Mr. Brandt worked with various public policy, law and banking leaders in China on approaches to the reorganization and restructuring of some of that nation's state-owned industries. In 2000, he was a member of the Democratic Party's National Convention Platform Committee, and in 2002, he served on the Illinois Gubernatorial Transition Team, as well as on the State of California's business delegation dispatched to Cuba to discuss politics, business and trade potential. In 2008, Mr. Brandt was again elected a Delegate to the Democratic National Convention, this time from the State of Illinois.

As part of his longstanding commitment to higher education and to civic endeavors, Mr. Brandt chairs the National Advisory Council for the Institute of Governmental Studies at the University of California at Berkeley. He was a member of the Board of Trustees of Loyola University Chicago from 2007 to 2016, and is a Life Trustee of Fenwick High School in Oak Park, Illinois.

Mr. Brandt is also a member of the Board of Directors of The Honorable Tina Brozman Foundation for Ovarian Cancer Research (Tina's Wish).

Mr. Brandt served several terms as a member of the Board of Directors of the American Bankruptcy Institute, as well as also serving, for a number of years, as a member of the Advisory Board for that organization's *Law Review*. He is a member of the Board of Advisors for the ABI's annual New York City Bankruptcy Conference, having earlier served for 15 years in a similar capacity for the ABI's Bankruptcy Battleground West Seminar held each year in Los Angeles. Mr. Brandt was a member of the Executive Committee of the Bankruptcy Section of the Commercial Law League of America and served on their National Government Affairs Committee, as well as completing three terms as a member of the Board of Directors of the San Francisco Bay Area Bankruptcy Forum.

Mr. Brandt is active in the industry internationally, and is a member of the International Insolvency Institute, as well as INSOL, and was recently selected as a U.S. Participant in the

90-member cross-border consortium known as the International Exchange of Experience in Insolvency.

For almost 20 years, Mr. Brandt was a member of the private Panel of Trustees for the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Illinois, and briefly served as a member of the same panel for the Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Florida in the late 1980s.

Mr. Brandt has written for publications spanning a broad spectrum of thought, ranging from *Maclean's*, Canada's Weekly Newsmagazine, to *Directors & Boards*, *Corporate Board Magazine*, the *Florida Real Estate Journal*, and the *American Bankruptcy Institute's Law Review*, published in conjunction with St. John's University School of Law. He is the co-author of the "Due Diligence" chapter in the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of *Bankruptcy Business Acquisitions* published by the American Bankruptcy Institute. He is a frequent lecturer and speaker on topics of corporate restructuring, bankruptcy and related public policy issues and regularly appears on CNN, CNBC, CNNfn, Bloomberg, Canada's BNN, and the Arise America news network, as well as the CBS Radio and National Public Radio networks. He has been profiled and interviewed in a wide array of periodicals including, among others, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The New York Times*, *The International Herald Tribune*, *Business Week*, *The Miami Herald*, *The Chicago Tribune*, *The Boston Globe*, *Billboard Magazine* and *Bank Bailout Litigation News*.

Among many other professional and trade organization memberships, Mr. Brandt is a member of the National Association of Bankruptcy Trustees, the International Council of Shopping Centers and the Urban Land Institute. His biography appears in a number of reference works including *Who's Who in America*, *Who's Who in Finance and Industry*, and *Who's Who in American Law*. For well more than a dozen years, his firm, Development Specialists, Inc., has been rated as one of the Outstanding Turnaround Management Firms in the world by the publication *Turnarounds & Workouts*, and he is routinely listed on annual rosters of the country's top restructuring advisors. Mr. Brandt received his B.A. from St. Louis University and his M.A. from the University of Chicago, where he also completed further post-graduate work toward a doctoral degree.

[To view Mr. Brandt's extended biography click here.](#)

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