

For Immediate Release

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SmithBucklin Appoints Leslie Thornton Managing Director, Courtesy Associates

WASHINGTON, D.C. – January 15, 2010– SmithBucklin, the world’s largest association management company, announced today that Leslie Thornton has been appointed to Managing Director of Courtesy Associates, the Washington, D.C.-based conference and event management firm owned by SmithBucklin. Thornton will be responsible for the day-to-day management of Courtesy, including oversight of Courtesy’s financials, operations and strategic management team. She will also work in collaboration with Courtesy’s director of sales on new business development initiatives and report to Brad Weaber, executive vice president of SmithBucklin, and president of Courtesy Associates.

“Leslie’s appointment to this new role was in recognition of her incredible business acumen, exemplary zest for exceeding client expectations and enviable stature in the Washington, D.C. marketplace,” said Weaber. “I am thrilled to be working alongside such a consummate professional.”

Thornton joined Courtesy Associates in 2003. She served as Courtesy’s director of strategic management since early 2009, where she focused on providing strategic management and direction for all Courtesy clients. She has also provided strategic management to seven association, nonprofit and government clients. Prior to this role, Thornton worked as Courtesy’s director of operations from 2003-2008, focused on resource allocations/staffing and internal operations. Since 2004, Thornton has managed Courtesy’s contract with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, which includes involvement with three full-scale terrorist preparedness exercises, Top Officials (TopOff). She has also been actively involved with Courtesy client, the Greater Washington Board of Trade, since 2004. In addition, since 2008, Leslie has managed Courtesy’s U.S. Department of Energy contract, managing multiple meetings for the Energy Efficient and Renewable Energy (EERE) division.

Prior to joining Courtesy Associates, Thornton worked for 10 years for the Wayne Smith Company in Washington, D.C. She holds bachelor’s degrees in sociology and political science from the University of Colorado at Boulder.

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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. For more information, please visit www.courtesyassociates.com.

About SmithBucklin

SmithBucklin is the world's largest association management and professional services company. Founded in 1949, the company provides full-service management and outsourcing services to trade associations, professional societies, technology user groups, corporations, government institutes/agencies and other nonprofit organizations. SmithBucklin's mission is to drive growth for its client organizations and provide uncompromised stewardship for their long-term prosperity. SmithBucklin offices are located in Chicago, Washington, D.C., St. Louis and St. Paul, Minn. and the *SmithBucklin + MCI Worldwide Partnership* provides client organizations with seamless association and event management services from more than 40 offices throughout the world. The company is 100 percent employee owned. For more information, please visit www.smithbucklin.com or call 1-800-539-9740.