

*For Immediate Release*

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## **Courtesy Associates President Sheila Stampfli to Receive 2007 Women Who Advance Excellence in Associations Award**

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Sept. 11, 2007 – Sheila Stampfli, president of Courtesy Associates, has been named as one of two recipients of the 2007 *Women Who Advance Excellence in Associations* award from ASAE and The Center for Association Leadership’s Greater Washington Network. The award recognizes female association executives and industry professionals who have set the standard of excellence in their profession through leadership, mentoring and advancing associations primarily in the Greater Washington region.

Stampfli and co-honoree Ilsa Whittemore, associate executive director of Hospitality Sales & Marketing Association International, will receive their awards at the Nov. 7 “In Honor of Women” luncheon at the JW Marriott in Washington, D.C.

“Sheila Stampfli exemplifies what this award represents as a professional woman who has demonstrated remarkable success in her career while positively influencing the lives of others as a mentor, volunteer and leader,” said Susan Sarfati, CAE, president and CEO of The Center for Association Leadership and executive vice president of ASAE. “Sheila is a role model for women everywhere.”

Stampfli has been a leader in the hospitality industry for more than 35 years, and became president of Courtesy in 1997. Celebrating 60 years in the global meetings industry, Courtesy handled approximately 876 meetings in 2006 and was ranked the number one meeting and event planning firm in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area by the *Washington Business Journal* for the third time in four years.

A former president and secretary of the Washington Convention and Tourism Corporation (WCTC), Stampfli now serves as WCTC treasurer. She has also been a member of the board of directors of the Greater Washington Board of Trade, American Diabetes Association and Goodwill of Greater Washington, and is a member of the International Women’s Forum. A former chair of the Professional Convention Management Association (PCMA) Education Foundation, Stampfli also served on the foundation’s executive committee and co-chaired the 2002, 2006 and 2007 PCMA Professional Achievement Dinners.

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“It is a great honor to be personally recognized, but I share this award with the passionate people who make up my team,” Stampfli said. “Courtesy has continued to be a leader in our industry because of our staff’s dedication to our shared vision, which is to thoroughly understand our clients’ needs and deliver them unmatched service and value.”

Henry S. Givray, chairman and CEO of SmithBucklin, which owns Courtesy Associates, said, “Sheila’s passion and ability to add unparalleled value to her clients’ meetings and events are the true testaments to her leadership. Through the staff she has mentored and the commitment to excellence they share, Courtesy works each day to earn its position at the very top of the meeting and event planning industry.”

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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](http://www.courtesyassociates.com).

**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](http://www.smithbucklin.com) or call 1.800.539.9740.