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For more information contact:
Peggy L. Hudson
Senior Vice President - Marketing
American Trust and Savings Bank
(563) 589-0829

AMERICAN TRUST EARNS NATIONAL HONORS FOR RETIREMENT PLANNING SERVICES

(DUBUQUE, IA) – American Trust Retirement Planning Services for the second consecutive year was ranked among the top 10 retirement plan providers nationwide and designated "Best in Class" by Plansponsor Magazine, published in November 2009 by Asset International, Inc. The publication is geared toward plan sponsors, the executives charged with providing income and benefits to retirees through investment.

The rankings are based on qualifying results from approximately 35,000 survey questionnaires the magazine sent in June, July, and August 2009 to plan sponsors in its database and client lists provided by plan providers.

In the "Micro Market, Assets Less than $5 Million" grouping, American Trust earned top 10 honors and 11 "Best in Class" awards in seven participant and four sponsor services categories. American Trust earned service scores in the top quartile from both participants and sponsors.

American Trust was rated number one for "Average Participant Rate," an indication of American Trust's dedication to helping workers commit to planning for a financially secure retirement by investing in their company-sponsored retirement plans. It also received a 100% rating from clients for its comprehensive yet easy-to-understand investment policy statement.

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American Trust also was ranked in the top quartile for overall scores behind national providers such M&I (1), Transamerica (3), and Securian Financial Group (5).

"The recession has had a profound impact on a large percentage of the American workforce's ability to save for retirement," said Kurt Wedewer, senior vice president and division manager. "Job cuts, wage and company match cuts, and market fears have resulted in lower 401(k) participation rates across the country. To be rated number one for 'average participation rate' in this economy speaks volumes about our approach to client education, our service model, and the dedication of our specialized plan experts. In these uncertain times it's been more important than ever for us to maintain close relationships with our company sponsors and participants. This recognition is particularly meaningful because it reflects our staff's efforts to help real people steer through tough times," he added.

According to Plansponsor Magazine's web site, with a circulation of more than 35,000 and readership over 110,000, the magazine's goal is "to help plan sponsors design the best retirement plans and put in place winning investment strategies, through service-oriented articles that stress objective analysis and pragmatic solutions. Readers range from those who oversee very small plans with several million dollars in assets to giant public funds with tens of billions of dollars in investments." Plansponsor Magazine has served retirement plan sponsors since 1993, and it is considered to be the premier monthly publication reporting on the pension industry.

American Trust Retirement Planning Services is a division of American Trust & Savings Bank, which is a subsidiary of ATBancorp, Inc., a $900 million bank holding company headquartered in Dubuque.

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