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**CAA NAMES TOP FOUR INSURANCE COMPANY PARTNERS**

*CAA Partnership with Central Yields 2009 Premium Growth*

**AUSTIN, Texas, December 22** -- Combined Agents of America, LLC (CAA) is proud to announce Central Insurance Companies, Texas Mutual Insurance Company, Travelers Insurance, and The Hartford have named the 2009 "Top Four Company Partners" at its quarterly board meeting December 9-10 Bastrop, Texas. Additionally, CAA announced an over ten percent premium growth with Central Insurance in 2009. With recent expansion into Oklahoma and Kansas, Texas-based CAA is a managing general agency (MGA) committed to further expansion across the country to strengthen the independent insurance agency system through profitable growth and exceptional service for its member agencies.

"CAA is pleased to honor its 2009 'Top Four Company Partners' because of what their personal and professional relationships mean to our organization, our 44 agencies and our customers," said Bill Bridges, CAA chairman and executive vice president of Duncan, Fraser & Bridges (Pampa, TX). "These four insurance companies -- Central, Travelers, Texas Mutual and the Hartford -- out of the over 100 companies we work with, were the most accessible and eager to meet the needs of our agencies in 2009. These partnerships empower CAA to collect a lot of wins for our customers, and we're looking forward to a lot more Ws in 2010."

This "Top Four Company Partners" award is given to the four companies that CAA placed the most written premiums with out of the over 100 standard insurance companies it represented in 2009. CAA projects that it will place over \$400 million in written premiums in 2009.

"CAA is the largest group of agents that our entire company deals with and our relationship is not just a business relationship, but a personal relationship. Across the country there are a lot of companies trying to do what CAA does, but I haven't found anyone that does a better job than this very unique and successful organization," said Edward R. Buhl, Senior Vice President of Central Insurance Companies, while in attendance at the CAA quarterly board meeting. "CAA members have done a great job for Central Insurance in terms of increasing premiums, profits and writing of business throughout the entire state of Texas and Oklahoma because of the various locations of its members. I am looking forward to a very prosperous year for 2010 for all of us."

CAA's member agencies convene on a quarterly basis to share knowledge, discuss industry issues, review its relationships with insurance carriers, and assess CAA operations. Highlights from the recent board meeting include:

- Golf tournament at Hyatt Lost Pines (Bastrop, TX),
- Central Insurance hosts social event and dinner at Hyatt Lost Pines,
- New member presentation to independent agency prospect from Kansas,
- Insurance carrier presentations by The Hartford, Chubb, Central Insurance, Travelers, and Texas Mutual,
- The Hartford hosts social event and dinner at Hyatt Lost Pines, and
- Award presentation to CAA's 'Top Four Company Partners'

### **About Combined Agents of America, LLC**

Founded in 1997 Combined Agents of America, LLC (CAA) is based in Austin, Texas, and is comprised of 44 independent insurance agencies located throughout Texas, Oklahoma and Kansas. By funneling the agencies' combined premiums, CAA brings larger volume commitments to insurance companies, while empowering its members to realize greater benefits from insurance companies, vendor discounts and other incentives.

CAA works with 18 of the largest insurance companies in the nation. CAA placed 18<sup>th</sup> nationally in the *Insurance Journal's* Top 100 Property and Casualty Agencies in 2009. All CAA member agencies remain independent and are recognized by insurance companies as a key component to their future growth and goal commitments. Additional information is available at [www.combinedagents.com](http://www.combinedagents.com).

CAA member agencies include: Aars & Nelson Insurance Agency, Barnard Insurance Agency, Bartlett, Baggett & Shands, Benchmark Insurance Group, Benton-Luttrell-Brown Company, Bigham-Kliwer-Chapman-Watts Insurance Agency, BRIA Insurance & Risk Consultants, Bridges Group Inc., Bosworth & Associates, Bryan Insurance Agency Ltd., Brownrigg Insurance Agency Inc., Cravens-Warren & Co., Crockett Insurance Service, Duncan-Fraser & Bridges Insurance Agency Inc., Ed Berrong Insurance Agency, Ed Weeren Insurance Agency Inc., EFGI Insurance & Bonds LCC, Evans-Ewan & Brady Insurance Agency Inc., First Insurance Services, First Texas Insurance Services LC, Henry Norris Insurance Agency, Inc., Garrett Insurance Agency, Inc., GBS Insurance Agency Inc., Grona Boles and Martin Insurance Agency Inc., Hill County Insurance Agency, Insurance Associates of Texas, Insurance Net Inc., JHC Insurance Agency Inc., J. S. Edwards & Sherlock Insurance Agency, Lake Insurance Agency, Inc., McCorkle Commercial Insurance Agency, Mims & Smith, Mr. Insurance Agency, Inc., Pierson-Fendley Insurance, Pinnacle Insurance Group Inc., Porter Insurance Agency Inc., Purifoy & Company, The Shropshire Agency Inc., Siegeler Insurance Agency, Inc., Walthall-Sachse & Pipes, Inc., The Weatherby-Eisenrich Inc., Wellmann Insurance Agency, Inc., Western Insurance Agency, and Whorton Insurance Services.

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