



NEWS RELEASE
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**WINNERS ANNOUNCED FOR
THE 10th ANNUAL M&A AWARDS AT NEW YORK GALA**

NEW YORK, January 4, 2012 — [The M&A Advisor](#) announced the winners of the 10th Annual M&A Advisor Awards to a lively, sold-out crowd at the 10th Annual M&A Awards Gala at the New York Athletic Club on Tuesday December 13. The event was hosted by Bloomberg Television’s Julie Hyman and featured a keynote address by former Massachusetts Governor and leading M&A counsel, William F. Weld.

“The award winners represent the best of the M&A industry in 2011 and earned these honors by standing out in a group of very impressive finalists,” said Roger Aguinaldo, CEO and Founder of The M&A Advisor. “From the lower middle market transaction to the multi-billion Deal of the Year, we are recognizing the leading transactions, firms and individuals that represent the highest levels of performance.”

An independent body of expert judges that span the M&A industry determined the ultimate recipients of the awards. Winners were revealed “Academy-Award style” at the gala.

In addition to the 2011 honorees, leading M&A attorney H. Rodgin Cohen, Senior Chairman of Sullivan & Cromwell, was awarded a Lifetime Achievement Award. In what has become a tradition at the annual black-tie gala, the M&A Advisor inducted 2011 Lifetime Achievement Award recipients, Harvey Miller and Bruce Rauner, of Weil Gotshal and GTCR, respectively, in addition to H. Rodgin Cohen. 2011 International M&A Leadership Award Recipients Howard Morgan and Andrew Rice, of The Jordan Company and Castle Harlan, respectively, were also inducted into the M&A Advisor Hall of Fame.

The gala is the premier celebration of the year for the industry’s leading Dealmakers. The 10th Annual Awards was held in conjunction with the 2011 M&A Advisor Summit that featured over 400 of the industry’s leading M&A professionals participating in exclusive interactive forums led by over 65 M&A, media, academic, and political stalwarts. M&A in the BRIC’s; US Financial Reform – Dodd Frank, the Volcker Rule and the Future of Banking; the Eurozone Crisis and The Great M&A Debate on the Global Economic Outlook were just some of the key feature sessions.

THE M&A ADVISOR

Since 1998, The M&A Advisor has been presenting, recognizing the achievement of and facilitating connections between the world’s leading mergers and acquisitions, financing and turnaround professionals with a comprehensive range of services including M&A SUMMITS; M&A AWARDS; M&A CONNECTS™; M&A ALERTS™, M&A LINKS™ and M&A MARKET INTEL™. To learn more visit: www.maadvisor.com.

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I. Major Transaction of the Year Categories

Upper Middle-Market Deal of the Year (From \$400 million up to \$1 Billion)

WINNER

- Acquisition of Marquis Jets Holdings, Inc. by NetJets Inc.
Curtis, Mallet-Prevost, Colt & Mosle LLP
Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP
Bank of America Leasing & Capital LLC
Barnes & Thornberg, LLP
Evins Communications, Ltd.
Holland & Knight, LLP
Jefferies & Company, Inc.
Kaye Scholer LLP
Marquis Jet Holdings, Inc.
NetJets Inc
Vedder Price & Reed Smith

Middle-Market Deal of the Year (From \$250 million to under \$400 million)

WINNER

- Chapter 11 Reorganization of Sea Launch LLC and Sale to Energia Overseas Limited
Buccino & Associates, Inc
Alston & Bird LLP
Avicon Partnership
Energia Overseas Limited
Jefferies & Company, Inc.
Milbank, Tweed, Hadley & McCloy, LLP
Salans LLP
Sea Launch Company

Middle-Market Deal of the Year (Between \$100 Million to under \$250 million)

WINNER

- Buyout and Merger of hybris AG and iCongo Inc. sponsored by HuntsmanGay Global Capital
Seward & Kissel LLP
Bentley Associates L.P.
Fasken Martineau DuMoulin
Homburger AG
HuntsmanGay Global Capital
Hybris AG
Kirkland & Ellis
Wenger & Vieli Ltd.

Lower Middle-Market Deal of the Year (from \$50 million to under \$100 million)

WINNER

- Acquisition of the Cosmopolis , WA Mill by The Gores Group from Weyerhaeuser
The Gores Group
Dsmurfit
McKinsey & Company
Van Ness Feldman
Weil Gotshal & Manges LLP
Weyerhaeuser

Lower Middle-Market Deal of the Year (over \$25 million to under \$50 million)

WINNER

- Acquisition of Farm Lands of Guinea Limited by Kryptic Entertainment Inc. (subsequently Renamed "Farm Lands of Guinea, Inc.").
Hunter Wise Financial Group, LLC
Child, Van Wagoner & Bradshaw CPAs
Farm Lands of Guinea, Inc.
Guzov Ofsink, LLC
Law Offices of Thomas E. Puzzo, PLLC
Kryptic Entertainment Inc.

