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**Pender Newkirk & Company Named Small Business of the Year Finalist
by the Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce**

TAMPA, Fla. - (November 17, 2008) – Pender Newkirk & Company, Certified Public Accountants were recently named as **2008 Small Business of the Year Finalists** in the 50-250 employee category by the Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce.

"We are so pleased with this recognition," said Ralph Garcia, Managing Partner. "For more than thirty years, Pender Newkirk has focused not only on our growth as a firm, but also on the advancement and economic development of the Tampa Bay region. To have that commitment recognized by the Chamber is an honor."

Since 1981, the Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce has been recognizing Hillsborough County's superior small businesses and their leaders through its annual Small Business of the Year Award. Organizations are judged on their financial success, community involvement and ethical business practices, with winners selected in three categories: five-20 employees; 21-50 employees and 51-250 employees. A fourth category is for outstanding leader.

"At Pender Newkirk, we strive to demonstrate the highest business and community values in everything we do, from providing high-quality tax accounting and audit services and an exceptional work environment to contributing the resources that help make Tampa a great place to live," said Garcia. "To have those efforts recognized with this nomination is an honor for each member of the Pender Newkirk team."

The Small Business of the Year Finalist is the most recent in a string of accolades for Pender Newkirk. Earlier this year, the firm was ranked fifth among the *Tampa Bay Business Journal's* list of Top Accounting Firms. Accounting industry trade publication, Bowman Accounting Report, also ranked Pender Newkirk & Company 48th from more than 1,400 firms registered with the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (PCAOB) in their list of the Top 100 Public Company Accounting Firms in the U.S.

About Pender Newkirk & Company

Founded in 1976, Pender Newkirk & Company is a full service accounting and business consulting firm based in Tampa, Florida. With eleven partners and more than 60 employees, the firm provides an array of services including audit and assurance, tax planning and preparation, Sarbanes-Oxley compliance, estate & trust, valuation, small business advisory and other consulting services to clients across a broad range of industries. For additional information about the firm and the services we offer, please visit www.pnccpa.com.

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