

RYAN SWANSON'S JOHN A. BENDER ACHIEVES CERTIFIED FRANCHISE EXECUTIVE DESIGNATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Feb. 16, 2011)—Bainbridge Island resident John A. Bender of Ryan, Swanson & Cleveland was recognized today as a Certified Franchise Executive by the Institute of Certified Franchise Executives. Bender completed a comprehensive course of study in franchise management offered by the institute, which is the academic branch of the International Franchise Association's Educational Foundation. The International Franchise Association is the world's oldest and largest organization representing franchising worldwide and will honor this year's designees during its annual convention in Las Vegas.

"When I joined IFA as President and CEO, I was immediately impressed by the number of highly-respected franchise executives who have earned their CFE designation," said IFA's chief executive Stephen J. Caldeira. "I was also equally impressed by the increasing number of franchise executives who have enrolled in the program. In fact, the value of the program was so apparent and powerful to me that I decided to earn my CFE as well. I'm delighted to be a member of the CFE Class of 2011."

Bender represents franchisors advising on business, regulatory and growth strategies, and he represents franchisors in regulatory investigations and lawsuits. He advises franchisees on their rights and defends them in franchise termination matters.

Nearly 1,300 franchise executives are currently enrolled or have received certification. More than 300 IFA-member companies currently have one or more executives enrolled in the program that provides benefits such as specialized knowledge, industry recognition, peer-level networking and professional standing.

Candidates are required to complete a rigorous course of study to earn the CFE designation, which includes attending institute-sponsored educational seminars and workshops. The program enhances franchising professionals' understanding of both the industry's fundamental and complex aspects.

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Editor's Note: For more about the CFE program, visit Franchise.org or contact IFA Media Relations on 202-628-8000.