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Oxford-based Firm Named the 48th Fastest Growing Private Company in the U.S. by *Inc.* Magazine

Security Credit Services, LLC, with Three-Year Sales Growth of 4,696.1%, is the Only Mississippi Company Recognized on the *Inc.* 500 List

Oxford, Miss. -- *Inc.* Magazine today ranked Security Credit Services, LLC number 48 on its 29th annual Inc. 500, an exclusive ranking of the nation's fastest-growing private companies.

The list represents the most comprehensive look at the most important segment of the economy—America's independent-minded entrepreneurs. Companies such as Microsoft, Zappos, Under Armour, Jamba Juice, Visa, Oracle, and hundreds of other powerhouses gained early exposure as members of the Inc. 500.

"Fast growth at any time is a big achievement; fast growth during the past few years is just short of miraculous," said *Inc.* editor Jane Berentson. "The Inc. 500 consists of these just-short-of miraculous companies, the ones that through ingenuity and ambition have increased revenue, hired employees, and grown fast in difficult economic times."

The announcement of Security Credit Service's inclusion on the list is not the first time the company's founders have been recognized by the magazine. Security Check's rapid growth landed it on the Inc. 500 list twice – first in 2001 and again in 2002. The firm, which was founded by college friends William Alias, III and John Lewis, was the fourth-largest check collection company in the nation when it was sold to a private equity group in 2008.

Security Credit Services was formed in 2003 as a result of a search to discover new fast-moving revenue streams. Much like Security Check, the company positioned itself as a service company with the goal of upholding respect and dignity in its relationships with debtors and helping those individuals clean up their credit. Everyone is treated special and with dignity.

Since its inception, Security Credit Services has become one of the top five debt purchasers in the United States and has grown by 4,696.1 percent over the last three years. Currently, it manages portfolios of debt worth approximately \$2 billion.

The process works like this: Security Credit Services raises capital from individual investors and wealth management firms to purchase portfolios of delinquent credit card receivables from banks and credit card merchant companies, such as Bank of America, Citibank, Wells Fargo, JC Penney and Neiman Marcus. The company seeks resolution to delinquent receivables through sensitive,

persistent and polite collections, earning considerable returns for its investors and improving the credit rating of the debtor.

One of the company's key success factors is the ability to show compassion and understanding in its relationships with debtors. That goes a long way in collecting delinquent receivables. The company's management realizes that many individuals who have become delinquent on their accounts have done so out of misfortune or unforeseen circumstances, not out of intent to harm the merchant or bank.

In addition to helping more and more people nationwide clean up their credit history, Security Credit Services' growth also impacts individuals on a local level.

"The great thing about experiencing this rapid growth is that our need for exceptional employees increases too, thus creating jobs within the community. We're very proud of that aspect, especially considering the current state of the economy," said Chief Operating Officer Joan Rasberry.

The company is headquartered in Oxford, Mississippi and has an office in Atlanta, Georgia.

The 2010 Inc. 500, unveiled in the September issue of *Inc.* magazine (available on newsstands August 24 to November 16 and on Inc.com), is a group of companies that are smaller but much faster-growing than last year's crop. Aggregate revenue is \$11.3 billion—down from last year's \$18.4 billion—but median three-year growth is 1,231 percent, substantially up from last year's 880.5 percent. The companies on this year's list employ more than 45,000 people. Complete results of the Inc. 500, including company profiles and an interactive database that can be sorted by industry, region, and other criteria, can be found at Inc.com/500.

The Inc. 500 posted aggregate revenue of \$11.3 billion, down 39 percent from last year. Median three-year growth is 1,231 percent, up almost 40 percent over last year. The top five industries by total revenue are Consumer Products & Services (\$1.9 billion), Government Services (\$1.4 billion), Advertising & Marketing (\$1 billion), Business Products & Services (\$872 million), and Energy (\$661 million).

Methodology

The 2010 Inc. 500 is ranked according to percentage revenue growth when comparing 2006 to 2009. To qualify, companies must have been founded and generating revenue by June 30, 2006. Additionally, they had to be U.S.-based, privately held, for profit, and independent—not subsidiaries or divisions of other companies—as of December 31, 2009. (Since then, a number of companies on the list have gone public or been acquired.) The minimum revenue required for 2006 is \$80,000; the minimum for 2009 is \$2 million. As always, *Inc.* reserves the right to decline applicants for subjective reasons. The companies of the Inc. 500 represent the top tier of the Inc. 5000, which can be found at www.inc.com/500.

About Inc. Magazine

Founded in 1979 and acquired in 2005 by Mansueto Ventures LLC, *Inc.* (www.inc.com) is the only major business magazine dedicated exclusively to owners and managers of growing private companies that delivers real solutions for today's innovative company builders. With a total paid circulation of 712,647, *Inc.* provides hands-on tools and market-tested strategies for managing people, finances, sales, marketing, and technology. Visit us online at www.inc.com.