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Southern California CPA Firm Celebrates 20th Year – Founding Partners Still Alive, Well and Highly Motivated

West Los Angeles-based Certified Public Accounting Firm, Holthouse Carlin & Van Trigt LLP (HCVT), the largest CPA firm headquartered in Southern California, has achieved a significant milestone of 20 years in business this month.

At a recent 20th anniversary celebration and open house at HCVT's West Los Angeles office, more than a couple of attendees were a bit surprised to find themselves speaking to one of the founding partners. Co-Founder and Westlake Village audit partner John Van Trigt got a good laugh when a banker was taken aback at meeting him and blurted out: "Wow, I thought all the founders were dead or retired!" Not only are the founding partners still alive and kicking – they are all working more than full-time with no plans of retiring.

In fact, Van Trigt says he is "Looking forward to the next 20 years knowing that our continued success will require us to focus even more on niche markets where clients view us as their most trusted and knowledgeable business advisors."

With HCVT's position as the largest CPA firm headquartered in Southern California, the 3rd largest firm headquartered in California and #42 in the United States, it is little wonder that people are a little surprised about the meteoric rise of this youthful firm. The average CPA firm listed on the national Top 100 lists is over 40 years old, and there are only a handful of firms on this list that have been around for 20 years or less.

Managing Partner Phil Holthouse reflected on the firm's 20-year milestone: "We have been fortunate to have worked with terrific clients and talented employees and partners since we started in 1991. We also benefit daily from strong relationships with other professional firms and many of the colleges and universities in the area, the latter being key sources of talent and continuing education for our firm." Jim Carlin, who rounds out the Co-Founder group, adds: "The opportunity for growth that we have

afforded the individuals that work with the firm has directly led to our success and continues to foster an environment that allows us to attract and develop the best talent within our industry.”

An additional confirmation of HCVT’s national reputation is the fact that the firm was bestowed a “Best of the Best” award as one of the Top 25 “Best Managed CPA Firms” for the sixth straight year by *INSIDE Public Accounting (IPA)*, a national trade publication. In fact, this year they were rated the 4th best managed firm in the entire country. “This is a highly regarded award, since over 350 CPA firms are evaluated on 50 criteria in this annual study, and reflects very favorably on both the growth and effective management of HCVT. If we can run our firm under a Best Practices system, we are certainly well positioned to assist our clients in improving their operations,” observes Blake Christian, a Tax Partner in the firm’s Long Beach office.

In addition, for the fourth straight year, HCVT was named as one of “The Fastest Growing Private Companies” by the *INSIDE Public Accounting* and this year was named as one of the top tax firms in the nation for CPA firms with revenue under \$100 million by *Accounting Today*. “The partners and staff are very pleased with the firm’s solid growth and the national recognition we have achieved. Despite a challenging economic environment over the past five years, the firm has opened three new offices and has averaged double-digit annual revenue growth,” added Christian.

HCVT’s unique structure of seven Southern California offices offers clients, employees, and other professional service providers to work together with maximum geographic flexibility. Holthouse observes: “Southern California is not the easiest place to operate a business, generate jobs, or even get to work. Our seven office locations help our people mitigate the local commuting battles.”

Holthouse adds that: “Our multi-office business model allows HCVT to attract and retain top-quality clients, partners and staff throughout the Southern California region, while delivering high-value tax, accounting and consulting services to a wide variety of industries and high-net worth individuals.”

According to Christian, “The Partners are very pleased to reach this 20-year mark, while building an exceptionally talented employee base and quality clients in a wide variety of industries and geographical regions. HCVT offers its clients and their professional employees with a highly unique alternative to other CPA firms. We have very deep bench strength with highly specialized client service

teams, delivering pro-active, customized tax, audit and consulting services to industries ranging from entertainment, private equity firms, manufacturing/ distribution, retail and real estate.”

The firm currently has offices in Los Angeles, Westlake Village, Long Beach, Pasadena, Orange County, Encino and Camarillo. HCVT is a full-service CPA firm formed in 1991 and in two decades has grown to become one of the premiere public accounting firms in the country. HCVT currently has 27 partners and a total professional and administrative staff of over 250. The firm provides accounting, attest, tax, and consulting services to large, owner managed businesses, high-net-worth individuals, estates, trusts and qualified retirement plans through its multi-office format.

The HCVT Partners are active in their business, alumni and home communities and are committed to providing growth opportunities for their clients, staff and students.

HCVT is an independent firm associated with the North American region of Moore Stephens International Limited, an international association with more than 330 independent accounting and consulting firms throughout the United States and the world. Moore Stephens International Limited’s global reach of associated firms provides HCVT clients access to a wide range of specialists, yet is local enough to deliver a highly personal level of service.

For more information regarding HCVT, please log on to www.hcv.com or call (562) 590-9535.

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Phil Holthouse



Jim Carlin



John Van Trigt

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