

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM S-3  
REGISTRATION STATEMENT UNDER  
THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933

BARRETT BUSINESS SERVICES, INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Maryland

52-0812977

(State or other jurisdiction of  
incorporation or organization)

(IRS Employer Identification No.)

4724 S.W. Macadam Avenue  
Portland, Oregon 97201  
Telephone (503) 220-0988

(Address and telephone number of principal executive offices)

WILLIAM W. SHERERTZ

President

BARRETT BUSINESS SERVICES, INC.

4724 S.W. Macadam Avenue  
Portland, Oregon 97201  
Telephone (503) 220-0988

(Name, address, and telephone number of agent for service)

-----  
Copies to:

Miller, Nash, Wiener, Hager & Carlsen LLP  
111 S.W. Fifth Avenue  
Portland, Oregon 97204-3699  
Attn: Mary Ann Frantz  
(503) 224-5858  
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Approximate date of commencement of proposed sale to the public: From time to time after the effective date of this registration statement as determined in light of market conditions and other factors.

If the only securities being registered on this Form are being offered pursuant to dividend or interest reinvestment plans, please check the following box. [ ]

If any of the securities being registered on this Form are to be offered on a delayed or continuous basis pursuant to Rule 415 under the Securities Act of 1933, other than securities offered only in connection with dividend or interest reinvestment plans, check the following box. [X]

If this form is filed to register additional securities for an offering pursuant to Rule 462(b) under the Securities Act, please check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering. [ ]

If this form is a post-effective amendment filed pursuant to Rule 462(c) under the Securities Act, check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering. [ ]

If delivery of the prospectus is expected to be made pursuant to Rule 434, please check the following box. [ ]

<TABLE>  
<CAPTION>

CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

Title of Each Class of Securities to be Registered	Amount to be Registered	Proposed Maximum Offering Price Per Share(1)	Proposed Maximum Aggregate Offering Price(1)	Amount of Registration Fee
<S> Common Stock, \$.01 par value.....	<C> 157,443 shares	<C> \$14.00	<C> \$2,204,202	<C> \$667.94

(1) Estimated solely for purposes of calculating the registration fee pursuant to Rule 457(c) based upon the average of the high and low sales prices of the Common Stock on the NASDAQ National Market System on March 27, 1997.

</TABLE>

The registrant hereby amends this registration statement on such date or

dates as may be necessary to delay its effective date until the registrant shall file a further amendment which specifically states that this registration statement shall thereafter become effective in accordance with Section 8(a) of the Securities Act of 1933 or until this registration statement shall become effective on such date as the Commission, acting pursuant to said Section 8(a), may determine.

PROSPECTUS  
[GRAPHIC OMITTED]

BARRETT BUSINESS SERVICES, INC.

157,443 SHARES  
-----

COMMON STOCK  
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This Prospectus covers 157,443 shares ("Shares") of common stock, \$.01 par value per share ("Common Stock"), of Barrett Business Services, Inc. ("Company"), which may be offered for sale from time to time by the selling stockholders ("Selling Stockholders") identified under "Selling Stockholders" herein. The Company will receive no part of the proceeds of any such sales. Underwriting discounts and commissions will be paid by the Selling Stockholders. By agreement, costs of registration are being borne by the Company.

See "Plan of Distribution" herein for a description of the manner in which the Shares may be sold.

The Selling Stockholders and any broker-dealers who may participate in a sale of the Shares may be deemed to be statutory underwriters within the meaning of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended ("Securities Act"), and the commissions paid or discounts or concessions allowed to any of such broker-dealers by any person, as well as any profits received on the resale of the Shares if any of such broker-dealers should purchase any Shares as a principal, may be deemed to be underwriting discounts and commissions under the Securities Act.

The last reported sale price of Common Stock on the NASDAQ National Market System on April \_\_, 1997, was \$\_\_\_\_\_ per share. Prospective purchasers should obtain current information regarding the trading price of the Common Stock.

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THESE SECURITIES HAVE NOT BEEN APPROVED OR DISAPPROVED BY THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION OR ANY STATE SECURITIES COMMISSION NOR HAS THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION OR ANY STATE SECURITIES COMMISSION PASSED UPON THE ACCURACY OR ADEQUACY OF THIS PROSPECTUS. ANY REPRESENTATION TO THE CONTRARY IS A CRIMINAL OFFENSE.

