

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BKD, LLP Names Human Resources Director

Julie Cummings to join firm January 11

SPRINGFIELD, MO. – Neal Spencer, **BKD, LLP** chief executive officer, announces Julie Cummings as the firm’s human resources director, effective January 11, 2010.

Cummings is currently vice president of HR for Metropolitan National Bank in Springfield. Prior to working in the banking field, Cummings spent time in the manufacturing and distribution sectors. She held numerous positions at Wisconsin-based Schreiber Foods Inc., the world’s largest privately held processed/natural cheese manufacturer, and served as corporate HR manager at Ozarks Coca-Cola/Dr Pepper Bottling Co. in Springfield.

An outstanding communicator, Cummings has worked for companies operating in multiple states and is knowledgeable about state-to-state variations in employment law and regulations. She also has experience supervising HR and policy matters associated with corporate acquisitions. Since June 2008, BKD has acquired three Mississippi firms and one each in Dallas and San Antonio and is now the 10th largest accounting and advisory firm in the U.S. with net annual revenue of \$405 million.

At BKD, Cummings will administer the firm’s competitive **People First** compensation and benefits package and lead recruitment and retention programs. One of her first responsibilities will be to evaluate the firm’s HR strategy and offer recommendations for strengthening cohesiveness and communication.

“Julie has a strong technical background, impressive interpersonal skills and a deep commitment to employee education,” Spencer said. “With more than 2,000 personnel based in 32 offices, our firm’s personnel needs are many. I’m proud to announce those responsibilities will soon be in Julie’s capable hands.”

Cummings obtained her Senior Professional of Human Resources Certification in May 1999 and remains a member of the Society of Human Resources Management. She also serves on the board of directors of the Springfield Area Human Resources Association and has a master’s degree in business administration from Missouri State University.

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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.

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