

For Immediate Release

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Courtesy Associates Ranked #1 Washington, D.C.-Area Meeting Planner for 2007

Firm Secures Top Position Four Times in Last Five Years

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Jan. 9, 2008 – In its 60th anniversary year, Courtesy Associates was ranked the number one meeting and event planning firm in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area for 2007 by the *Washington Business Journal (WBJ)*. Published in the Dec. 14-20 issue of *WBJ*, the recognition marks the fourth time in the last five years that the publication has selected Courtesy as the #1 firm in its industry. Courtesy is a wholly-owned subsidiary of SmithBucklin, the world’s largest association management firm.

“We are tremendously grateful for this recognition that reflects our industry leadership and steadfast commitment to delivering outstanding service and value to all of our clients,” said Courtesy President Sheila Stampfli. “We share this honor with our clients. Through their continued loyalty and confidence in our abilities, we are able to consistently exceed expectations for their vital national and international meetings, events and conferences.”

In 2007, Courtesy handled approximately 937 meetings and events, including 538 in the D.C. metro area, with overall attendance reaching 189,300 people. Courtesy serves a wide range of clients in the 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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Page 2

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.