



For Immediate Release

Contact: Laurie Rich
Director of Communications
Perennial Strategy Group
202.638.5090
lrich@perennialsg.com

NBA Referees Foundation Announces Inaugural Conference and Awards Ceremony
Massive Referee Gathering To Be Held September 9 And 10 At The Hilton Chicago

Washington, D.C. – August 15, 2006 – On September 9 and 10, the National Basketball Referees Foundation (NBRF) – the charitable organization of the National Basketball Referees Association (NBRA) – will hold its inaugural conference at the Hilton Chicago. The event will mark the beginning of a new tradition.

Designed for working basketball officials, the 2006 NBA Referee Conference will feature some of today's leading names in sports, media and politics. Highlights include customized training sessions focusing on refereeing techniques, in depth discussions on the state of sports officiating, financial planning and other topics intended to educate on and off the court.

In addition, the opening night of the conference will feature the NBRF's first awards dinner and gala honoring NBA referees that have made the greatest impact on the sport. U.S. Housing and Urban Development Secretary Alphonso Jackson will present the keynote address and speak on the importance of community giving. Leah Hope of ABC 7 Chicago News will serve as mistress of ceremonies for the evening. Musical entertainment will be provided by Caesars Palace jazz quartet Ghalib Ghallab and the Whitney Young High School Choir.

Prior to the conference, on September 8, the NBRF will join with the City of Chicago to host an after-school referee mini-clinic at Englewood High School. Students will have the chance to learn basic refereeing techniques and be introduced to alternate careers in professional athletics. The referees will also team up with Nickelodeon, and spend an afternoon at LaRabida Children's Hospital, the only hospital in Chicago dedicated solely to serving children with lifelong medical conditions, developmental disabilities and a history of abuse.

About the NBRF

The NBRF is a registered 501(c)(3) organization established by the NBA referees to support and enhance their charitable, educational and community activities.

For more information on the conference, or to register online, go to www.nbra.net/conference.

#