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# NEWS RELEASE

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## CONTACT:

Kourtny Garrett  
Vice President of Marketing  
Main: 214-744-1270  
Direct: 214-744-6657  
Mobile: 469-471-4059

## **DOWNTOWNDALLAS Celebrates 50 Years** 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration March 5, 2009

Dallas, Texas. 2009 is a landmark year for **DOWNTOWNDALLAS** as the organization marks its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The celebration will take place at the Annual Meeting & Luncheon, presented by Hunt Consolidated, Inc/Woodbine Development/Hyatt Regency Dallas at 11:30 a.m. on Thursday, March 5, 2009. Chairing the event is **Shelle Sills**, Vice President & General Manager of Neiman Marcus Downtown. The luncheon will be held in the Hyatt Regency Dallas, Landmark Ballroom.

**Catherine Crier**, an Emmy and DuPont-Columbia Award winning journalist, will keynote this year's luncheon. Catherine Crier is a native of Dallas, and was elected to the 162<sup>nd</sup> District Court in Dallas County as State District Judge, the youngest judge ever to be elected in Texas. After her second term, Crier began a career as a television news journalist, anchoring and serving as a correspondent on such shows as *Inside Politics*, *Crier & Company*, *World News Tonight*, *Nightline*, *20/20* and *The Crier Report*. She has won countless awards, and though now a resident of New York, still visits family in Dallas often, and keeps her finger on the pulse of local issues.

Also on the program will be the debut of a not-to-miss video, *URBAN LIFE REALIZED*, produced by **DOWNTOWNDALLAS** and Corgan Media Lab, to depict the success of the last 50 years Downtown and what our urban center's portrait will look like in next 50 years. Additional speakers include **Mayor Tom Leppert**; **Dan Blizzard**, **DOWNTOWNDALLAS** Chairman of the Board; **John F. Crawford**, **DOWNTOWNDALLAS** President & CEO; and **Shelle Sills**, Event Chair and **DOWNTOWNDALLAS** Board member.

"This is an exciting time for the organization and for Downtown," said John F. Crawford, President & CEO of **DOWNTOWNDALLAS**. "As we continue our mission that started fifty years

ago to ensure Downtown sustains as an international destination to live, work, play and invest, we have much success to celebrate, and many achievements to look forward to in the next fifty years!"

In addition, **Ted Hamilton** will be honored with the **DOWNTOWN**DALLAS Chairman's Award at the event on March 5. As President of Hamilton Properties, Ted is a visionary in urban development. Since coming to Dallas from Denver in the late 1990's, Ted and his father and business partner Larry, have single-handedly brought nearly 800 residential units online in Downtown Dallas, and close to 80,000 square feet of retail space. Ted has served on the **DOWNTOWN**DALLAS Board of Directors and Executive Committee for eight years, and currently chairs its Public Safety committee.

The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Event host committee includes: **Vince Akerson**, Texas Capital Bank; **Ted Benn**, Thompson & Knight; **Greg Biggs**, Cushman Wakefield; **Lucy Billingsley**, Billingsley Co; **Doug Chesnut**, Gables Residential; **Mark Dempsey**, Crow Holdings; **Larry Good**, Good Fulton & Farrell; **Chuck Gummer**, Comerica; **Kristy Sherrill Hoyl**, Baylor Healthcare System; **Cris Jordan**, Republic Center; **Wendy Lopez**, URS Corporation; **David Lind**, Corgan; **Holly Reed**, AT&T; **Jon Ruff**, Spire; **John Scovell**, Woodbine Development Company; **Jeff West**, Jeff West Consulting/Matthews Southwest; **Kirby White**, Crescent Real Estate Equities.

Top level sponsors include: Hunt Consolidated, Inc/Woodbine Development/Hyatt Regency Dallas; Joule Hotel; AT&T; Neiman Marcus; Baylor Health Care System; PlainsCapital Bank; Millet the Printer; Corgan; Corgan Media Lab; TM Advertising; Mercantile Place; Merriman Associates Architects; Captial One Bank; Energy Future Holdings; Ernst & Young, Gables Residential; Jackson Walker, L.L.P.

Media is welcome at the event. One complimentary admission per outlet. Please call KeChan Patterson with your RSVP, 214-744-1270.

**Public information:**

Individual tickets - \$100 members/\$125 non-members

Table of 10 - \$1,000

Register at [www.downtowndallas.org](http://www.downtowndallas.org)

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**About DOWNTOWN**DALLAS

**DOWNTOWN**DALLAS is the principle advocate, champion and steward of Downtown, affecting change by developing strategies, setting targets and mobilizing resources that:

- Stimulate a vibrant and sustainable Downtown environment
- Improve infrastructure
- Enhance economic competitiveness
- Create a culturally inclusive urban center
- Position the area as a global destination

For more information visit [www.downtowndallas.org](http://www.downtowndallas.org) or [www.yourDspot.com](http://www.yourDspot.com).

