



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Accounting Firm of Erickson, Rietmann, Roufs and Kiecker, Ltd. Merges
Operation With Smith, Schafer and Associates, Ltd.**

ROCHESTER, MN – October 3, 2011 – Smith, Schafer and Associates Ltd., the Rochester-based public accounting firm, announced today the merger of accounting firm Erickson, Rietmann, Roufs and Kiecker, Ltd, Red Wing, MN. The merger, which was effective October 1, 2011, will expand the range of services available to Erickson, Rietmann, Roufs and Kiecker clients and create a fourth location for Smith Schafer, one of the largest regional accounting firms in Minnesota.

“Our focus has always been on delivering clients the highest level of expertise in accounting and financial services,” said Al Schafer, President of Smith Schafer. “The merger of Erickson, Rietmann, Roufs and Kiecker will allow us to serve more clients with a greater depth and breadth of services.”

Upon completion of the merger, Smith Schafer will employ 90 employees in its four Minnesota offices.

Smith, Schafer and Associates, Ltd. is a certified public accounting firm based in Rochester, MN. In addition to providing accounting, tax and audit services to individual, business, nonprofit and governmental clients, the firm also offers a wide range of consulting services. Smith, Schafer was established in 1971 in Rochester, expanded to Maplewood in 1987, Edina in August 2007, and now Red Wing in 2011.