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Independent Insurance Agents of Texas names Mark Bridges Young Agent of the Year

AMARILLO, TX – June 17, 2009 – The Independent Insurance Agents of Texas (IIAT) is proud to announce Mark Bridges, producer at Edmond, Deaton and Stephens in Amarillo has been named the André P. Juneau Young Agent of the Year at the 112th Annual Conference & Trade Show. This award is given annually to a young agent in Texas who has achieved success through hard work, community engagement and industry participation in a manner that would be considered exceptional for a person of his or her age.

“As a third-generation Texas independent insurance agent, Bridges has the drive and passion to succeed,” said IIAT President Garry Kaufman. “He is not only a champion of the insurance industry, but a leader in the local community.”

After earning his bachelor degree in insurance from Baylor University in 1994, he began his career with The Millers Group in Fort Worth, working in a variety of departments and helping Millers launch a new software company. But he was never far from his roots in the Panhandle.

In 2004, while earning his MBA from Texas Christian University, he made the decision to branch out on his own by opening up an Amarillo office for Duncan, Fraser and Bridges. Within three years, he helped double the size of the organization, taking it from being virtually unknown to being among the top three largest agencies in Amarillo.

Currently, Bridges runs the agency’s sales meetings, working with nine other producers and is in charge of developing a new sales process for Duncan, Fraser and Bridges. Bridges will be inducted as principal of the agency in January of 2010.

Active in numerous local and state association activities, Bridges has served as a board member of the Independent Insurance Agents of the Panhandle for four years and currently serves as president. He is a co-developer of the Producer Development Program for Combined Agents of America. He also is active in the local community, serving as chairman of the board for Leadership Amarillo & Canyon (LAC) and Teen Leadership Amarillo. Bridges has also been involved with the Downtown Amarillo Rotary Club and Habitat for Humanity.

“Mark’s honesty, integrity and hard work make him the ideal candidate for the Young Agent honor,” said Kaufman.

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About IIAT

The Independent Insurance Agents of Texas (IIAT) is the nation’s largest state association of Trusted Choice® agencies. IIAT represents approximately 1,800 agencies and more than 15,000 agents and insurance professionals. Trusted Choice® independent agents represent multiple insurance companies. Since they are not employees of any single insurance company, they are advocates for insurance consumers helping them comparison shop for cost-effective and customized coverage. IIAT is also affiliated with the Independent Insurance Agents & Brokers of America and works with legislative, regulatory and judicial bodies in Texas on behalf of independent insurance agents across the state. More information on IIAT can be found online at iiat.org.