The date of this Prospectus is April \_\_, 1997

#### AVAILABLE INFORMATION

The Company is subject to the informational requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act"), and in accordance therewith files reports and other information with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "Commission"). Reports, proxy and information statements and other information filed by the Company can be inspected and copied at the public reference facilities maintained by the Commission at 450 Fifth Street, N.W., Washington, D.C.; 500 West Madison Street, Chicago, Illinois; and 7 World Trade Center, New York, New York. Copies of such material can also be obtained from the Public Reference Section of the Commission at 450 Fifth Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20549, at prescribed rates. The Commission maintains a Web site that contains reports, proxy and information statements and other information regarding registrants that file electronically with the

Commission, including the Company. The address of the Commission's Web site is <http://www.sec.gov>.

This Prospectus is part of a registration statement on Form S-3 (together with all amendments and exhibits, the "Registration Statement") filed by the Company with the Commission under the Securities Act. This Prospectus does not contain all of the information included in the Registration Statement, certain parts of which are omitted in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Commission. Reference is made to the Registration Statement for further information regarding the Company.

#### INCORPORATION OF CERTAIN DOCUMENTS BY REFERENCE

The Company incorporates herein by reference (i) its annual report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 1996, (ii) its current report on Form 8-K dated April 2, 1997, and (iii) the description of the Common Stock contained in Exhibit 99 to the Company's quarterly report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 1994.

All documents filed by the Company pursuant to Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act subsequent to the date of this Prospectus and prior to the termination of the offering of the Common Stock to which this Prospectus relates shall be deemed to be incorporated by reference into this Prospectus.

The Company will provide without charge to each person to whom a copy of this Prospectus is delivered, upon the written or oral request of any such person, a copy of any or all the foregoing documents incorporated by reference herein (other than exhibits to such documents which are not specifically incorporated by reference in such documents). Requests should be directed to Michael D. Mulholland, Vice President-Finance, Barrett Business Services, Inc., 4724 S.W. Macadam Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97201, telephone (503) 220-0988.

#### THE COMPANY

Barrett Business Services, Inc. (the "Company"), is a leading human resource management company. The Company provides comprehensive outsourced solutions addressing the costs and complexities of a broad array of employment-related issues for small and mid-sized businesses. Its range of services and expertise in human resource management encompasses five major categories: payroll processing, employee benefits and administration, workers' compensation coverage, aggressive risk management and workplace safety programs, and human resource administration, which includes functions such as recruiting, interviewing, drug testing, hiring, placement, training, and regulatory compliance. These services are typically provided through a variety of contractual arrangements, as part of either a traditional staffing service or a professional employer organization ("PEO") service. Staffing services include on-demand or short-term staffing assignments, long-term or indefinite-term contract staffing, and comprehensive on-site personnel management responsibilities. In a PEO arrangement, the Company enters into a contract to become a co-employer of the client company's existing workforce and assumes responsibility for some or all personnel-related matters. The Company provides services to a diverse array of customers through a network of 24 branch offices in Oregon, California, Washington, Maryland, Delaware, Idaho, Michigan, and Arizona. It also has 21 smaller recruiting and staffing offices in its general market areas under the direction of a branch office.

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The Company was incorporated in the state of Maryland in 1965. The Company's principal executive offices are located at 4724 S.W. Macadam Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97201, and its telephone number is (503) 220-0988.

#### SELLING STOCKHOLDERS

The following table sets forth the name of each Selling Stockholder, the amount of Common Stock owned by such Selling Stockholder at April 1, 1997, the number of Shares to be offered by such Selling Stockholder and the amount and percentage of Common Stock to be owned by such Selling Stockholder after completion of the offering assuming all the Shares are sold. The Shares to be offered by Herbert L. Hochberg and Ladenburg, Thalmann & Co. Inc. are issuable on exercise of warrants ("Warrants") issued by the Company for services in connection with the Company's initial public offering of Common Stock in June 1993. Such Shares are included as presently owned in the following table. Ladenburg, Thalmann & Co. Inc., of which Herbert L. Hochberg is an officer, was one of the managing underwriters of the initial public offering. The remaining 67,443 Shares were issued in connection with the Company's December 1995 acquisition of Strege & Associates, Inc.

<TABLE>  
<CAPTION>

-----Common Stock-----

Name	Shares Presently Owned	Shares To Be Offered	Shares To Be Owned After Offering	
			Number	Percent
Herbert L. Hochberg	35,000	30,000	5,000	*
Ladenburg, Thalmann & Co. Inc.	60,000	60,000	--	--
Kenneth D. Strege and Carolyn S. Strege Living Trust	67,443	67,443	--	--

\* Less than 1% of outstanding Common Stock.  
</TABLE>

PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

The Shares may be offered from time to time by the Selling Stockholders in the over-the-counter market at prices and at terms then prevailing or at prices related to the then current market price, or in negotiated transactions. Certain of the Shares may be sold pursuant to Rule 144 under the Securities Act of 1933 rather than this Prospectus.

