



**Dean M. Spear, *President***

Dean Spear formed The Benchmark Group, Inc. in 1998 as a specialized firm to offer business succession, investment banking, and financial advisory planning services for the owners of closely held businesses and individuals with high personal net worth.

Prior to forming The Benchmark Group, Dean was a Senior Vice President for The Mid-Atlantic Companies, Ltd., one of the nation's premier diversified financial services boutique concentrating on the middle market. Dean joined the firm in 1985 and was consistently a top producing director. In December 1997, First Union National Bank acquired The Mid-Atlantic Companies. After thirteen years at Mid-Atlantic, Dean formed The Benchmark Group, Inc. focusing on the same client-centric, professional services that were his trademark at Mid-Atlantic.

The last fifteen years have been an extremely rewarding for The Benchmark Group, as Dean has successfully recreated the type of environment that he knows best; a fully-integrated, full-service planning firm. The Benchmark Group is focused on comprehensive fee-based financial planning for business owners, entrepreneurs, highly compensated executives, and affluent retirees.

Dean is registered with the NASD and holds Series 7, 79 and 63 licenses.