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**Specialty Competitions
LLC**

Press Release

Washington Beer Awards® returning this spring

Washington's state-wide professional beer competition registration open throughout March

Seattle, WA, March 1, 2016: Specialty Competitions LLC is proud to announce the return of the Washington Beer Awards®, the craft beer competition designed specifically to support Washington's professional brewers. This is the fourth year for the Washington-only competition that provides an opportunity for all of Washington's craft brewers to compete in a blind judging format and fosters recognition of brewing excellence in Washington.

Only Washington breweries with beers produced and sold in Washington can enter the competition. The event is endorsed by the Washington Beer Commission as a way to help promote our excellent Washington brews and raise awareness of our rich brewing culture.

In 2015 more than 100 breweries submitted over 700 beers to the competition spanning over 100 styles from the Brewers Association Beer Style Guidelines. Judging was conducted by dozens of trained judges who assessed the technical and stylistic accuracy of the entries. More than 130 awards were presented recognizing brewing excellence in the state.

The 2016 competition is expected to grow with additional entries and award categories. The competition will also recognize "Breweries of the Year" who receive multiple awards in various categories and also feature special awards for a "Best Washington Agricultural Product Inspired Beer" and a "Best Washington Malt Beer." This year's competition will include a "Pro-Am" category recognizing collaborations of homebrewers and professional brewers who have scaled up homebrewer recipes for production on a commercial scale.

Breweries can register entries from March 1st through March 31st. The 2016 judging will be conducted in early June with the winners being announced at the Washington Brewers Festival in mid-June. Details on the competition (including rules and registration information) as well as a list of the previous winners can be found at www.wabeerawards.com.

We look forward to recognizing another great year of Washington beers! Cheers!



For Immediate Release