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World Congress Leadership Summit on Mergers & Acquisitions welcomes Bass, Berry & Sims PLC leaders to program, March 20, Orlando, Fla.

Orlando, Fla.- March 20, 2012 – The World Congress Annual Leadership Summit on Mergers & Acquisitions is pleased to welcome [Bass, Berry & Sims](#) law firm members Angela Humphreys and Leigh Walton as program presenters during the two-day event.

Humphreys will serve as chairperson of the conference's second day and Walton will moderate the panel "For Profit and Nonprofit Joint Ventures, Tuesday, March 20, at 9:45 a.m.

The Leadership Summit on Mergers and Acquisitions convenes as nearly 80 percent of health care leaders say they have deals underway or will be exploring deals in the next 12 to 18 months, according to *Health Leaders* magazine. This is occurring due to health care reform, the 2012 election, and new delivery models – ACOs and PCMH. As a result, hospitals, health systems and physician practices are being forced to consolidate or form partnerships. Additionally, as private equity investors look for new opportunities in the global markets, health care continues to emerge as bright spot.

The "For Profit and Nonprofit Joint Ventures" session Ms. Walton will moderate will focus on the explosion of joint ventures between for profit and not-for-profit healthcare providers. It will explore the reasons for the increase in these types of collaborations, nuances that are peculiar to these types of joint ventures and some practical issues that arise when businesses of differing tax paying status try to work together. The panel will feature Peter M. Lawson, Executive Vice President, Development, Health Management Associates, Inc. and Keith T. Stroup, Esq, Senior Counsel, Thomas Jefferson University Hospitals, Inc.

Humphreys also presented on the March 19 panel "Familiar Meets the Unfamiliar – Transactions Across the Sectors," which explored different types of transactions occurring across industry sectors and why they are occurring. She was joined on the panel by Michael W. Grieco, Vice President, Finance, Mergers and Acquisitions, Gentiva Health Services.

At the M&A Leadership Summit, executives representing providers, plans, biotechnology and pharmaceutical companies, as well as leaders of private equity firms, investment banks and commercial lenders will learn how the latest health care trends are changing the types of deals being executed, the financial and legal challenges that have to be overcome and the results to date on deals that have been successfully executed.

About World Health Care Congress Leadership Summits

The World Health Care Congress Leadership Summit Series addresses the most cutting edge issues for health care executives across a wide range of industry sectors. Designed to expand on topics discussed at invitation-only summits during the World Health Care Congress, this series offers new perspectives on established methodologies, and detailed solutions to foster innovation and change. www.worldcongress.com

About Bass, Berry & Sims

Bass, Berry & Sims has distinguished itself for service to healthcare clients at every level, including service to hospitals, pharmaceutical companies, home health, and physician practice management companies. With more than 200 attorneys representing numerous publicly traded companies and Fortune 500 businesses, Bass, Berry & Sims has been involved in some of the largest and most significant business transactions and litigation matters in the country. For more information, please visit www.bassberry.com.