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**Cleveland Benefits Consulting Firm Named to Inc. 5000  
List of Fastest Growing Companies in America**

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**For Immediate Release:**

Employee Benefits International (EBI), a leading international benefits consulting firm that specializes in health and welfare, retirement, life and wellness, earned its place on the prestigious 2012 Inc. 5000 list for its rapid growth over the past three years. The Inc. 5000, which is published annually by Inc. Magazine, represents the most comprehensive look at the most important segment of the economy— independent entrepreneurs and businesses. It ranks the country’s top 5000 fastest growing, private companies and is an expansion of the Inc. 500.

Rankings in the Inc. 5000 are based on the percentage growth of a company’s net sales over a three-year period. With a growth rate of 147 percent, EBI helps employers in both the private and public sectors establish “top notch” benefit programs that fit into their budgets, according to Brian Hirsch, EBI co-founder and chief operating officer.

“We are extremely pleased to be named to the Inc. 5000,” said Hirsch. “Our growth is fueled by our loyal clients, both longstanding and new, who seek us out based on our reputation, innovation and expertise.”

EBI’s deep understanding of healthcare reform has contributed to its success, according to Hirsch. “Benefits were complicated enough before healthcare reform,” he explained. “Now, more than ever, companies, local governments and institutions need the right partner to help them navigate through this ever-changing landscape.”

According to Hirsch, EBI’s explosive growth has also been driven by its expertise in the public sector, its exclusive proprietary products and its innovative technology. “We have also placed a strong emphasis

on health and wellness programs that support our clients' healthcare strategies, which has become increasingly important,"

Companies named to the Inc. 500/5000 are key drivers of the U.S. economy. In a stagnant economic environment, median growth rate of 2012 Inc. 500/5000 companies remains an impressive 97 percent. The companies on this year's list report having created over 400,000 jobs in the past three years. An aggregate revenue among the honorees reached \$299 billion. "In today's challenging economic environment, this demonstrates the important role that growth companies play," Hirsch said. "We are honored to be among these companies who share our belief that constant innovation and quality service to clients are what drive our economy."

Complete results of the Inc. 5000, can be found at <http://www.inc.com/inc5000/list/2012>. More information about EBI can be found at <http://www.employeebenefitsint.com>.

*About Employee Benefits International:*

*Employee Benefits International provides comprehensive services to businesses and public institutions in the areas of health and welfare, corporate wellness, retirement, voluntary benefits, life insurance, and property and casualty insurance. EBI utilizes its expertise in claim analysis and industry performance benchmarks to develop solutions in step with its clients' corporate goals, expectations and requirements. EBI partners with its clients to customize insurance, benefits and wellness programs using its robust and efficient technologies and management tools. Founded in 2007, EBI is headquartered in Independence, Ohio and serves clients locally, nationally and internationally.*

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