

# NEWS RELEASE



## American Society of Pension Professionals & Actuaries

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### ***ASPPA Adds Experts to Recordkeeper Certification Program***

**ARLINGTON, VA, January 14, 2010**—The American Society of Pension Professionals & Actuaries (ASPPA), announced today that Chris Stroud, MSPA, MAAA, EA, and Richard N. Carpenter, CPC, CEBS, will join the team of experts who support the ASPPA Recordkeeper Certification program.

“Recordkeepers play an integral role in helping fiduciaries fulfill their obligations, so it is appropriate to provide a certification program where they can demonstrate their adherence to a standard,” said Brian H. Graff, ASPPA Executive Director/CEO and APM. “Both Chris Stroud and Richard Carpenter have the right background and experience to provide guidance to the certification program.”

Stroud has more than 30 years experience in the retirement services industry. She is president of Simoneaux & Stroud Consulting Services (SCS) in Marco Island, Fla., a firm that consults with companies that provide retirement plan services. She is a past-president of ASPPA and currently serves as editor of *The ASPPA Journal*, the Society’s official member publication. Stroud is an ASPPA Educational Programs Advocate and serves on the ASPPA Recordkeeper Certification task force. She has published articles and spoken nationally on retirement plan topics such as actuarial science, software systems, third party administrator (TPA) best practices, customer service, client management, strategic planning, leadership and team-building.

Carpenter entered the pension business in 1978. He is the president and founder of USVI Pensions, Inc., and a founder of the Technical Answer Group, Inc (TAGdata.com), now owned by Wolters Kluwer Law and Business. Carpenter is regarded as an expert on issues facing third-party administrators and the recordkeeping industry in general. He is a frequent speaker on the design and administration of 401(k), 403(b) and other qualified deferred compensation arrangements and offers expertise on pending legislation affecting the qualified retirement plan industry. Carpenter’s consulting practice provides support to small and medium sized businesses involved in mergers or acquisitions.

In 2007, ASPPA partnered with the Centre for Fiduciary Excellence (CEFEX) to establish the qualification standards by which recordkeepers are reviewed and evaluated for the certification. CEFEX is known internationally for its certification programs in the ISO arena.

Biographical information on Stroud and Carpenter is available on the CEFEX website ([www.cefex.org](http://www.cefex.org)). “We are pleased to have Stroud and Carpenter engaged in the ASPPA Recordkeeper Certification program,” said Carlos Panksep, CEFEX general manager. “They are well-respected professionals with impressive track records and will add practical insight to the assessment process, as it develops throughout the decade.”

For more details about the ASPPA Recordkeeper program, visit [www.asppa.org/RKcertification](http://www.asppa.org/RKcertification) or the ASPPA booth at [The ASPPA 401\(k\) Summit](#) meeting in Orlando, FL, March 14-16, 2010.

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**About ASPPA:** The American Society of Pension Professionals & Actuaries (ASPPA) is a national organization of more than 7,000 retirement plan and benefits professionals that serves as the educator, voice, and advocate for the employer-based retirement system. ASPPA members are administrators, actuaries, advisors, attorneys, accountants, and other financial services professionals who provide consulting and administrative services for qualified retirement plans. [www.asppa.org](http://www.asppa.org)

**About CEFEX:** The Centre for Fiduciary Excellence (CEFEX) is an independent global assessment and certification organization. It works closely with investment fiduciaries and industry experts to provide comprehensive assessment programs to improve risk management for institutional and retail investors. CEFEX certification helps determine trustworthiness of investment fiduciaries. [www.cefex.org](http://www.cefex.org)