

WILLIAM A. BRANDT JR.

FOUNDER, EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN

Development Specialists, Inc.
Winnetka, IL



Since 1976, William A. Brandt Jr. has excelled as the founder and chairman of Development Specialists, Inc., a corporate restructuring firm recognized globally for its prestige in business management consulting. Possessing offices in numerous major cities throughout the United States, such as New York City, Chicago and San Francisco, Development Specialists also has an office in London. In his dual roles, Mr. Brandt collaborates with business owners, corporate management, financial institutions and creditors, among other individuals and entities, in making financial advisory decisions. Previously, Mr. Brandt served Melaniphy and Associates, Inc., WBBM-AM and Pyro Mining Company.

Lending his expertise to academia, Mr. Brandt has further served as a faculty member at the College of DuPage and Thornton Community College, as well as a visiting research associate at Harvard University. He is also a political and civic advocate who was a U.S. Electoral College member for the 2016 presidential election and a 2008 Illinois delegate to the Democratic National Convention. Most recently, Mr. Brandt excelled as the chairman of the national advisory council for the Institute of Government Studies at the University of California Berkeley between 2006 and 2018.

Likewise, Mr. Brandt formerly served as a member of the Illinois Broadband Deployment Council, chairman of the Illinois Financial Authority and advisory board member of Sociological Abstracts, Inc. He holds a BA in sociology and urban affairs, with honors, from Saint Louis University and an MA in sociology from the University of Chicago, where he also completed doctoral coursework, all but dissertation.

Throughout his career, Mr. Brandt has maintained involvement with high-profile restructurings, such as the Shape, Inc., industrial restructuring in Maine in the 1980s and 1990s and Southeast Banking Corporation in Miami. As a testament to his success, he received the 46th Leadership in Credit Education Award from the New York Institute of Credit in 2020 and the Magis Medal Award from Alpha Sigma Nu, the national Jesuit honor society. Mr. Brandt is a member of the American Bankruptcy Institute, the Commercial Law League of America and the International Insolvency Institute.