

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BKD, LLP Again Named ‘Best Accounting Firm to Work For’

Top 10 firm rises above economy, returns to list for second year in a row

SPRINGFIELD, MO. – Neal Spencer, **BKD, LLP** chief executive officer, announces BKD has been named one of the “Best Accounting Firms to Work For” in 2009 by **Accounting Today** magazine, marking the second consecutive year the firm has received the honor.

BKD is the highest-ranking Top 10 firm in the large category, and one of just two Top 10 firms to make this year’s list, which was compiled by **Accounting Today** and Pennsylvania-based Best Companies Group. BKD is no stranger to the esteemed list; the firm placed third in the large category in 2008.

“Receiving this distinction two years in a row isn’t a fluke, but rather a reflection of BKD’s **People First** focus,” Spencer said. “The firm’s emphasis on work-life balance, competitive benefits and career advancement has not wavered, even in the face of a fragile economy. As evidenced by their survey responses, our employees recognize and appreciate that ongoing commitment.”

The 2009 list consists of 100 firms divided into three groups: 20 small companies with 15-24 employees, 65 mid-sized companies with 25-249 employees and 15 large companies with more than 250 employees. BKD employs more than 2,000 personnel, including approximately 250 partners, based in 32 offices serving clients in all 50 states. With net annual revenue of \$405 million in fiscal 2008, BKD is the 10th largest accounting and advisory firm in the U.S., according to **Public Accounting Report**.

BKD was among a host of firms from across the country that participated in a two-part survey used to determine the Best Accounting Firms to Work For. The first part evaluated each nominated company’s workplace policies, practices, philosophy, systems and demographics. The second part surveyed employees about eight core areas: leadership and planning; corporate culture and communication; role satisfaction; work environment; relationship with supervisor; training and development; pay and benefits; and overall engagement. The combined scores determined the top companies’ rankings. Best Companies Group managed the registration, survey and analysis process before releasing the final rankings.



BKD, LLP

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The Best Accounting Firms to Work For program is designed to identify, recognize and honor the best places of employment in the accounting industry. To be considered, companies had to:

- Be a for-profit or not-for-profit business
- Be a publicly or privately held business
- Have a facility in the United States
- Have at least 15 employees in the United States
- Be in business for a minimum of one year
- Be an accounting firm

For a full list of the Best Accounting Firms to Work For, see the December 14, 2009, issue of **Accounting Today** or visit http://bestaccountingfirmstoworkfor.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=54.

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About BKD

BKD is the top-tier U.S. CPA and advisory firm that delivers its experience and service with a deep understanding of your business, your needs and what it takes to improve your business performance. **BKD**'s approximately 2,000 personnel, including approximately 250 partners, are based in 32 offices serving clients in 50 states. To learn more, visit www.bkd.com.

Praxity, AISBL, a global alliance of independent firms, enhances **BKD**'s ability to serve the dynamic needs of multinational clients. Praxity™ provides the gateway to tax, assurance and consulting services delivered by alliance firms committed to the highest standards required in international business.

About Accounting Today and SourceMedia, Inc.

SourceMedia's **Accounting Today** has served as the premier news vehicle for the nation's tax and accounting community since 1987. Regular coverage includes news and features surrounding tax-law changes, regulatory and legislative updates, technology, financial planning, practice management, mergers and acquisitions and international developments. **Accounting Today**'s readership encompasses one of the widest demographics of any publication in the field, from the sole practitioner to national firms and, ultimately, the Big Four. SourceMedia, an Investcorp company, provides market information, including news, analysis and insight to the financial services and related industries through its publications, industry-standard data applications, seminars and conferences.