

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: January 30, 2007

Contact: Risa Pitman
Phone: (610) 644-2100, ext. 7851
E-mail: pitman@cpcuiia.org

Institutes Online Professional Development Series Launched

Malvern, PA—The American Institute for CPCU and Insurance Institute of America proudly announce the launch of a series of new online professional development courses designed to help you stay on top of critical topical issues in our industry. The Professional Development Series (PDS) will provide you with up-to-the-minute information on trends and developments in today's complex property-casualty insurance marketplace.

PDS readings are the ideal way for designation holders and others to refresh their study and stay current on important industry topics. Readings are clustered by topic allowing users to quickly find readings of particular interest and relevance. For all professionals, the PDS is a resource that balances learning and professional development with current work objectives and time demands. All PDS course materials and optional examinations are online.

The first two courses in the series are as follows:

- **Reinsurance.** General topics will include solvency II, sidecars, cat modeling, alternative risk transfer, cat bonds, and natural catastrophes.
- **Risk Management.** General topics will include captives, enterprise risk management, catastrophes/securitization, intellectual property, crisis management, and emerging liability issues.

"To be successful in the fast moving global risk management and property-casualty marketplace, you must stay on the cutting edge of what's new in the industry," said Christine L. Lewis, PhD, CPCU, CLU, ARP, ChFC, RHU, the Institutes' senior vice president and corporate secretary. "The Institutes' Professional Development Series helps you keep pace with current topics and provides

-more-

you with the resources you need to ensure personal growth and bring fresh perspectives and innovative strategies to a wide variety of situations. Because the framework of each course is based entirely on carefully selected, in-depth readings on critical issues, you will be prepared to meet the challenges of a changing world with confidence and professionalism."

The readings for each cluster consist of articles from a variety of publications across the country, including *Best's Review*, the *Journal of Reinsurance*, *Risk Management Magazine*, and *The John Liner Review*, among others.

A series of questions is offered at the end of each reading to help students gauge their understanding of the material; students are not required to answer the questions unless they wish to earn the certificate of completion. To earn a certificate of completion, students must correctly answer 150 questions within a 12-month period. Registered users are entitled to 365 days of access to the online material to study for certification or use as a resource on current topics and issues. PDS courses are open to anyone, and they are not required to complete or maintain any Institute certificate or designation program.

A demo is available on our Web site, www.aicpcu.org. Look for links to Professional Development Series under Log On. Learn.

For additional information, **e-mail** cserv@cpcuiia.org or call the Customer Service Department at (800) 644-2101.

Note to Editors: The American Institute for CPCU and its companion organization, the Insurance Institute of America, are independent, nonprofit organizations offering educational programs, professional certification, and research to people who practice or have an interest in risk management and/or property-casualty insurance. The Institutes offer the CPCU professional designation program; associate designation programs in areas such as claims, risk management, underwriting, and reinsurance; introductory and foundation programs, and online courses.

###