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News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Local Man Named Professional Insurance Agent of the Year

Kenneth R. Auerbach, Esq., of the **E & K Agency** of **Eatontown & Lakewood** was named Professional Agent of the Year by the Professional Insurance Agents of New Jersey (PIANJ) at its annual convention in Atlantic City on June 8, 2009. Mr. Auerbach is a Managing Director and the General Counsel of E & K. Auerbach was honored for his contributions and commitment to the insurance industry, including his fellow agents, PIANJ and his community.

"Throughout his career, Ken has demonstrated a deep level of dedication to our industry. He has earned the respect and trust from his colleagues and customers that he truly deserves," said PIANJ President Gary C. Rygiel. "PIANJ is proud to present him with this award."

Mr. Auerbach also serves as the President of the National Association of Professional Insurance Agents, an insurance trade association representing over 10,000 agencies and 100,000 insurance professionals.

In 2007, PIANJ honored Auerbach with the Distinguished Insurance Service Award. This award recognizes an individual who has established a history of service, dedicated leadership and attention to the concerns of independent agents and their clients. Auerbach was honored for his nationwide advocacy on behalf of agents specific to compensation disclosure issues, policymaking and business ethics concerns, his dedication to PIA and for his work on behalf of independent agents throughout the state and beyond.

In 2005, PIA National awarded Auerbach with a presidential citation for his work on agent's compensation and disclosure issues. In 1998, Auerbach received PIANJ's Director of the

Year. This award honors the hard work and dedication of a member of the association's board of directors who has contributed a great deal of time and talent to help support the association and its many programs.

Auerbach is an active member of the insurance industry, where he has served as president of the Garden State Insurance Company, Ltd. He also serves as an expert witness and educator teaching error and omission avoidance, legal and technology issues to other professional agents. Auerbach also is the director of a Department of Banking and Insurance accredited insurance school. He also has served on several insurance company agent advisory councils.

Active at the state level, Auerbach has served as a member of the Governor's Task Force on the availability of homeowners insurance in the coastal region. He also served on the New Jersey Department of Banking & Insurance Property & Casualty Producer Advisory Committee and the Homeowners Insurance Availability Advisory Committee.

E & K Agency is an insurance agency representing over 5,000 businesses and individuals throughout New Jersey.