



**BREAKING NEWS
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

THE M&A ADVISOR ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF 6TH ANNUAL TURNAROUND AWARDS

West Palm Beach, Florida, February 2, 2012 – The M&A Advisor announced the winners of the 2012 M&A Advisor Turnaround Awards at the 6th Annual Awards Gala to a lively, sold-out crowd at The Colony, Palm Beach Florida on Monday January 31st. The event was hosted by Bloomberg TV National Correspondent Carol Massar and featured a keynote address by Mr. Dennis Shaughnessy, Chairman of FTI Consulting.

“The award winners represent the best of the turnaround, restructuring and distressed investing industry in 2011 and earned these honors by standing out in a group of very impressive finalists,” said Roger Aguinaldo, CEO of The M&A Advisor.

The Turnaround Awards Gala honored deal-teams, deal-makers, and firms whose activities set the standard for the industry. This year, 160 nominees representing over 250 companies were finalists for the awards. An independent judging committee of industry experts determined the ultimate recipients of the awards. Winners were revealed “Academy-Award style” at the gala.

In addition to the 2012 honorees, John Wm. (Jack) Butler, Partner of Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom was awarded a Lifetime Achievement Award for his achievements and contributions in restructuring and reorganizational law. Mr. Butler, who was introduced by another industry stalwart – Mr. Timothy R. Coleman, Sr. Managing Director & Head of Restructuring, The Blackstone Group, provided a moving and inspirational account of his experience and his vision for the future of bankruptcy law.

The Annual Distressed Investing Summit and Turnaround Awards Gala is the premier events for professionals in the distressed investing, restructuring and turnaround industry. In addition to recognizing and rewarding the industry’s top transactions and firms of the year, the Summit featured over 35 of the top professionals delivering keynote presentations and leading exclusive interactive forums.

A detailed list of all of the Award Winners for the 6th Annual Turnaround Awards is to follow. For more information, please visit at www.maadvisor.com or contact The M&A Advisor at 718 997 7900.

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.

#

**Contact: David Fergusson
The M&A Advisor
dfergusson@maadvisor.com
T. 718-997-7900
M. 914-374-7396**



THE 6th ANNUAL TURNAROUND AWARDS WINNERS

The winners for the 6th Annual Turnaround Awards are as follows:

I. Special Recognition Award

Lifetime Achievement Award

John Wm. (Jack) Butler, Partner, Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom

II. Major Deal Categories

Turnaround of the Year (Large Market)

- Asset Sale and Restructuring of Centro Properties Group
 - Skadden Arps Slate Meagher & Flom
 - Allens Arthur Robinson
 - Blackstone Group LP
 - Bracewell & Giuliani LLP
 - Clayton Utz
 - Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP
 - J.P. Morgan Australia Ltd.'s
 - Lazard, Ltd.
 - Moelis & Company
 - Simpson Thacher & Bartlett



Turnaround of the Year (Upper Middle Market)

- J.P. Morgan South Edge Morrison & Foerster LLP

Turnaround of the Year (Middle Market)

- Acquisition of the Ocean Resort Waikiki by Chartres Lodging Group and conversion to the Hyatt Place Waikiki
The Chartres Lodging Group
OR Hotel, LLC
Morgan Stanley Real Estate Fund
Paul Hastings
Rush Moore LLP

Turnaround of the Year (Lower Middle Market)

- Turnaround of Graceland Fruit, Inc.
O'Keefe & Associates Consulting
Advanced Manufacturing Group
Varnum Riddering & Schmidt

Chapter 11 Reorganization of the Year (Upper Middle Market)

- Sale and recapitalization of AmericanWest Bank by AmericanWest Bancorporation
Morrison & Foerster LLP
Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP
AmericanWest Bancorporation
SKBHC Hawks Nest Acquisition Corp.

Chapter 11 Reorganization of the Year (Middle Market)

- Acquisition of HearUSA by Siemens
Sonenshine Partners LLC
Berger Singerman, P.A.
Boston Consulting Group
Bryan Cave, LLP
Clifford Chance LLP
Development Specialists, Inc.
HearUSA, Inc.
PwC
Siemens AG
Siemens Hearing Instruments, Inc.
UBS



Chapter 11 Reorganization of the Year (Lower Middle Market)

- Chapter 11 Bankruptcy of Fairview Ministries, Inc. Mesirow Financial Interim Management
Bank of America
Continuum Development Services
Fairview Ministries, Inc
Lifespace DG, LLC
RBC Capital Markets, LLC
Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP
Ungaretti & Harris
Wells Fargo Bank, Corporate, Municipal & Escrow Solutions

