

**For Immediate Release**

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## **Massachusetts-Based Non-Profit Created to Advance Family Businesses**

*The Family Business Association, Inc. will recognize and cultivate the success of multi-generational family businesses*

**Boston, MA - March 17, 2009** -- It takes hard work, determination and persistence for a family business to succeed. It also means being willing to take risks. The Family Business Association, Inc. (FBA), a non-profit corporation, was created to recognize that determination and promote the development of successful business practices within family businesses, as well as highlight their achievements. As an independent, statewide, non-profit organization focused on family business issues, the FBA's mission is to recognize excellence, communicate best practices and assist these family businesses as they continue to serve as the foundation of New England's economy.

"Family businesses face the same tough challenges every other business endures but they also encounter a unique set of personal and professional challenges that non-family businesses could never imagine," said Ed Tarlow, FBA Board Member. "Despite these obstacles, family businesses power Massachusetts' economic engine and are the backbone of the United States economy."

The FBA will provide educational and networking opportunities for family business owners and employees throughout the year on multiple topics affecting business. "The FBA was designed to serve as a forum for developing and sharing creative ideas, services and expertise with family-owned and operated business," said Brian Nagle, FBA Board Member.

The FBA is an independent collaboration of Massachusetts businesses dedicated to helping family businesses throughout the state and is also supported by corporate sponsors, community groups and state associations. "Family businesses provide significant employment opportunities and economic growth within local communities throughout the state," added Jeffrey S. Davis, FBA Board Member. "Their success is essential to our economy and community and our supporters and sponsors are committed to educating and helping family business owners."

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The newly formed non-profit will also host an independent annual awards program on October 14, 2009. The Massachusetts Family Business Awards will honor the state's most successful family businesses in three categories based on size. It will also pay tribute to the philanthropic commitment to local communities and success in overcoming adversity as demonstrated by these businesses. "The annual awards program will bring together the leaders in family business throughout the state," added Al DeNapoli, FBA Board Member. "The outreach and support from the communities and family businesses throughout Massachusetts has been outstanding."

Among the sponsors for this year's Massachusetts Family Business Awards program are BNY Mellon Wealth Management, Gray, Gray & Gray, LLP, Mage, LLC, Northwestern Mutual Financial Network and Tarlow, Breed Hart & Rodgers, P.C. as gold sponsors. Vitale Caturano is a silver sponsor and Bessemer Trust, Clarke, Snow & Riley, LLP, Ruberto, Israel & Weiner and Wolf & Company are bronze sponsors. The *Boston Business Journal* is a media sponsor and Suffolk University's Sawyer Business School is an academic sponsor. For more information about the award or to nominate your company, please visit [www.massfamilybusiness.com](http://www.massfamilybusiness.com).

***About FBA, Inc.***

*The Family Business Association, Inc. is an independent, non-profit organization designed to promote family businesses and family business achievements in Massachusetts. Its goal is to promote the development of creative ideas, services, products and expertise to family-owned businesses. For more information, please visit [www.massfamilybusiness.com](http://www.massfamilybusiness.com).*

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