



Berkshire Hills Names Richard R. Thevenet SVP Treasurer

Pittsfield, MA – February 6, 2013 – Berkshire Hills Bancorp, Inc. (NYSE: **BHLB**) today announced the appointment of Richard R. Thevenet, to Senior Vice President, Treasurer of the Company, effective February 11, 2014. Mr. Thevenet will report to Josephine Iannelli, Executive Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and be responsible for corporate treasury, capital, funding, interest rate risk management and overall balance sheet management strategies.

Ms. Iannelli stated, “I am pleased to welcome Rick to the team. His experience and expertise in the treasury function along with his analytical mindset allows for a strategic fit that will greatly benefit Berkshire. I believe he will be instrumental in optimizing our balance sheet management and helping us to provide competitive banking solutions with margins targeted to support our earnings objectives.”

In his career of more than 20 years, Mr. Thevenet has served as Treasurer of MasterCard International and MBIA, and as Assistant or Deputy Treasurer at Time Warner, Pitney Bowes, and PepsiCo. He joins Berkshire from M&T Bank where he was VP Enterprise Risk Management leading the Model Validation and Model Risk functions. Mr. Thevenet holds an MBA from the University of Chicago and a B.S. in Chemical Engineering from Lehigh University.

BACKGROUND

Berkshire Hills Bancorp is the parent of Berkshire Bank – America's Most Exciting Bank®. The Company has approximately \$6.0 billion in assets and 92 full service branch offices in Massachusetts, New York, Connecticut, and Vermont providing personal and business banking, insurance, and wealth management services.

FORWARD LOOKING STATEMENTS

This document may contain forward-looking statements as defined in the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. There are several factors that could cause actual results to differ significantly from expectations described in the forward-looking statements. For a discussion of

such factors, please see Berkshire's most recent reports on Forms 10-K and 10-Q filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission and available on the SEC's website at www.sec.gov. Berkshire does not undertake any obligation to update forward-looking statements.

CONTACTS

Investor Relations Contact

Allison O'Rourke; Vice President – Investor Relations; 413-236-3149

Media Contact

Ray Smith; Assistant Vice President – Marketing; 413-236-3756