

# ILLINOIS MEETINGS & EVENTS

**55** money-saving tips from the pros

## CONCIERGES

We consulted those in the know when it comes to planning special functions: Patrick Thornton, a retail concierge at **SAKS FIFTH AVENUE**, and Mike Ehlert, the concierge coordinator at **CONCIERGE UNLIMITED INTERNATIONAL (CUI)**. CUI is a full-service concierge firm providing trained on-site concierge and customer service staff and private access to concierge services and resources.

### **Concierge Unlimited International's Tips:**

- >> Consult a professional concierge firm, whose business resources and industry partnerships allow for preferential rates, VIP treatment, clearing of sold-out venues and powerful negotiations rather than contacting many companies yourself.
- >> A professional concierge firm will quickly assess your needs and recommend, secure and execute the details of various aspects of your event, including group functions, corporate dinners and more with expertise and efficiency.
- >> A professional concierge firm's resources and experience offers unique venue ideas that are not a traditional meeting space or conference center.
- >> A professional concierge firm will provide savvy, experienced concierge and/or customer service personnel to assist visitors to Chicago to conduct all facets of their business in the same style they would at home.