



## Alera Group Expands Nationwide Footprint with Six New Acquisitions

December 22, 2021 10:00 AM Eastern Standard Time

DEERFIELD, Ill.--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Alera Group, a top independent, national insurance and wealth services firm, announced today the acquisition of six agencies: Ashbrook-Clevidence, Inc., Benefit Design Specialists (BDS), Erich Courant & Co, Heist Insurance Agency, Simkiss & Block and The D.B.L. Center LTD. Effective December 1, 2021, the addition of the new locations will bolster services and expertise across property and casualty insurance and employee benefits solutions.

Here's a glance at Alera Group's new locations:

- **Ashbrook-Clevidence, Inc.**, a full-service insurance brokerage providing innovative insurance solutions for a wide range of clients. Founded in 1927 and four generations strong, Ashbrook-Clevidence, Inc. develops lasting relationships with their clients and provides services ranging from employee benefits and property and casualty insurance to Medicare.
- **Benefit Design Specialists Inc. (BDS)**, a dynamic organization offering a range of services and products dedicated to a two-fold goal: delivering quality, and cost-effective employee benefit plans coupled with hassle-free benefits management for clients' HR departments.
- **Erich Courant & Co.**, a leading insurance agency offering property and casualty coverage in the Tristate area and throughout the country. An affiliate of Alera Group Northeast, Erich Courant & Co. was established in 1949, serving a multitude of markets and offering personal, commercial and specialty lines of coverage. The agency is headquartered in Maywood, New Jersey.
- **Heist Insurance Agency**, an independent insurance company providing excellent insurance services in Southern New Jersey and beyond. Heist Insurance Agency provides a variety of services, including personal insurance, business insurance, flood

insurance and condominium insurance. The agency offices are located throughout Southern New Jersey in Ocean City, Margate and Marmora.

- **Simkiss & Block**, a leading full-service insurance and surety brokerage, risk management consultant, and financial services partner for organizations large and small. Founded in 1964 and headquartered in Philadelphia, Simkiss & Block services the full spectrum of risk management and employee benefits, including corporate risk, surety bonds, employee benefits, private client insurance and private equity risk.
- **The D.B.L. Center LTD.**, a wholesale insurance agency specializing in temporary disability insurance and employee benefit plans. The DBL Center LTD. was founded in 1976 as a licensed insurance organization authorized to sell insurance in all 50 states. Throughout the agency's 45 years in business, The DBL Center has grown to expand its line of niche insurance products to include important corporate employee benefits such as long-term disability insurance, group life AD&D, vision and dental insurance. The company sells New York DBL insurance, New Jersey Temporary Disability Benefits (NJ TDB) and Temporary Disability Insurance (TDI) in Hawaii.

The teams at all six firms will continue serving clients in their existing roles in addition to working collaboratively across Alera Group's 120 locations. Their products, services and expertise will be available to Alera Group clients nationwide. Terms of the transactions were not announced.

#### **About Alera Group**

Alera Group is an independent, national insurance and wealth services firm with more than \$850 million in annual revenue, offering comprehensive employee benefits, property and casualty insurance, retirement plan services and wealth services solutions to clients nationwide. By working collaboratively across specialties and geographies, Alera Group's team of more than 3,000 professionals in more than 120 offices provides creative, competitive services that help ensure a client's business and personal success. For more information, visit [www.aleragroup.com](http://www.aleragroup.com) or follow us on [LinkedIn](#).

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