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BUFFALO-BASED FURNITURE MAKER RECEIVES NATIONAL RECOGNITION *Kittinger Furniture Co. to be Honored at the US Capitol on July 4th for Excellence in Design and American Manufacturing*

BUFFALO, NY, June 7, 2012 – Kittinger Furniture Company, Inc. (Kittinger), a custom furniture manufacturer based in downtown Buffalo for 146 years, has been selected as the winner of *2012 BEST: Made in America* award, an annual designation given to American-based manufacturing businesses by MADE: In America (MADE), a not-for-profit organization in Washington, DC that identifies, honors, and showcases America’s leading manufacturers.

“We at Kittinger Furniture are honored and grateful to receive the *2012 BEST: Made in America* award. As a Buffalo-based business since 1866, Kittinger demonstrates the tenacity required to achieve excellence in furniture design, manufacturing, and economic sustainability. We have been consistently dedicated to American craftsmanship and the American worker since 1866. Our company, our employees, and our handcrafted products are symbols of ‘Made in America’,” states Ray Bialkowski, President of Kittinger.

Bialkowski first worked for the Kittinger Furniture Co. in 1979 as an apprentice cabinetmaker. He then worked his way into a position as master craftsman and, subsequently, led the company’s cabinet design and production department. In 1996, Bialkowski bought the rights to the Kittinger name, original designs, and clients after the original company closed its doors due to mismanagement and bankruptcy in 1995. Bialkowski’s loyalty to the Kittinger legacy, designs, and high standards of quality enabled him to maintain a relationship with some of the company’s most prestigious clients, including the White House.

After acquiring the Kittinger name, Bialkowski never compromised on the design and quality of the Kittinger products. He emphasized the importance of detailed craftsmanship by employing the finest and most skilled craftsmen. “We are proud of our longstanding heritage as a Buffalo-based manufacturer of fine products, as well as an employer that regards skilled labor as an invaluable part of a successful business. This award and the loyalty of our clients are testaments of our hard work and vision,” says Bialkowski.

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In Buffalo, alone, Kittinger employs over 20 people. Kittinger furniture is proudly displayed in showrooms across the country in Chicago, Dallas, Atlanta, Pittsburgh, New York City, and Washington, D.C.

“The timing and location of this event are of great significance to our company. Forty years ago, we designed and built furnishings specifically for the West Wing during its restoration.” says Bialkowski. Even today, the distinguished Cabinet Room of the White House features an exquisitely handcrafted table and chairs that were personally ordered and paid for by Former President Richard Nixon in 1969. One of the original chairs is showcased at The Kittinger Gallery on 5363 Transit Road in Williamsville.

Kittinger Furniture Company will be recognized for its exemplary craftsmanship and its commitment to American-based production at a private reception and awards ceremony on July 4th at the United States Capitol.

In addition to the private ceremony, Kittinger Furniture’s award winning products will be featured in the special “At Home in Washington” show house at the Washington Design Center, which will open to the public through the month of July.

About Kittinger Furniture Company, Inc.

Kittinger Furniture Company, Inc. is a custom designer and manufacturer of the world’s finest handcrafted furniture based in Buffalo, NY. Historical design, flawless precision, and detailed craftsmanship are the hallmarks of each Kittinger product.

Kittinger Furniture Company, Inc. manufactures all goods and products at 2495 Main Street, Buffalo, New York. Kittinger proudly sells and displays their furniture at The Kittinger Gallery located at 5363 Transit Road, Williamsville, NY. To learn more, visit www.kittingerfurniture.com and www.kittingergallery.com.

About MADE: In America

MADE: In America is a not-for-profit educational organization based in Washington, D.C., MADE: In America’s mission is to create and foster a business climate conducive to the free exchange of ideas and information for the purpose of revitalizing and sustaining the competitiveness of American commerce and industry in a global economy. To learn more, visit www.madeinamerica-usa.org.

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