MISCELLANEOUS

No person has been authorized to give any information or to make any representation other than those contained in this Prospectus in connection with this offering and, if given or made, such information or representation must not be relied upon as having been authorized by the Company or any Selling Stockholder. This Prospectus does not constitute an offer to sell or a solicitation of an offer to purchase any of the Shares in any jurisdiction to any person to whom such offer would be unlawful. Neither the delivery of this Prospectus nor any sale made hereunder shall, under any circumstances, create any implication that the information herein is correct as of any time subsequent to the date hereof or that there has been no change in the affairs of the Company since such date.

PART II  
INFORMATION NOT REQUIRED IN PROSPECTUS

Item 14. Other Expenses of Issuance and Distribution.

The expenses of registration are being borne by the registrant as follows:

	<C>
Registration fee.....	\$ 667.94
Accounting services.....	2,000.00*
Legal services.....	5,000.00*
Miscellaneous.....	332.06*
Total.....	\$ 8,000.00*

</TABLE>

\*Estimated

Item 15. Indemnification of Directors and Officers.

Indemnification

Section 2-312 of the Maryland General Corporation Law (the "Act") provides that any director held liable for an unlawful distribution in violation of Section 2-311 of the Act or the corporation's charter is entitled to contribution from (i) every other director who could be held liable under Section 2-312 of the Act for the unlawful distribution and (ii) each stockholder for the amount the stockholder accepted knowing the distribution was made in violation of Section 2-311 of the Act or the corporation's charter.

Under Section 2-418 of the Act, a person who is made a party to a proceeding because such person is or was an officer or director of a corporation (an "Indemnitee") shall be indemnified by the corporation (unless the corporation's charter provides otherwise) against reasonable expenses incurred by the Indemnitee in connection with the proceeding if the Indemnitee is successful on the merits or otherwise or if ordered by a court of competent jurisdiction. In addition, under said section a corporation is permitted to indemnify an Indemnitee against liability incurred in a proceeding unless (i) the Indemnitee's act or omission was material to the matter giving rise to the proceeding and (a) was committed in bad faith or (b) was the result of active and deliberate dishonesty; (ii) the Indemnitee actually received an improper personal benefit in money, property, or services; (iii) in the case of a criminal proceeding, the Indemnitee had reasonable cause to believe that the act or omission was unlawful; (iv) the Indemnitee was adjudged liable to the corporation in a proceeding by or in the right of the corporation; or (v) the Indemnitee was adjudged liable on the basis that he or she improperly received a personal benefit.

As authorized by the Act, Article V of the registrant's Articles of Amendment and Restatement (the "Charter") provides that the registrant shall indemnify each of its officers and directors to the fullest extent permissible under the Act, as the same exists or may hereafter be amended, against all liabilities, losses, judgments, penalties, fines, settlements and reasonable expenses (including attorney fees) incurred or suffered by such person by reason of or arising from the fact that such person is or was an officer or director of the registrant or is or was serving at the request of the registrant as a director, officer, partner, trustee, employee or agent of another foreign or domestic corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust, employee benefit plan or other enterprise. Such indemnification continues as to a person who has ceased to be a director, officer, partner, trustee, employee or agent and inures to the benefit of his or her heirs, executors, and administrators.

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The registrant has entered into an indemnification agreement with each of its directors. Each such agreement provides that the registrant will indemnify the director to the full extent authorized or permitted by the Act or any other applicable statute or the registrant's Charter or Bylaws or any amendment thereof against any obligation to pay a judgment, settlement, penalty, fine or reasonable expenses, including attorney fees (any of the foregoing, a "Liability") incurred in connection with any claim (as defined therein), including a claim by or in the right of the registrant; provided that no indemnity shall be paid by the registrant (i) if a final decision by a court having jurisdiction shall determine that such indemnification is unlawful, (ii) on account of acts or omissions by the director which are finally adjudged to have been not in good faith or to have involved intentional misconduct or a knowing violation of law, or (iii) on account of Liability under Section 16(b) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 or any similar provision of federal or state statutory law.

Insurance

The registrant maintains directors' and officers' liability insurance under which the registrant's directors and officers are insured against loss (as defined) as a result of claims brought against them based upon their acts or omissions in such capacities, including civil liabilities under the Securities Act of 1933.

Item 16. Exhibits.

