

*For Immediate Release*

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## **Courtesy Associates' Sheila Stampfli Named Chairwoman of Destination DC**

**WASHINGTON, D.C. – June 9, 2009** – Sheila Stampfli, former president and current chief business development officer of Courtesy Associates, a global meeting, conference and special event management firm owned by SmithBucklin, has been named chairwoman of Destination DC, the city's official convention and tourism corporation.

Stampfli has been a member of the Board of Directors of Destination DC since the organization was established by business and community leaders in 2001 by merging the Washington, DC Convention and Visitors Association and the DC Committee to Promote Washington. Destination DC formally was known as the Washington, DC Convention & Tourism Corporation.

As chairwoman, Stampfli will support Destination DC and its staff in carrying out the mission of the organization. Destination DC focuses on managing and marketing Washington, D.C., as a premier global convention, tourism and special events destination, with a special emphasis on the arts and cultural and historical communities. Destination DC is a private, non-profit corporation with a membership of more than 1,000 businesses and organizations that support the DC travel and tourism sector.

Stampfli, whose distinguished career in the meetings profession spans more than four decades, stepped down as Courtesy's president in January 2009 and is now focused on leveraging her extensive experience and industry relationships to continue to develop Courtesy's new business opportunities. In 2007, Courtesy celebrated its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary in the global meetings industry.

"I am thrilled to represent Destination DC as its chairwoman because, now more than ever, we need to work together through these challenging times to emerge stronger for the future," said Stampfli. "By strengthening our partnerships with government and tourism offices throughout the city, we will help to ensure that the convention and tourism industry continues to thrive in the long-term, which is critical to the financial health of our city."

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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 15,000. 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 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, St. Paul, Minn., 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.