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Columbia Hospitality Named Fastest-Growing Company in Washington State for 2006

Award recognizes accomplishments of entrepreneurs leading growing businesses

SEATTLE – September 22, 2006 – Columbia Hospitality, Inc. has been named for the fourth time as one of *Puget Sound Business Journal's* 100 Fastest-Growing Private Companies in Washington State for 2006. A reception recognizing each president/CEO of each company will be held at the Washington State Convention Center, Seattle, Wash., on October 19.

Being named to *Puget Sound Business Journal's* list of Fastest-Growing Companies in Washington State is the third major honor this year for Columbia Hospitality. In June, John Oppenheimer, President and CEO, received the Ernst & Young Entrepreneur Of The Year® 2006 Award in the services category in the Pacific Northwest region. In February, the Seattle Hotel Association (SHA) honored Oppenheimer and his wife, Deanna, at the group's "Evening of Hope" Gala, which raised more than \$700,000 for the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation.

Seattle-based Columbia Hospitality was launched in 1995 after the Port of Seattle selected John Oppenheimer to manage the new Bell Harbor International Conference Center on Seattle's waterfront. Today, Columbia Hospitality employs more than 400 people throughout the Pacific Northwest and manages a growing portfolio of premier properties, including boutique hotels, secluded resorts, large and small conference centers, and award-winning restaurants and executive dining venues. In addition, Oppenheimer is managing partner of The Seattle Hotel Group, which is returning the ultra-luxury Four Seasons Hotel to Seattle. The \$120+ million hotel and condominium development is now under construction in downtown Seattle. Columbia Hospitality is the project asset manager for The Seattle Hotel Group.

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About Columbia Hospitality Inc.

Columbia Hospitality Inc., a leading hospitality management and consulting firm, was founded in 1995 by John Oppenheimer. Columbia Hospitality creates exceptional experiences for guests and employees while achieving phenomenal results for its property owners.

With expertise in luxury hotel and resort management, Columbia Hospitality expertly transforms each vision for a unique property into an enduring and profitable business.

Columbia Hospitality's premier properties include boutique hotels and secluded resorts in Washington State. The portfolio includes the following:

- The Inn at Langley on Whidbey Island
- Friday Harbor House on San Juan Island
- Lakedale Resort at Three Lakes, also on San Juan Island
- Darnell's Lake Resort on Lake Chelan

The Columbia Hospitality portfolio also includes large and small conference centers, award-winning restaurants and executive dining venues. These properties include the following:

- Bell Harbor International Conference Center in Seattle
- World Trade Center Seattle
- Odyssey Maritime Discovery Center in Seattle (catering and events only)
- Pier 30 Events Center in Seattle
- Talaris Conference Center in Seattle
- Kitsap Conference Center at Bremerton Harborside in Bremerton
- Washington Mutual Leadership Center at Cedarbrook in SeaTac
- WaMu Center Hospitality Services in Seattle

The company additionally supports an active consulting division that has worked on more than 50 hospitality development projects in five western U.S. states and Canada.

About the Fastest-Growing Companies Program

The Fastest-Growing Companies program was created and is produced by *Puget Sound Business Journal* to recognize the accomplishments of outstanding entrepreneurs leading dynamic and growing businesses. A company is selected based on its level of net operating revenue growth over the last three years. 2006 sponsors are Grant Thornton, KeyBank, Preston Gates & Ellis, Robert Half International, Microsoft, and Sprint.

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