



For Immediate Release
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EPCOR Announces 2009 Marquis Award and Distinguished Service Award Winners

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – November 5, 2009 – EPCOR, a regional payments association, awarded the Distinguished Service Award and two Marquis Awards at the Mid-America Payments Conference 2009 in Kansas City, Missouri and the 2009 Payments Summit in Columbus, Ohio.

Duane Fager, President of CoreFirst Bank & Trust Co, received the first-ever Distinguished Service Award during a special luncheon on Wednesday, October 28 at the 2009 Mid-America Payments Conference. Mr. Fager had been actively involved and supportive of the association for 35 years when he first sat on the MACHA (Mid-America ACH Association) board as a liaison representing the Kansas Bankers Association. He helped guide the association as it merged with MAPEX (Mid-America Payment Exchange) and ARACHA (Arkansas ACH Association) to become MPX (Mid-America Payment Exchange). He was chairman of the board in 2005 and 2006 until he voluntarily stepped down during the merger with Payments Central.



Also recognized this year were two Marquis Award recipients. The Marquis Award is presented annually to an individual or an organization that exemplifies ACH best practices, commendable achievements in ACH awareness, expanded use of ACH applications and increased participation.

The APEX-ACH, a program of U.S. Central Federal Credit Union, was this year's Marquis Award recipient at the Mid-America Payments Conference 2009. The award was presented on Wednesday, October 28 to Cynthia Simpson, program manager, and Becky Dunster, assistant vice president, by EPCOR CEO, Ann-Marie Bartels. The APEX-ACH is an excellent example of U.S. Central and corporate credit unions providing beneficial aggregation for payments and settlement on behalf of credit unions and their members. APEX-ACH is a web-based origination and receipt service offering credit unions an inexpensive, reliable way to process all ACH payment types and provide comprehensive services to members such as direct deposit of payroll and government benefits as well as direct payment of items such as mortgages, loans and bills. This platform provides credit unions the ability to increase processing efficiencies, reduce costs and offer new services to members.



Mike Taipale, senior payments system consultant for the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland, was this year's Marquis Award recipient at the 2009 Payments Summit in Columbus, Ohio. The award was presented by Ann-Marie Bartels and EPCOR President, Jerry Woessner on Thursday, October 22. Mr. Taipale is responsible for understanding emerging trends in electronic payments and the potential impact on the Federal Reserve, collaborating with industry stakeholders in the development of electronic payment solutions as well as for conducting research and analysis. He chaired the NACHA Electronic Bill-

ing and Payment Council and has been project manager and an active proponent for a number of electronic payment initiatives including direct payments, electronic billing and payments and the Electronic Billing Information Delivery Service (EBIDS), which is now in pilot stage.

EPCOR is a not-for-profit trade association providing electronic payments and risk management information, education, support and national industry representation to over 14% of all U.S. financial institutions. EPCOR's purpose is to assist banks, credit unions and thrifts maintain compliance, reduce risk and enhance the overall operational efficiency of electronic payments. Members include over 2,300 financial institutions and affiliated organizations throughout 12 states including Arkansas, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio, Oklahoma, Southern Illinois, Southwestern Iowa, Western Pennsylvania and the panhandle of West Virginia. For more information on EPCOR, visit www.epcor.org

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