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John Ritz Receives AOBA's Highest Honor;
Lynda Ellis Receives Associate of the Year Award

Washington, DC – At its annual meeting today, the Apartment and Office Building Association of Metropolitan Washington presented John H. Ritz, President, William C. Smith & Co., with the Sidney Glassman Memorial Award, AOBA's most prestigious honor. This award is presented annually to an individual for outstanding lifetime contributions to the real estate development and management industry in the areas of education, training, management and legislation. The award honors the late Sidney Glassman, an executive with the Charles E. Smith Company, who was a key architect of today's property management practices.

John Ritz was lauded for his long-time service to AOBA, and his invaluable advice and counsel to the organization on legislative and regulatory issues in the District of Columbia. In his role as Chairman of AOBA's METPAC in 2006 and 2007, Ritz demonstrated exceptional leadership in helping formulate AOBA's positions and educating candidates for DC Mayor and Council on issues of concern to AOBA members. As President of William C. Smith & Co., Ritz contributed to the success of AOBA's inaugural school supply drive for Ballou Senior High School, and responded to Mayor Adrian Fenty's call for private sector assistance to DC schools in a "buff and scrub" campaign.

In nominating Ritz for the AOBA award, W. Christopher Smith, Jr., Chairman and CEO, William C. Smith & Co., noted, "At every community improvement event, John is the first to arrive and the last to leave, and most willing to tackle the tough jobs."

Each year, nominations for this award are submitted by AOBA members, and the final selection is made by the Sidney Glassman Memorial Award Committee.

Also at the Annual Meeting, in addition to the Sidney Glassman award presentation, Lynda Ellis, of Capitol Concierge, Inc., was honored by AOBA's Associates Coalition Team as the Outstanding Associate of the Year for 2007. ##

The Apartment and Office Building Association of Metropolitan Washington (AOBA) is the leading membership organization representing owners and managers of commercial office buildings and multi-family residential real estate in the Washington, DC region. Members of AOBA enjoy membership benefits in its national affiliates: the Building Owners and Managers Association International (BOMA) and the National Apartment Association. For more information, visit www.aoba-metro.org