

For Immediate Release

Contacts: Randy Labuzinski/David Schulte
Healy & Schulte
312/765-8770
rlabuzinski@healyandschulte.com

Courtesy Associates Again Ranks #1 Among Washington, DC-Area Meeting Planners for 2008

Firm Secures Top Position Five Times in Last Six Years

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Jan. 7, 2009 – Courtesy Associates, a global meeting, conference and special event management firm that has been serving clients for more than 61 years, has again been ranked the number one meeting and event planning firm in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area by the *Washington Business Journal (WBJ)*. This is the fifth time Courtesy has earned this distinction.

“We are thrilled to be recognized for our work,” said Sheila Stampfli, Courtesy’s Chief Business Development Officer and past President. “We take great pride in serving our clients and consistently working to exceed their expectations. We truly appreciate this honor, and remain committed to adding great value to our clients both domestically and internationally.”

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 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.

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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 \$275 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.