

For Immediate Release

Contact: Charlotte Brown
201-806-2205

The Altman Group Rated Number One in Proxy Solicitation Industry

New York, – In a recent survey conducted by Stockholder Consulting Services (SCS), Inc., and the Rutgers University Graduate School of Management, The Altman Group was presented with the TOPS Award as the highest rated firm in the proxy solicitation industry.

SCS's chairman and CEO David W. Pitou stated, "The Altman Group, a new entry, scored highest in overall satisfaction with a perfect 5.00 and won the 2004 TOPS Award. This is the highest score since we began the biennial survey." The 2004 survey provides a comprehensive, objective evaluation of proxy solicitors and was based on the responses of 148 publicly traded companies with approximately 30 million shareholders.

Other proxy solicitation firms included in the survey were Morrow and Co., Mellon Investor Services, Georgeson Shareholder, D.F. King, Mackenzie Partners and Innisfree M&A.

The Altman Group, founded in 1995 by Ken Altman, has long been recognized as the industry expert for public and private company bankruptcy plan votes. Since September 2002, the firm has significantly grown its existing proxy solicitation business, focusing on both corporations and mutual funds and adding over 40 experienced professionals, including many highly experienced executives from key competitors.

"I'm very proud of what we have achieved in the last several years and credit the fine work of our outstanding staff," said Kenneth L. Altman, founder and president of The Altman Group. "We have become a major player in the proxy industry within the past two years by. Adding well over 450 clients and winning the

2004 TOPS Award in that time stand as a testament to our senior level executives. I believe we won the TOPS Award because our most experienced people work directly with our clients and make client service their number one priority."

Altman executives with more than 10 years of proxy industry experience include Ken Altman (35 years), Charlotte Brown (25), Paul Schulman (18), Nick Bell (15), Paul Torre (15), Peter Casey (12), Herb Slatin (11), Warren Antler (10), Joseph Caruso (10), Joseph Contorno (10), Frank Valenzuela (10) and Thomas Nader (10).

Paul Schulman, an Executive Managing Director added, "The Altman Group is a very service-focused firm. We keep our ratio of clients to executives at about half of what we believe the industry average is. Our clients receive a high level of attention, experience and insight both from the front-line executive they deal with every day and from the staff who supports that person."

Joe Caruso, an Executive Managing Director of the firm, noted, "It was gratifying to see that the survey rated us higher than our competitors in virtually every major category. With very experienced executives providing the highest service levels in the industry and our newly expanded 175 seat call center, we have a unique ability to assist clients facing tough assignments that I don't believe our competitors can match."

The Altman Group handles annual and special meeting solicitations for corporations and mutual funds, provides broker search and distribution, corporate governance consulting, vote projections, shareholder identification services, as well as proxy fight strategy and campaign implementation.

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