

# NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **GEORGETOWN HOSPITALITY PARTNERS, LLC**

Washington, DC | Atlanta, Georgia

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## **Financiers Lipson and Wright Form Georgetown Hospitality Partners**

### **Firm's Financial Services Leads Hospitality Asset Renaissance of 2011 With Active Pipeline**

Washington, DC – January 23, 2011 – Georgetown Capital Partners announced today that Michael I. Lipson and Jon S. Wright have formed Georgetown Hospitality Partners, a full-service funding platform dedicated to the hospitality sector. Georgetown Hospitality Partners (GHP) provides a complete range of debt, loan servicing and capital advisory expertise. Mr. Lipson and Mr. Wright, who have funded more than \$20 billion within the hospitality industry to date, are the Managing Partners of this active new venture.

“The business model of GHP is based on current market realities,” said Mr. Wright. “The hospitality industry is at a critical juncture, where operating performance is rebounding against a steady stream of loan maturities, limited new debt providers, and brand commitment to sustainability and growth. The future success of all assets requires reliable access to capital to ensure market share through enhanced customer experiences that drive long-term loyalty. GHP’s platform delivers the successful structure investors require as we emerge from these extremely challenging times.”

Established as an alliance with Georgetown Capital Partners, a 25-year-old firm which invests entrepreneurial capital in real estate developments and private growth companies, GHP provides entrée to the resurging hospitality industry. Georgetown Capital Partners is led by John C. York Jr., an executive and entrepreneur with more than 35 years of leadership in the financial services industry.

“Mike and Jon’s historical performance is unmatched, in my experience. Theirs is an ideal strategic pairing at this crucial point in the hospitality segment,” commented Mr. York when making the announcement. “GHP ideally fits our firm’s mission of creating value by building upon the strengths of our partners.”

Immediately prior to forming GHP, Mr. Lipson was president and CEO of Berkadia Commercial Mortgage, LLC, which was created from the mortgage origination and servicing business of Capmark Financial Group. Mr. Lipson shaped the face of hospitality lending when he founded Lexington Mortgage in 1992. Lexington’s origination volume and revenues led GMAC Commercial Mortgage (GMACCM) to acquire the company and establish it as their Hospitality Industry Division. Continuing to lead the Division for GMACCM, Mr. Lipson recruited the acumen of Jon Wright from InterContinental Hotels Group (formerly known as Holiday Inn Worldwide) in 1997 to create an Asset Backed Lending (ABL) Group for GMACCM.

Prior to working with Mike Lipson at GMACCM, Mr. Wright managed the hospitality franchise industry’s first captive finance division for InterContinental for nearly a decade. Mr. Wright grew the highly productive ABL Group for GMACCM for more than eight years before structuring the Group’s sale to a privately held bank in 2005. As president and Managing Director of this new entity, Mr. Wright branded it as Specialty Finance Group, LLC. Mr. Wright maintained Specialty Finance Group through July 2010, before rejoining forces with Mr. Lipson to establish GHP.

“Jon and I strongly believe the current market requires a reliable, responsible and knowledgeable capital platform to serve the resurgence of the hospitality industry,” said Mr. Lipson. “We are fortunate in the depth of our long-standing relationships with key players, investors and executives throughout the major hotel brands. Built over the course of many investment cycles and decades of industry growth, these invaluable relationships will allow us to make an immediate impact in the hospitality sector.”

Although the principals emphasize they are reviewing opportunities on a select basis, Mr. Lipson and Mr. Wright confirm they anticipate closing several transactions currently in their pipeline before the end of the first quarter of 2011.

For more information on Georgetown Hospitality Partners, please contact Jon Wright at GHP’s Atlanta office: Two Ravinia Drive, Suite 500, Atlanta, Georgia 30346; +1 678 885 7270; [jwright@georgetownhospitality.com](mailto:jwright@georgetownhospitality.com) or Mike Lipson at GHP’s Washington, DC office: 5100 Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 514, Washington, DC 20016; +1 202 244 5090; [mlipson@georgetownhospitality.com](mailto:mlipson@georgetownhospitality.com).

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## **ABOUT GEORGETOWN HOSPITALITY PARTNERS**

Georgetown Hospitality Partners is a full-service funding platform dedicated to the hospitality sector. The group's Managing Partners are Michael I. Lipson and Jon S. Wright, hospitality finance experts who have furnished more than \$20 billion to the hospitality industry to date in their careers. Georgetown Hospitality Partners (GHP) provides a complete range of debt, loan servicing and capital advisory expertise.

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