Lower Middle-Market Deal of the Year (up to \$25 million)

WINNER

- Sale of US Motorsports Corporation/ the Iowa Speedway
Capstone Partners LLC
Barokas Public Relations
Clifton Gunderson, LLP
Iowa Speedway
Manaco, dba Manatts (Speedway seller)
USMC Corporation
Whitfield & Eddy PLC

Cross-Border Deal of the Year (\$200 Million and Over)

WINNER

- Acquisition of Great White Energy Services by Archer Limited
Raymond James & Associates, Inc.
Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP
Archer Limited
Credit Suisse
Ernst & Young
Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP
Wexford Capital

Cross-Border Deal of the Year (Under \$200 Million)

WINNER

- Acquisition of Farm Lands of Guinea Limited by Kryptic Entertainment Inc. Hunter Wise Financial Group, LLC
Child, Van Wagoner & Bradshaw CPAs
Farm Lands of Guinea, Inc.
Guzov Ofsink, LLC
Kryptic Entertainment Inc.
Law Offices of Thomas E. Puzzo, PLLC

Magnus Deal of the Year (\$10 Billion and over)

WINNER

- Initial Public Offering of General Motors Jenner & Block
Davis Polk & Wardwell
Deloitte
Evercore Partner
General Motors Company
JPMorgan
Morgan Stanley

Magnus Deal of the Year (\$3 Billion to \$10 Billion)

WINNER

- Merger of Liberty Acquisition Holdings Corp. (NYSE/AMEX:LIA) and Promotora de Informaciones (Madrid: PRS) Liberty Acquisition Holdings Corp
Garrigues
Greenberg Traurig, LLP
Promotora de Informaciones
Tegris Advisors
Wachtell Lipton Rosen & Katz
Violy & Co

Magnus Deal of the Year (\$1 Billion to under \$3 Billion)

WINNER

- Acquisition of a Controlling Interest in Massmart Holdings Limited by Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. Edward Nathan Sonnenbergs (ENS)
Deloitte & Touche
Deutsche Securities (SA)
Ernst & Young
JP Morgan Securities LLC
Massmart Holdings Limited
N M Rothschild & Sons
Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.
Webber Wentzel

Magnus Cross-border Deal of the Year (Over \$1 Billion US)

WINNER

- Sale of Burger King Holdings, Inc. to 3G Capital Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP
Kirkland & Ellis

Financing Deal of the Year (over \$100 Million)

WINNER

- Initial Public Offering of General Motors Jenner & Block
Davis Polk & Wardwell
Deloitte
Evercore Partner
General Motors Company
JPMorgan
Morgan Stanley

Financing Deal of the Year (under \$100 Million)

WINNER

- Sale of US Motorsports Corporation (the Iowa Speedway) Capstone Partners LLC
Barokas Public Relations
Clifton Gunderson
Iowa Speedway
Manaco, dba Manatts
USMC Corporation
Whitfield & Eddy PLC

Turnaround Deal of the Year (over \$250 million)

WINNER

- Merger of Liberty Acquisition Holdings Corp. (NYSE/AMEX:LIA) and Promotora de Informaciones (Madrid: PRS) Liberty Acquisition Holdings Corp
Garrigues
Greenberg Traurig, LLP
Promotora de Informaciones
Tegris Advisors
Wachtell Lipton Rosen & Katz
Violy & Co

Turnaround Deal of the Year (up to \$250 million)

WINNER

- 363 Bankruptcy Sale, Turnaround and Restructuring of Classic Brands
Executive Sounding Board Associates Inc.
Classic Brands LLC
Cole Taylor Bank
Miles & Stockbridge P.C
Herman Law LLC
Shulman, Rogers, Gandal, Porody & Ecker, PPA.
Stradley Ronon Stevens & Young, LLP
The CIT Group - CIT Commercial Services

II. Dealmaker of the Year Category

Male Dealmaker of the Year

WINNER

- Robert Townsend, Morrison & Foerster LLP

Woman Dealmaker of the Year

WINNER

Marie L. Gibson, Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom, LLP

III. Sector Transaction of the Year Categories

Information Technology (\$100 million and over)

WINNER

- Acquisition of SRA International, Inc. by Providence Equity
Houlihan Lokey
Bank of America
Citygroup
CSP Associate, Inc.
Debevoise & Plimpton
Kirkland & Ellis
Providence Equity
SRA International, Inc.

