

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Debra Helwig  
IGAF Worldwide  
Tel: 678-417-7730, ext. 35 • Fax: 678-999-3959  
dhelwig@igafworldwide.org

## IGAF WORLDWIDE FIRMS WIN AWARDS FOR HUMAN RESOURCES EXCELLENCE

ATLANTA, GEORGIA — January 21, 2009 — IGAF Worldwide is pleased to announce that in the past year, 14 of our firms in the USA and UK were presented with awards recognizing their excellence in human resource practices.

The substantial percentage of IGAF Worldwide firms that excel in and actively work to promote progressive human resources policies – as evidenced by their designation as “Best Places to Work,” “Investors in People,” and other human resources accolades – is a testament to the caliber of our members and the quality of practices they share with one another.

“IGAF Worldwide truly is proud to have so many members who deserve to be counted among the great accounting firms worldwide,” says IGAF Worldwide Executive Director Kevin Mead. “Our firms are practice leaders across the board, and they are well-known throughout the accounting industry for their successes in practice management and development. Having agencies external to the profession recognize our firms for their superlative human resources practices is extremely gratifying. We congratulate all of our winners in 2008!”

The IGAF Worldwide members recognized as excellent employers and innovative human resources managers during 2008 include:

**Berkowitz Dick Pollack & Brant LLP (Miami, FL, USA)** was included in The Best of the U.S. 2008 list of the best professional firms in the nation. Firms included on the list are chosen based on their commitment to their industry, community and clients as well as their pledge towards remaining innovative by offering continuing education to their professionals. The list is compiled annually by the independent research firm, The Best of the U.S.

**Berman Hopkins Wright & LaHam (Melbourne, FL, USA)** was named to the 15th annual *Orlando Sentinel* Top 100 Companies for Working Families. The program is sponsored by Workforce Central Florida.

**Berntson Porter & Company, PLLC (Seattle, WA, USA)** was named as one of the finalists for Washington’s Best Workplaces by the *Puget Sound Business Journal*. The firm was also pleased to be named one of the Best Accounting Firms to Work For in the United States in the program’s inaugural year by The Accountants Media Group, publishers of *Accounting Today*.

**Bland, Garvey, Eads, Medlock + Deppe, PC (Dallas, TX, USA)** was honored as one of the 60 Best Accounting Firms to Work For in the United States. This program, in its inaugural year, was created by The Accountants Media Group, publishers of *Accounting Today*, *Accounting Technology*, CPA Wealth Provider, *Practical Accountant* and host of WebCPA.com and Best Companies Group.

**Brockman, Coats, Gedelian & Co. (Akron, OH, USA)** was recognized as a “NorthCoast 99 Best Place to Work” for the fourth year in a row. Annually, 99 best-in-class employers in the 22-county region of northeast Ohio are honored by the Employer’s Resource Council, the region’s largest employers association.

**CK Chartered Accountants (West Bromwich, UK)** maintained its standing as an Investor in People (IIP) for the 11th year in a row. Developed in 1990 by a partnership of leading UK organizations, IIP is designed to advance an organization’s performance through its people.

**Cooper Parry (Derby, Nottingham, and Leicester, UK)** was recognized for the fourth year as one of the UK’s best places to work by the [London] *Sunday Times*. This year, Cooper Parry placed 21st in The Sunday Times Top 100 Best Medium Companies to Work For – an advancement of 12 places over their 33rd place finish in 2007. The firm ranked 14th out of the 100 Top Professional Services Firms to Work for, a report by the Managing Partners’ Forum (MPF). Additionally, the firm was reaccredited as an Investor in People (IIP) and was one of only nine organizations – and the only professional services firm -- in the entire UK to be selected for “Champion” Status by Investors in People. The Champion initiative has been running for four years and acknowledges outstanding achievement in promoting the values and principles of the Investors in People Standard.

**HURST (Manchester, UK)**, successfully maintained its Investors in People (IIP) standing for its 11th year.

**McKonly & Asbury (Harrisburg, PA, USA)** was honored as one of the 60 Best Accounting Firms to Work For in the United States, in the program’s inaugural year, by The Accountants Media Group, publishers of *Accounting Today*.

**Petrinovich Pugh & Company (San Jose, CA, USA)** was named 9th on the *Small Companies list of the ‘100 Best Places to Work in the Bay Area’* by the *San Francisco Business Times*, *Silicon Valley/San Jose Business Journal* and *East Bay Business Times*. This year, the firm was selected as an *INSIDE Public Accounting All-Star* for its Human Resources practices, and it was also named one of the 60 Best Accounting Firms to Work for in the United States, in the program’s inaugural year, by the Accountants Media Group, publishers of *Accounting Today*.

**Presser, Lahnen & Edelman, PA (Jacksonville, FL, USA)** was honored as one of the 60 Best Accounting Firms to Work For in the United States, in the program’s inaugural year, by the Accountants Media Group.

**ShawGibbs (Oxford, UK)** successfully maintained its standing as an Investor in People (IIP) for the 3rd year in a row.

**SingerLewak (Los Angeles, CA, USA)** was recognized numerous times this year, with awards including Best Places to Work in Los Angeles, Best Places to Work in the San Fernando Valley, and Best Accounting Firm to Work For in the United States. The firm also received a Practice Innovation Award from *Practical Accountant* for technology upgrades to benefit remote working staff, including T-Mail (Total-mail), which gives SingerLewak uninterrupted access to e-mail 24 hours a day on mobile, Citrix, Web, and full-mail clients.

**Thomas Westcott (Devon, UK)** was reaccredited with the Investors in People (IIP) Award for its 12th consecutive year. In comments to the firm, the IIP assessor called Thomas Westcott “the strongest performing firm in the South West of England” and said that the firm is pushing the boundaries in innovation in developing and training its people.



# PRESS RELEASE

IGAF Worldwide is the strongest association of independent accounting firms in the world, comprised of over 150 highly successful independent public accounting firms in 61 countries. Founded in 1977, IGAF Worldwide provides member firms with tools and resources to help them furnish superior accounting, auditing, and management services to clients around the globe. Through IGAF Worldwide, member firms offer the strength and capabilities of a large, worldwide organization with technical depth and geographic reach impossible for a local firm alone.

For more information about IGAF Worldwide and the services it offers its member firms and their clients, visit the IGAF Worldwide Web site at [www.igafworldwide.org](http://www.igafworldwide.org).

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