



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact: Lesley Langford
lesley.langford@pnccpa.com
(813) 229-2321 extension 326

**Pender Newkirk & Company Associates Earn
Designation as Certified in Florida Sales and Use Tax**
Firm now eligible to participate in Florida Certified Audit Program

TAMPA, Fla. (November 3, 2009) – The public accounting firm of Pender Newkirk & Company, LLP is proud to announce that audit partner, **Michelle M. Sanchez, CPA** and audit manager, **Deborah J. Johnston, CPA** have earned the Certified in Florida Sales and Use Tax (CFST) specialty designation by the Florida Department of Revenue. CPAs who receive the CFST credential have demonstrated their knowledge of sales and use tax laws and rules and their application of the tax to specific industries.

By earning the CFST designation and meeting several additional requirements, Sanchez and Johnston have enabled Pender Newkirk & Company to become a qualified participant in the **Florida Certified Audit Program**. This program is a cooperative effort between the Florida Department of Revenue and the Florida Institute of Certified Public Accountants (FICPA) offering taxpayers the opportunity to review their sales and use and local option tax compliance. The Certified Audit Program was created to increase voluntary compliance by taxpayers and decrease state involvement in business. The program extends Florida's tax collection capabilities and permits more effective use of audit resources.

"We are very proud to announce these designations and our participation in the Florida Certified Audit Program," said Ralph Garcia, Managing Partner. "With numerous incentives available, participating in this program could be a win-win situation for many businesses and for the State of Florida."

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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Pender Newkirk & Company LLP • Certified Public Accountants

100 South Ashley Drive • Suite 1650 • Tampa, Florida 33602 • (813) 229-2321 • Fax: (813) 229-2359

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