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## **THE CHATTANOOGAN HOTEL HIRES NEW ATLANTA SALES MANAGER**

**CHATTANOOGA, Tenn.** (July 6, 2009) -- The Chattanooga, Chattanooga's AAA Four Diamond-rated upscale hotel with state-of-the-art meeting facilities, appointed Summer Staten as sales manager. Ms. Staten is responsible for managing sales initiatives in the Atlanta area and bringing corporate meetings and retreats, executive development meetings, planning conferences and seminars to the Benchmark Hospitality International property in downtown Chattanooga, Tenn.

Summer Staten has more than 10 years of sales experience in the hospitality industry. She was previously director of sales and regional sales trainer for Fleming's Prime Steakhouse & Wine Bar in Atlanta. She worked with Fleming's for three years, and doubled sales the first year she was with the company.

Prior to this, Staten was the national sales manager for Sheraton Downtown Hotel in Nashville, Tenn., a 476-room hotel with more than 25,000 square feet of meeting space. Ms. Staten has also served as director of sales for Jillian's Entertainment in Atlanta and Nashville, Tenn. During her tenure, she doubled sales for the company and was twice ranked as the number one salesperson. In addition, Staten worked for three years as a sales manager for Speedzone in Atlanta.

Summer Staten is a graduate of the University of Alabama in Huntsville, where she earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Marketing. She is a board member of HSMAI Georgia Chapter and is a member of Georgia Chapter of MPI. She volunteers with several Atlanta area cancer organizations.

The Chattanooga, a 210,000 square-foot five-story upscale urban resort with 198 guest rooms and suites, also has three outstanding restaurants and a pampering day spa. The hotel's 25,000 square-foot conference center features a high-tech learning environment with comprehensive meeting planning and audiovisual support services. The facility includes 20 dedicated meeting rooms with five general session rooms accommodating 25 to 100 guests; a 16-seat circular board room with a flat data screen; 12 break-out rooms; a 7,500 square-foot ballroom; and an amphitheater with seating for 85. All meeting rooms offer complete networking capabilities and high-speed Internet access.

The Chattanooga is conveniently located within a two-hour drive from Atlanta; Nashville, Tenn.; Knoxville, Tenn.; Huntsville, Ala.; and Birmingham, Ala. It is within walking distance of the city's museums, galleries, retail stores, restaurants and The Tennessee Aquarium.

The Chattanooga is managed by Benchmark Hospitality International, a leader in the management and marketing of resorts, conference centers, hotels, and Personal Luxury Hotels™. The privately held company, launched in 1980, is a founding member of the International Association of Conference Centers. Benchmark Hospitality is a worldwide organization operating properties in major metropolitan and resort destinations. Benchmark's international headquarters is located in The Woodlands, Texas, near Houston, with regional offices in New Jersey and Connecticut. International offices are located in Tokyo, Japan, and Santiago, Chile. For the location of Benchmark's properties and additional information, visit [www.benchmarkhospitality.com](http://www.benchmarkhospitality.com).

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