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Leaders in Risk Solutions

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**MCQUEARY HENRY BOWLES TROY, L.L.P. EARNS
THIRD CONSECUTIVE BEST PRACTICES AGENCY DESIGNATION**

MHBT Maintains Elite Status Among National Independent Insurance Agencies

DALLAS – August 17, 2009– McQueary Henry Bowles Troy, L.L.P. (MHBT), one of the largest privately owned insurance and risk management firms in the United States, has earned its third consecutive Best Practices Agency designation by the Independent Insurance Agents & Brokers of America (IIABA).

This impressive selection enables MHBT to maintain its status as a member of an elite group of independent insurance agencies in the nation that have been chosen to participate in IIABA’s Best Practices study group.

“We are pleased to learn that our firm continues to perform to the very high standards that have been set by the Independent Insurance Agents & Brokers of America,” said Bill Henry, Chairman and CEO of MHBT. “This designation is representative of our firm’s continued ambition to be one of the top commercial insurance agencies in the nation. The vital contributions that each of our professionals make will continue to contribute to the firm’s growth and success throughout 2009 and in the future.”

Each year the IIABA and Reagan Consulting, an Atlanta-based management consulting firm, join forces to study the country’s leading agencies representing six revenue categories ranging from “Under \$1.25 Million” in annual revenue to “Over \$25 Million” in annual revenue. Agencies chosen for 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.

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More than 800 independent agencies throughout the United States were nominated to take part in the annual study, but only 195 agencies qualified for the honor. To be chosen, MHBT had to be among the 25-35 top-scoring agencies in its revenue category. Agencies may be nominated by either an IIABA affiliated state association or an insurance company and are qualified based on operational excellence in areas such as customer service, growth, stability and financial management.

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.

About MHBT

MHBT is based in Dallas and also has offices in Fort Worth and Austin, Texas. MHBT and its precursors have offered global insurance and bonds since 1926, and today, the firm offers commercial insurance and risk management services, employee benefits, commercial and construction surety bond services, personal lines insurance and specialized services. For more information, please visit the firm’s Web site at www.mhbt.com or call 800-443-0185.

About 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. Its 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. Web address: www.independentagents.com.

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