The following exhibits are filed herewith:

Exhibit	Description of Exhibit
- - - - -	- - - - -
4.1	Articles III, VI, VII and VIII of the registrant's Charter, as amended. Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3 to the registrant's quarterly report on Form 10-Q for the quarter

ended June 30, 1994.

- 4.2 Article I, Sections 2 and 10 of Article II, Article VI and Article VII of the registrant's Bylaws. Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.2 to the registrant's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 1996.
- 5 Opinion of Miller, Nash, Wiener, Hager & Carlsen LLP as to validity of securities.
- 23.1 Consent of Price Waterhouse LLP, independent accountants.
- 23.2 Consent of Miller, Nash, Wiener, Hager & Carlsen LLP (included in Exhibit 5).
- 24 Power of attorney.

- - - - -  
Other exhibits listed in Item 601 of Regulation S-K are not applicable.

Item 17. Undertakings.

- (a) The undersigned registrant hereby undertakes:

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(1) To file, during any period in which offers or sales are being made, a post-effective amendment to this registration statement:

(i) To include any prospectus required by Section 10(a)(3) of the Securities Act of 1933 ("Securities Act");

(ii) To reflect in the prospectus any facts or events arising after the effective date of the registration statement (or the most recent post-effective amendment thereof) which, individually or in the aggregate, represent a fundamental change in the information set forth in the registration statement;

(iii) To include any material information with respect to the plan of distribution not previously disclosed in the registration statement or any material change to such information in the registration statement;

Provided, however, that paragraphs (a)(1)(i) and (a)(1)(ii) do not apply if the information required to be included in a post-effective amendment by those paragraphs is contained in periodic reports filed with or furnished to the Commission by the registrant pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Exchange Act") that are incorporated by reference in the registration statement.

(2) That, for the purpose of determining any liability under the Securities Act, each such post-effective amendment shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.

(3) To remove from registration by means of a post-effective amendment any of the securities being registered which remain unsold at the termination of the offering.

(b) The undersigned registrant hereby undertakes that, for purposes of determining any liability under the Securities Act, each filing of the registrant's annual report pursuant to Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Exchange Act (and, where applicable, each filing of an employee benefit plan's annual report pursuant to Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act) that is incorporated by reference in the registration statement shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.

(h) Insofar as indemnification for liabilities arising under the Securities Act may be permitted to directors, officers and controlling persons of the registrant pursuant to the provisions described in Item 15 above, or otherwise, the registrant has been advised that in the opinion of the Securities and Exchange Commission such indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act and is, therefore, unenforceable. In the event that a claim for indemnification against such liabilities (other than the

payment by the registrant of expenses incurred or paid by a director, officer or controlling person of the registrant in the successful defense of any action, suit or proceeding) is asserted by such director, officer or controlling person in connection with the securities being registered, the registrant will, unless in the opinion of its counsel the matter has been settled by controlling precedent, submit to a court of appropriate jurisdiction the question whether such indemnification by it is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act and will be governed by the final adjudication of such issue. The undertaking of the registrant in the preceding sentence does not apply to insurance against liability arising under the Securities Act.

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SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, the registrant certifies that it has reasonable grounds to believe that it meets all of the requirements for filing on Form S-3 and has duly caused this registration statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, in the city of Portland, state of Oregon, on the 2nd day of April, 1997.

BARRETT BUSINESS SERVICES, INC.  
(Registrant)

By /s/ Michael D. Mulholland  
Michael D. Mulholland  
Vice President-Finance

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, this registration statement has been signed by the following persons in the capacities indicated as of the 2nd day of April, 1997.

<TABLE>  
<CAPTION>

Signature -----	Title -----
<S>	<C>
(1) Principal Executive Officer and Director:	
/s/ William W. Sherertz William W. Sherertz	President and Chief Executive Officer and Director
(2) Principal Financial Officer:	
/s/ Michael D. Mulholland Michael D. Mulholland	Vice President-Finance
(3) Principal Accounting Officer:	
/s/ James D. Miller James D. Miller	Controller
(4) A majority of the Board of Directors:	
ROBERT R. AMES*	Director
JEFFREY L. BEAUDOIN*	Director
STEPHEN A. GREGG*	Director
ANTHONY MEEKER*	Director
STANLEY G. RENECKER*	Director

</TABLE>

\*By /s/ Michael D. Mulholland  
Michael D. Mulholland  
Attorney-in-fact

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EXHIBIT INDEX

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4.2	Article I, Sections 2 and 10 of Article II, Article VI and Article VII of the registrant's Bylaws. Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.2 to the registrant's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 1996.
5	Opinion of Miller, Nash, Wiener, Hager & Carlsen LLP as to validity of securities.
23.1	Consent of Price Waterhouse LLP, independent accountants.
23.2	Consent of Miller, Nash, Wiener, Hager & Carlsen LLP (included in Exhibit 5).
24	Power of attorney.



