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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 28, 2009

**Rudy Giuliani to Speak at 2009 NHLA Annual Convention & Exhibit Showcase**  
*Former New York City Mayor and Presidential Candidate to address the  
“global gathering of the hardwood community”*

MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE – The National Hardwood Lumber Association is pleased to announce that Mr. Rudy Giuliani has accepted the invitation as keynote speaker for the 2009 NHLA Annual Convention & Exhibit Showcase. Mr. Giuliani will address convention attendees during the opening session on Thursday, October 1, 2009.

Mayor Giuliani has been widely lauded for his steady hand during challenging times. He was named “Person of the Year” by *TIME* magazine, knighted by the Queen of England, dubbed “Rudy the Rock” by French President Jacques Chirac, and former first lady Nancy Reagan presented him with the Ronald Reagan Presidential Freedom Award.

In 2002, Mr. Giuliani founded Giuliani Partners LLC, dedicated to helping leaders solve critical strategic issues, accelerate growth, and enhance the reputation and brand of their organizations in the context of strongly held values. Giuliani Partners' professional guidance to leaders is based on six fundamental principles: Integrity, Optimism, Courage, Preparedness, Communication and Accountability.

“In this challenging and unique period in our industry’s history, Mr. Giuliani’s insight, wisdom and leadership experience in crisis management should resonate with convention attendees as we all try to survive the current economic crisis,” said Ted Rossi, NHLA President.

As always, it is with the generous support of convention sponsors that NHLA is able to produce the premier networking and educational conference of the hardwood industry. Esteemed keynote speakers, timely and relevant educational seminars, a wide display of industry technology, products and services and numerous networking opportunities are designed for attendees to make the most of this four-day event that will once again bring together buyers and sellers from around the world for “the global gathering of the hardwood community.”

The 2009 NHLA Annual Convention & Exhibit Showcase, presented by Lumbermen’s Underwriting Alliance, will be held at the Sheraton Boston Hotel September 30 -October 3. To register and learn more visit [www.nhlaconvention.com](http://www.nhlaconvention.com).

The world’s largest and oldest hardwood industry association, NHLA represents 1,400 companies and individuals that produce, use and sell North American hardwood lumber, or provide equipment, supplies or services to the hardwood industry. It was founded in 1898 to establish a uniform system of grading rules for the measurement and inspection of hardwood lumber. Since 1980, its headquarters have been in Memphis, Tenn. To learn more about NHLA, please visit [www.nhla.com](http://www.nhla.com).

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