

For Immediate Release

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Courtesy Associates Selected by the U.S. Office of Public Health and Environmental Hazards to Manage Department of Veterans Affairs Meetings

WASHINGTON, D.C. – July 15, 2009– Courtesy Associates, a global meeting, conference and special event management firm owned by SmithBucklin, was selected by the Office of Public Health and Environmental Hazards' Public Health Strategic Health Care Group (SHG) to provide conference administrative and logistical support for 17 Department of Veterans Affairs regional and national meetings that will take place throughout the U.S. until February 2010.

The Office of Public Health and Environmental Hazards' mission is to protect veterans' health through public health strategies, including surveillance and epidemiology; underserved populations; disease prevention, risk reduction, and health promotion; and public health policy. The Public Health SHG is one of five strategic health care groups within the U.S. Office of Public Health and Environmental Hazards. This group focuses on programs regarding HIV and hepatitis C, influenza, smoking cessation, health care quality, and surveillance and research.

Courtesy has already completed three of the 17 meetings, including one that began just a week after Courtesy was selected.

Courtesy Associates President Brad Weaber said, “We are honored to work with the Public Health SHG in managing its Department of Veterans Affairs meetings this year. We take this responsibility very seriously and will utilize our extensive expertise and resources to help the group achieve all of its goals.”

In 2008, Courtesy handled approximately 968 meetings and events (586 of which were in the DC metro area) with a total overall attendance of 202,500. Courtesy's wide range of clients includes those in the government, medical, technical, association and corporate arenas.

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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.

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 320 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 \$360 million in annual client budgets from offices in Chicago, Washington, DC, St. Louis, Durham, NC and St. Paul, Minn. SmithBucklin is 100% employee owned. For more information, please visit www.smithbucklin.com or call 1.800.539.9740.