Information Technology (under \$100 million)

WINNER

- Acquisition of Procon and Enfotrace by Bertram Capital
Bertram Capital
Egerton, McAfee, Armistead & Davis, PC
McGladrey
Morgan Joseph TriArtisan, LLC
ProconGPS, Inc.
Wilson Sonsini

Healthcare/Life Sciences

WINNER

- Acquisition of drugstore.com by Walgreens
Sonenshine Partners

Industrial Manufacturing/Distribution (\$250 Million and over)

WINNER

- Out-of-Court Restructuring of PlayPower, Inc.
Miller Buckfire & Co., LLC
Apollo Investment Management
PlayPower, Inc
UBS AG
Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP

Industrial Manufacturing/Distribution (\$50 Million to under \$250 Million)

WINNER

- Acquisition of Interstate Distributor Co. by Saltchuck Resources, Inc.
Cascadia Capital, LLC
Brent L. Jones
Davies Pearson
Garvey Schubert Barer
Interstate Distributors
McGavick Graves PS
Saltchuk Resource, Inc.

Industrial Manufacturing/Distribution (under \$50 Million)

WINNER

- Acquisition of Valves Business From HIM Tech, Korea by The Weir Group

Business Development Asia, LLC
 Bae, Kim & Lee (BKL)
 HIM Tech Co.
 PwC
 The Weir Group Plc

Financial Services

WINNER

- Acquisition of Emerging Sovereign Group by The Carlyle Group

Seward & Kissel LLP
 Emerging Sovereign Group
 Gleacher & Company
 Mesirow Financial
 Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP
 The Carlyle Group

Consumer Services

WINNER

- Acquisition of Jumer's Casino & Hotel by Delaware North Companies Gaming & Entertainment, Inc.

Innovation Capital, LLC
 Vedder Price

Media, Entertainment or Telecom

WINNER

- Merger of Liberty Acquisition Holdings Corp. (NYSE/AMEX:LIA) and Promotora de Informaciones (Madrid: PRS)

Liberty Acquisition Holdings Corp
 Garrigues
 Greenberg Traurig, LLP
 Promotora de Informaciones
 Tegris Advisors
 Wachtell Lipton Rosen & Katz
 Violy & Co

Energy

WINNER

- Sale of Summit Energy Services, Inc. to Schneider Electric SA Robert W. Baird & Co.

Industrial Goods and Basic Resources

WINNER

- Acquisition of Farm Lands of Guinea Limited by Kryptic Entertainment Inc. Hunter Wise Financial Group, LLC
Child, Van Wagoner & Bradshaw CPAs
Farm Lands of Guinea, Inc.
Guzov Ofsink, LLC
Law Offices of Thomas E. Puzzo, PLLC

Retail Manufacturing/Distribution (\$50 million and over)

WINNER

- Sale of Prime Distribution Services, Inc. to Road Runner Transportation Systems, Inc. (NYSE:RRTS) BB&T Capital Markets
Baker Daniels
Deloitte & Touche
Greenberg Traurig, LLP
HCI Equity
Mason Wells
Prime Distribution Services, Inc.
Roadrunner Transportation Systems

Retail Manufacturing/Distribution (under \$50 million)

WINNER

- Recapitalization of Kiosk Information Systems by Alerion Capital Group McGladrey Capital Markets, LLC
Faegre & Benson LLP
Kaplan & Associates

Consumer and Retail Products (\$250 Million and Over)

WINNER

- Acquisition of Acushnet Company by Fila Korea Ltd. and Mirae Asset Private Equity
McDermott Will & Emery
Chadbourne & Parke LLP
Fila Korea
Fortune Brands, Inc.
Korea Development Bank
Mirae Asset Private Equity
Morgan Stanley
Nomura
PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP

Consumer and Retail Products (\$50 Million to Under \$250 Million)

WINNER

- Recapitalization of Merrick Pet Care by Swander Pace Capital
JD Ford & Company
Kirkland & Ellis
KPMG
Merrick Pet Care
Sprouse Law
Swander Pace Capital
Wells Fargo Bank

Consumer and Retail Products (Under \$50 Million)

WINNER

- Acquisition of Midwest Hydroponic and Homebrewing Supplies, Inc. by Adirondack Growth Capital LLC, Bosworth Capital Partners, LLC
Generational Equity, LLC
Adirondack Growth Capital, LLC
Anchor Bank, National Association
Baker Tilly
Gary R. Nylund & Associates, LTD
Horwood Marcus & Berk Chartered
Lindquist & Vennum PLLP
Midwest Hydroponic

Professional Services (B-to-B)

WINNER

- Acquisition of Procon and Enfotrace by Bertram Capital
Bertram Capital
Egerton, McAfee, Armistead & Davis, PC
McGladrey
Morgan Joseph TriArtisan, LLC
ProconGPS, Inc.
Wilson Sonsini

III. Firm of the Year Categories

Private Equity

WINNER

- High Road Capital Partners

Investment Banking

WINNER

- Robert W. Baird & Co.

Boutique Investment Banking (Less Than 20 Employees)

WINNER

- Financial Technology Partners

Law Firm

WINNER

- Morrison & Foerster LLP

Valuation Firm

WINNER

- Houlihan Lokey

M&A Consulting/Advisory Service

WINNER

- Generational Equity, LLC

IV. M&A Product/Service of the Year Category

WINNER

- S&P Capital IQ

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