

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**LOCAL CPAs EARN ACCREDITATION IN BUSINESS
VALUATION CREDENTIAL**

Colorado Springs, CO (Dec. 11, 2006) – Steve Hochstetter and Dave Kast, both Stockman Kast Ryan + Co. (SKR+Co.) Certified Public Accountants (CPA) and Certified Valuation Analysts (CVA) have been awarded the Accredited in Business Valuation (ABV) credential by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA).

The ABV credential, established in 1996 by the AICPA, recognizes CPAs with extensive professional experience in business valuation. The ABV credential is granted exclusively to CPAs who elect to demonstrate their business expertise and experience by earning the credential. Since inception, 1,505 CPAs have earned the ABV credential.

Hochstetter and Kast met the requirements to earn the credential, including holding a valid CPA certificate, providing evidence of substantial experience and continuing education in business valuation, and passing a written exam covering the business valuation common body of knowledge, including the areas of professional and regulatory standards, valuation methods and report writing.

CPAs who have earned the ABV credential must recertify every three years. To do so, they must submit documentation demonstrating substantial involvement in the business valuation discipline and complete a prescribed amount of related continuing professional education during this three-year period.

The AICPA is the national professional association of CPAs with more than 330,000 members in public practice, business and industry, government and education.

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Stockman Kast Ryan and Co., LLP is Southern Colorado's largest locally owned certified public accounting firm providing a variety of in-depth business services including – tax

services for individuals, businesses, fiduciaries and not-for-profit organizations, audit and accounting services, outsourced accounting and bookkeeping services-customized to clients' needs, estate planning, small/emerging business advisory services, contract chief financial officer services, business valuations, litigation support services and information systems consulting.