

*For Immediate Release*

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## **Brad Weaber Joins SmithBucklin as President of Courtesy Associates**

**WASHINGTON, D.C. – September 19, 2008** – SmithBucklin, the world’s largest association management company, announced today that Brad Weaber has joined the company as president of Courtesy Associates, the Washington, D.C.-based conference and event management firm owned by SmithBucklin. Weaber will lead the Courtesy team from the company’s D.C. office and be responsible for overseeing all aspects of the business, including ensuring the highest levels of client satisfaction, operational excellence and financial performance, as well as attracting, developing and retaining best-in-class employees. He also will serve as a member of SmithBucklin’s corporate management team. Weaber will begin his new role at Courtesy in early January 2009.

“Brad is a well-known and respected leader in the meetings and events industry and we are thrilled to have him join SmithBucklin to lead Courtesy Associates,” said SmithBucklin Chairman and CEO Henry S. Givray. “With more than 20 years of experience and the proven ability to successfully lead his teams, Brad will be able to leverage his extensive expertise to continue to provide Courtesy clients with unparalleled service excellence.”

This past June, the company announced that Courtesy President Sheila Stampfli, whose distinguished career in the meetings profession spans more than four decades, will be stepping down at the end of the year. Beginning in January, Stampfli will take on the role as Courtesy’s chief business development officer. While Stampfli is not retiring, she will relinquish many of her day-to-day management responsibilities for Courtesy in order to explore other interests, including travel and support of the arts.

“I am extremely pleased that Brad will lead the Courtesy Associates team to continue delivering unmatched service excellence to our clients and help build our business,” Stampfli said. “His leadership abilities, extensive experience, expertise and industry relationships will also help Courtesy sustain our position as the leader in our field, while also continuing to strengthen the strong relationships we have with our client organizations.”

Prior to joining SmithBucklin, Weaber served as executive vice president and chief customer officer of Experient Inc., a major conference and event management company which he joined in 1990. In this role, Weaber oversaw the company’s overall account management, as well as its sales division. He also served on the company’s executive leadership team.

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**Brad Weaber Joins SmithBucklin as President of Courtesy Associates**  
**Page 2**

Previously, Weaber was a director of convention services for the President Abraham Lincoln Hotel and Conference Center, formerly the Renaissance Springfield Hotel in Springfield, Ill.

Weaber is a Certified Meeting Planner (CMP), a member of the American Society of Association Executives and the International Association of Exhibitions and Events, and has served two terms as the DC chapter president of the Professional Convention Management Association (PCMA). He is also a current trustee of the PCMA Education Foundation. Weaber serves on the advisory boards of Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide, Inc. and the Vancouver Tourism Council, and recently served on the advisory boards of the Washington DC Convention & Meetings Advisory Board and the Hilton Hotel Corporation. Weaber has been a frequent media source and speaker, and has authored numerous articles on issues and trends in the meetings and events industry. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in business management from the University of Illinois at Springfield.

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**About SmithBucklin**

SmithBucklin is the world's largest association management and professional services company providing flexible, tailored full-service management and function/project-specific services to more than 225 trade associations, professional societies, technology user groups, government institutes/agencies and corporations. SmithBucklin's mission is to drive growth and build sustained competitiveness for client organizations. Founded in 1949, the company employs 750 professionals specializing in all phases of association activity including executive management, member and chapter administration, convention and trade show management, marketing and branding, Web services, education and programs, government relations and financial management. SmithBucklin manages more than \$275 million in annual client budgets from offices in Chicago, Washington, DC, St. Louis and Durham, NC. SmithBucklin is 100% employee owned. For more information, please visit [www.smithbucklin.com](http://www.smithbucklin.com) or call 1.800.539.9740.

**About Courtesy Associates**

Courtesy Associates is a recognized leader in the full-service conference and event management industry. Courtesy serves a wide range of clients in the government, medical, technical, association and corporate arenas, creating programs for audiences ranging from 50 to 10,000. Courtesy provides clients with a single point of contact and unparalleled expertise in vendor negotiation and management, logistics and planning (onsite, pre- and post-event), exhibit and sponsorship sales, budget development and oversight, theme development and event design, production, event marketing and fundraising, and site selection. Courtesy Associates is owned by SmithBucklin, the world's largest association management and professional services company with more than 750 employees. SmithBucklin is 100% employee owned. For more information, please visit [www.courtesyassociates.com](http://www.courtesyassociates.com).