

For Immediate Release

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Courtesy Associates Again Ranks #1 Among Washington, DC-Area Meeting Planners for 2006

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Jan. 24, 2007 – Courtesy Associates, a global meeting, conference and special event management firm that has been serving clients for over 59 years, has again been ranked the number one meeting and event planning firm in the Washington, DC metropolitan area by the *Washington Business Journal (WBJ)*. Published in the Dec. 15-21 issue of WBJ, the recognition marks the third time in the last four years that the publication has awarded the #1 spot to Courtesy.

“We are extremely gratified by this recognition because we take great pride in how our best-in-class professionals understand our clients’ industries and remain focused on delivering unmatched service and value,” said Courtesy President Sheila Stampfli. “We appreciate the vote of confidence from all of our clients who selected us to handle their national and international meetings, events and conferences during the past year.”

In 2006, Courtesy handled approximately 876 meetings and events (494 of which were in the DC metro area) with a total overall attendance of 174,000. Courtesy’s wide range of clients includes those in technology, medical, government and corporate arenas, including associations and non-profit entities.

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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.

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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 235 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 \$250 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 or call 1.800.539.9740.