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Melissa Smithmier Earns Industry Designation

Memphis, Tenn., May 5, 2009 – The Barnett Group is pleased to announce Melissa Smithmier, partner and director of sales and marketing, has completed the qualifications for and has been awarded The National Underwriter Company’s Group Benefits Disability Specialist (GBDS) designation. Currently, fewer than 1,000 benefits specialists in the country to have earned this designation.

The objectives of The National Underwriter Company’s GBDS program are to communicate to employers and the public the importance of group disability income protection and the consequences of inadequate disability coverage, to establish high standards of performance for those who earn the designation and to provide ongoing skill development to designees through continuing education programs and other services.

In her role at The Barnett Group, Smithmier is responsible for group benefits planning. She serves on the board of directors for the Greater Memphis Employee Benefits Council. She also is a member of the Mid-South Association of Health Underwriters and the International Foundation of Employee Benefit Plans.

A graduate of the health care management program at Southern Illinois University, Smithmier resides in Lakeland with her husband, Shane, and two children, Jake and Kaley.

Founded in 1987, The Barnett Group provides a wide range of benefit and financial services for companies and individuals. Providing benefits for more than 54,000 individuals in the Mid-South, the company’s areas of expertise include the design, implementation and administration of employee benefit programs and financial services. For more information, please call (901) 365-3447 or visit www.gobarnett.com.

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