

## **Local Travel Professional Becomes Cunard Voyage Expert by Earning Prestigious Top Rank in Cunard Academy**

COMFORT, Texas (May 7, 2009) – A Comfort travel professional has achieved prestigious Commodore status in the Cunard Academy training program, certifying her as a Cunard Line expert for booking travel on the company's flagship Queen Mary 2, iconic QE2 and newest liner, Queen Victoria. As a Commodore, Mickey O'Donnell of Mickey's Travel joins an exclusive group of travel professionals who are now recognized by Cunard at the Academy's highest level for their unique qualifications and knowledge as a voyage planning professional. Mickey O'Donnell earned this distinction after completing the minimum 25 courses necessary to graduate from the program.

"We at Cunard are very proud of Mickey O'Donnell's dedication, as she put in extra effort to offer clients exceptional knowledge regarding the legendary ocean liners of Cunard," said Jan Swartz, Senior Vice President of Customer Service and Sales for Cunard. "Travel professionals who reach this top level in our Academy program have completed hours of course work to become an expert on the company's legacy, traditions and unique voyage experience and can provide their clients the opportunity to be a part of an iconic Cunard travel adventure."

Cunard Academy is the cruise industry's most comprehensive online training program available to travel professionals in the U.S. and Canada. Travel professionals who complete the extensive coursework become experts on a wide range of topics, offering travelers full knowledge of important details about a Cunard voyage aboard Queen Mary 2, QE2 and Queen Victoria. Courses educate travel professionals on such areas as the line's legendary Transatlantic Crossings and World Cruises, exclusive Grill accommodations, compelling enrichment programs (*Cunard Insights*), world-class dining and renowned White Star Service<sup>SM</sup>.

"I'm thrilled to be a Cunard Commodore and expand my expertise about these iconic ships. The knowledge I've gained makes me a more valuable resource for my clients, and helps me to match a Cunard voyage to sophisticated travelers who seek the quintessential ocean liner experience," said Mickey O'Donnell.

To become a Commodore, travel professionals must fulfill 25 required and elective classes, representing approximately 15 hours of total course work covering worldwide destinations, onboard programs, and customer service skills. As they complete courses, travel professionals earn their "stripes" through four levels: First Officer, Staff Captain, Captain and finally Commodore, and can continue to take elective courses to expand their knowledge and keep their Commodore status current.

For further information, contact Mickey O'Donnell at Mickey's Travel, (830)995-3651, [mickey@mickeys-travel.com](mailto:mickey@mickeys-travel.com) or use the Cunard.com travel professional locator at [www.cunard.com](http://www.cunard.com).