MILLER, NASH, WIENER, HAGER & CARLSEN LLP  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW  
3500 U. S. BANCORP TOWER  
111 S.W. FIFTH AVENUE  
PORTLAND, OREGON 97204-3699  
TELEPHONE (503) 224-5858  
FACSIMILE (503) 224-0155

April 2, 1997

Barrett Business Services, Inc.  
4724 S.W. Macadam Avenue  
Portland, Oregon 97201

Subject: Registration Statement on Form S-3  
157,443 Shares of Common Stock

Gentlemen:

Reference is made to the Registration Statement on Form S-3 ("Registration Statement") to be filed by Barrett Business Services, Inc., a Maryland corporation ("Company"), with the Securities and Exchange Commission for the purpose of registering under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, 157,443 shares ("Shares") of the common stock, \$.01 par value per share, of the Company to be offered and sold from time to time by the selling stockholders ("Selling Stockholders") referred to therein. Ninety thousand of such Shares (the "Warrant Shares") are issuable on exercise of warrants held by certain of the Selling Stockholders.

As counsel for the Company, we are familiar with the actions taken by the stockholders and board of directors of the Company with respect to the authorization and issuance of the Shares. We have examined originals or copies, certified or otherwise identified to our satisfaction, of such corporate records, certificates of public officials, and other documents as we have deemed necessary or relevant as a basis for the opinion set forth herein.

Based on the foregoing, it is our opinion that (a) the Warrant Shares have been duly authorized and when (i) said warrants have been duly exercised and (ii) the Warrant Shares have been duly delivered against payment therefor pursuant to the terms of said warrants, the Warrant Shares will be validly issued, fully paid and nonassessable; and (b) the balance of the Shares are validly issued, fully paid and nonassessable.

EXHIBIT 5

Barrett Business  
Services, Inc.

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April 2, 1997

We consent to the use of this opinion in the Registration Statement and in any amendments thereto.

Very truly yours,

/s/ Miller, Nash, Wiener, Hager & Carlsen LLP

MILLER, NASH, WIENER, HAGER & CARLSEN LLP

CONSENT OF INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS

We hereby consent to the incorporation by reference in the Prospectus constituting part of this Registration Statement on Form S-3 of our report dated February 4, 1997, appearing on page 29 of Barrett Business Services, Inc.'s Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 1996.

/s/ Price Waterhouse LLP  
Price Waterhouse LLP

Portland, Oregon  
April 2, 1997

POWER OF ATTORNEY

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS that each person whose signature appears below constitutes and appoints William W. Sherertz and Michael D. Mulholland, and each of them, such person's true and lawful attorneys-in-fact and agents, with full power of substitution and resubstitution, for such person and in his name, place and stead, in any and all such person's capacities with Barrett Business Services, Inc., a Maryland corporation (the "Corporation"), to sign a registration statement on Form S-3 relating to the common stock, par value \$.01 per share, of the Corporation, and any and all amendments (including post-effective amendments) thereto, and to file the same, with all exhibits thereto, and other documents in connection therewith, with the Securities and Exchange Commission under the Securities Act of 1933, granting unto said attorneys-in-fact and agents, and each of them, full power and authority to do and perform each and every act and thing requisite and necessary to be done, as fully to all intents and purposes as he might or could do in person, hereby ratifying and confirming all that said attorneys-in-fact and agents or their substitutes may lawfully do or cause to be done.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, this power of attorney has been executed by the undersigned as of the 11th day of February, 1997.

Signature  
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Title  
-----

/s/ William W. Sherertz  
William W. Sherertz

President and Chief Executive  
Officer and Director (Principal  
Executive Officer)

/s/ Michael D. Mulholland  
Michael D. Mulholland

Vice President-Finance  
(Principal Financial Officer)

/s/ James D. Miller  
James D. Miller

Controller (Principal Accounting  
Officer)

/s/ Robert R. Ames  
Robert R. Ames

Director

/s/ Jeffrey L. Beaudoin  
Jeffrey L. Beaudoin

Director

/s/ Stephen A. Gregg  
Stephen A. Gregg

Director

/s/ Anthony Meeker  
Anthony Meeker

Director

/s/ Stanley G. Renecker  
Stanley G. Renecker, Jr.

Director