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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Michael J. Hermes, CIC Joins Higginbotham

*Seasoned Insurance Broker Brings Experience in Agency
Ownership and Account Management*

AUSTIN, Texas (June 30, 2009)—Higginbotham & Associates, a leading national independent insurance brokerage firm, appointed Michael J. Hermes, CIC senior vice president at its Austin office. Hermes, a fixture in Austin's insurance marketplace, will apply his 26 years experience in property/casualty insurance to place commercial coverage and consult on loss control strategies for Central Texas companies.

“Michael is a respected member of Austin's insurance community,” said Managing Director Curtis Page. “He brings tremendous opportunities to grow our practice in Austin by leveraging his relationships and experience in agency management to broaden our customer base and enhance our account services.”

Hermes joins Higginbotham from Brown & Brown of Austin. A 1976 University of Oklahoma graduate, he began his insurance career in 1983 at a small Austin agency that he acquired in 1985 and merged with Balcones-Southwest, Inc. in 1993 following several agency acquisitions. Hermes helped steer the 2004 acquisition of Balcones-Southwest by Brown & Brown and maintained a leadership role through 2007.

A Certified Insurance Counselor (CIC) since 1988, Hermes is a member of the Society of CICs, the Independent Insurance Agents of Texas (IIAT) and its Austin chapter (IIAA), the Association for Corporate Growth and the Austin Technology Council. He was president of the IIAA and the Downtown Optimist Club, treasurer of the YMCA of Austin, finance committee member of Great Hills Country Club and advisory council member for several insurers. Hermes is presently a board member for the YMCA of Austin and member of the Downtown Optimist Club.



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About Higginbotham & Associates, Inc.

Higginbotham serves as a single source for insurance, risk management and financial services by providing access to commercial and personal property/casualty coverage, employee benefits, retirement plans, life insurance and executive compensation through more than 250 regional and national carriers. The Texas-based agency was founded in 1948 and is headquartered in Fort Worth with offices in Arlington, Austin, Dallas, Denton, Granbury, Henrietta, Houston, McKinney, Waco, Weatherford and Wichita Falls. It ranks as one of the nation's 100 largest independent insurance brokerage firms based on revenue. Visit www.higginbotham.net for more information.

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