

*For Immediate Release*

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## **Sheila Stampfli to Step Down as Courtesy Associates President and Continue in Key Business Development Role for Courtesy and SmithBucklin**

WASHINGTON, D.C. – June 11, 2008 – SmithBucklin, the world’s largest association management company, announced today that Sheila Stampfli, whose distinguished meeting professional career spans more than four decades, will step down at the end of the year as President of Courtesy Associates, a Washington, DC-based conference and event management firm owned by SmithBucklin. Stampfli will continue in a key business development role for Courtesy and SmithBucklin.

While Stampfli is not retiring, she will relinquish many of her day-to-day responsibilities for Courtesy in order to explore other interests, including travel and support of the arts.

Stampfli became president of Courtesy in 1997 and has played a major role in directing the national and international growth and development of the firm for more than 40 years. Under her leadership, the *Washington Business Journal* has ranked Courtesy the No. 1 meeting and event planning firm in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area four of the last five years.

Among her many recognitions, Stampfli has received the Restaurant Association Metropolitan Washington’s Duke Zeibert Capital Achievement Award and the 2007 *Women Who Advance Excellence in Associations* Award from ASAE & The Center for Association Leadership’s Greater Washington Network. She also was inducted into the Hotel Sales and Marketing Association International’s Hall of Fame for excellence in the hospitality industry.

“While it was a tough decision for me – and a decision that I’d been considering for some time – it has been a great honor to lead Courtesy for so long and to have established such strong relationships with the clients we serve – some who have been with us for more than 35 years,” Stampfli said. “I look forward to continuing to work with the passionate people who make up our team and to help us move forward as the industry leader by providing unmatched service to our clients.”

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**Sheila Stampfli to Step Down as Courtesy Associates President and Continue in Key Business Development Role**  
**Page 2**

SmithBucklin Chairman and CEO Henry S. Givray said, “It has been an honor and a pleasure to work with Sheila over the past six years. She is a trusted colleague and we all look forward to continuing to benefit from her unbridled energy and passion as she embarks on her new role in the company. Sheila personifies what is great about the SmithBucklin culture. She is relentlessly committed to exceeding her clients’ expectations, and she is driven by her devotion to service excellence and client stewardship. Through her commitment to mentoring her staff to produce unparalleled value to their clients, she has helped the entire team understand and live the ‘Courtesy Way,’ the special service- and excellence-focused culture that helps Courtesy achieve extraordinary things for our clients.”

Over the years, Stampfli has led a staff that annually manages more than 875 worldwide meetings, including international congresses, technical meetings and special events ranging in size from 50 to 10,000 attendees. The distinguished list of government, industry and association clients she has served includes the White House, IEEE (the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers), the National Institutes of Health, the International Society for Antiviral Research and an array of Fortune 500 companies. Among her recent achievements, Stampfli oversaw the 2008 HIV/AIDS Implementers’ Meeting co-sponsored by the President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) for 1,700 medical professionals from 70 countries in Kampala, Uganda.

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

SmithBucklin has retained Heidrick & Struggles, a leading executive search firm, to help identify candidates for the position of president of Courtesy Associates.

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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).

**Sheila Stampfli to Step Down as Courtesy Associates President and Continue in Key Business Development Role**  
**Page 3**

**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 225 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 \$200 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.