

# Brown Smith Wallace LLC

## Brown Smith Wallace Achieves Qualified Security Assessor (QSA) Status

*Firm Certified to Perform Formal Security Assessments for the Payment Card Industry*

**St. LOUIS (May 5, 2010)** After stringent testing and security qualification, the Security and Privacy practice team at Brown Smith Wallace LLC achieved the Qualified Security Assessor (QSA) accreditation from the Payment Card Industry Security Standards Council (PCI SSC).

As an accredited QSA firm, Brown Smith Wallace's Security and Privacy team is now certified to provide clients with formal PCI validation assessments at all merchant and service provider levels. These assessments include specialized recommendations on how to comply with the strict security regulations required for storing, processing, or transmitting cardholder data.

Due to the impact that validation assessments can have on the consistent and proper application of security measures and controls, qualification requirements are exacting and detailed. These high-level requirements call for both the security companies and their individual employees to be certified. All QSA professionals must be recertified with the PCI Council on an annual basis. Newly certified security consultants from Brown Smith Wallace include Ron Schmittling, Security and Privacy practice leader, Thad Engle, and Erich Snyder.

"Our QSA certification will further cement our role as a leading security and IT audit consultancy with expertise in PCI compliance," said Schmittling. "By being ASV and QSA certified, we have the ability to offer our clients expanded service offerings related to information security and data privacy."

The QSA accreditation program is administered by the PCI Council, founded by American Express, Discover Financial Services, JCB, MasterCard Worldwide and Visa International. Its mission is to enhance the security of cardholder data by driving the adoption of the PCI Data Security Standards (PCI DSS). Any company that stores, processes or transmits cardholder data must comply with the security standards.

Brown Smith Wallace previously received the Approved Scanning Vendor (ASV) designation in 2008, which certifies the firm's ability to provide vulnerability scanning for credit card merchants and service providers to enhance the protection of the personal information of credit card holders.

## **About Brown Smith Wallace**

Brown Smith Wallace is the second-largest locally owned independent full-service CPA and business consulting firm in Missouri with more than 200 employees throughout the Midwest. Through a network of offices in St. Louis and St. Charles, Brown Smith Wallace is the only CPA and business consulting firm that makes A Measurable Difference to its clients through the execution of its six measurable differences and by putting its guarantee in writing. For more information visit [www.bswllc.com](http://www.bswllc.com) or call 314.983.1200.