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AKERS & ARNEY NAMED ONE OF TOP INDEPENDENT INSURANCE AGENCIES IN U.S. BY IIABA

Branson, MO –Akers & Arney of Branson, Missouri has been selected for the 9th year as one of the top independent insurance agencies in the country by the Independent Insurance Agents & Brokers of America (IIABA). Akers & Arney was chosen from a field of 800 nominees to receive the IIABA’s 2008 “**Best Practices Agency**” award and is participating in the IIABA’s elite **Best Practices Study Group**. Akers & Arney was one of 195 agencies nationwide and one of only three agencies in Missouri chosen to receive the award and participate in the study this year.

An IIABA affiliated state association or an insurance company must first nominate the agency which then must qualify based on outstanding customer services, growth, stability and financial management. To be chosen as a “**Best Practices Agency**,” Akers & Arney was deemed to be among the top 25-35 performing agencies in one of six revenue categories.

Each year the IIABA and Reagan Consulting, an Atlanta-based management consulting firm, join forces to study the country’s leading agencies in six revenue categories. The agencies comprising the study groups are selected every third year through a comprehensive nomination and qualifying process and awarded a “**Best Practices Agency**” designation. The selected “Best Practices” agencies retain their status during the three-year cycle by submitting extensive financial and operational data for review each year.

The **Best Practices Study** was initiated by IIABA in 1993 as the foundation for efforts to improve agency performance. The annual survey and study of leading independent insurance agencies documents the business practices of the “best” agencies and urges others to adopt similar practices.

The 2008 **Best Practices Study** sponsors include Applied Systems, Central Insurance Companies, Chubb, EMC Insurance Companies, ENCOMPASS Insurance, Harleysville, Imperial AI

Credit Companies, InsurBanc, The Hanover Insurance Group, The Main Street America Group, MetLife Auto & Home, Ohio Casualty, Safeco, and Zurich.

Akers & Arney

Akers & Arney has been providing insurance solutions to businesses and families in the Tri-Lakes area since 1952. IIABA named Akers & Arney the number one agency in its size category in the country in 2005. Akers & Arney is a member of Sitkins International™, an elite membership organization comprised of the top insurance agencies in the country.

A few of the many services Akers & Arney offers businesses are property and liability protection, employee health and life benefits, bonds, and workers' compensation insurance. They also offer a full range of risk reducing services and solutions, as well as benefits cost reduction strategies to help lower operating costs and increase profitability.

Akers & Arney also offers a full line of auto, home, boat, RV, and individual health and life plans. Their agents, who have over 250 years of combined experience, live in the Tri-Lakes area and are available to assist clients with claims 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Akers & Arney is located at 201 Buccaneer Blvd. next to the Branson Junior High School in the Corporate Summit. Call (417) 334-5115 or visit www.akersandarney.com.

IIABA

Founded in 1896, IIABA is the nation's oldest and largest national association of independent insurance agents and brokers, representing a network of more than 300,000 agents, brokers and their employees nationally. IIABA's members are businesses that offer customers a choice of policies from a variety of insurance companies. Independent agents and brokers offer all lines of insurance – property, casualty, life and health – as well as employee benefit plans and retirement products. Visit IIABA online at www.independentagent.com.