Cross-Border Deal of the Year (Upper Middle Market)

- Reprivatization of Bank of Ireland WL Ross & Co. LLC
Bank of Ireland
Credit Suisse Europe (Securities)
IBI Corporate Finance / Davy
Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP

Cross-Border Deal of the Year (Middle Market)

- Acquisition of Gas Turbine Efficiency Limited by Wood Group GTS Phoenix Management Services, Inc.
Wood Group PLC
Gas Turbine Efficiency Limited
Phoenix Capital Resources
Wells Fargo Capital Finance
Bird & Bird LLP
RSM Tenon Audit Limited
Matrix - Corporate Capital Division
Complete Network Support

Distressed M&A Deal of the Year (Upper Middle Market)

- Asset Sale and Restructuring of Centro Properties Group Skadden Arps Slate Meagher & Flom
Allens Arthur Robinson
Blackstone Group LP
Bracewell & Giuliani LLP
Clayton Utz
Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP
J.P. Morgan Australia Ltd.'s
Lazard, Ltd.
Simpson Thacher & Bartlett



THE M&A ADVISOR

Distressed M&A Deal of the Year (Middle Market)

- Divestiture of the WiMAX Equipment Division of Aviat Networks, Inc. FTI Consulting, Inc.
Aviat Networks
Eion
LaBarge Weinstein
Metaswitch

Distressed M&A Deal of the Year (Lower Middle Market)

- Sale of First Foliage, LC to Costa Nursery Farms, LLC Farlie Turner & Co., LLC
Bank of America Business Capital
Costa Farms, LLC
First Foliage, LC
Infante Zumpano

Divestiture Deal of the Year

- Acquisition of Gas Turbine Efficiency Limited by Wood Group GTS Phoenix Management Services, Inc.
Bird & Bird LLP
Complete Network Support
Gas Turbine Efficiency Limited
Matrix - Corporate Capital Division
Phoenix Capital Resources
RSM Tenon Audit Limited
Wells Fargo Capital Finance
Wood Group PLC

Out-of-Court Reorganization of the Year

- Out-of-Court Reorganization of Capital Trust Inc. Paul Hastings LLP
Cadwalader
Capital Trust, Inc.
Citigroup
Dechert LLP
Five Mile Capital Partners LLC
Goodwin Procter
Houlihan Lokey
Morgan Stanley
Sidley Austin

Refinancing of the Year

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



Turnaround Community Impact Deal of the Year

- Sale of Manhattan Campus for \$260MM and Creation of Health Center by Saint Vincent's
- Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel LLP
- CB Richard Ellis
- Grant Thornton LLP
- RSV, LLC
- Saint Vincents Catholic Medical Centers of New York

III. TURNAROUND PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR CATEGORY

Turnaround Professional of the Year

- Meagan Hardcastle, O'Keefe & Associates Consulting

IV. FIRM OF THE YEAR CATEGORIES

Boutique Investment Banking Firm of the Year

- Gordian Group, LLC

Private Equity Firm of the Year

- Sun Capital Partners

Investment Banking Firm of the Year

- Miller Buckfire & Co., LLC

Turnaround Consulting Firm of the Year

- Executive Sounding Board Associates Inc.

V. PRODUCT/SERVICE OF THE YEAR CATEGORY

Turnaround Product/Service of the Year

- S&P Capital IQ
- S&P Capital IQ



VI. SECTOR DEAL CATEGORIES

Healthcare/Life Sciences Deal of the Year

- Sale of Manhattan Campus for \$260MM and Creation of Health Center by Saint Vincent's
Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel LLP
CB Richard Ellis
Grant Thornton LLP
RSV, LLC
Saint Vincents Catholic Medical Centers of New York

Industrial Goods and Basic Resources Deal of the Year

- 363 sale of operating assets of Point Blank Solutions to Sun Capital Partners
CRG Partners
Estate of Point Blank Solutions
Kirkland & Ellis, LLP
Pachulski, Stang, Ziehl & Jones
Sun Capital Partners

Industrial Manufacturing/Distribution Deal of the Year

- Turnaround of Graceland Fruit, Inc.
O'Keefe & Associates Consulting
Advanced Manufacturing Group
Varnum Riddering & Schmidt

Financial Services Deal of the Year

- Reprivatization of Bank of Ireland
WL Ross & Co. LLC
Bank of Ireland
Credit Suisse Europe (Securities)
IBI Corporate Finance / Davy
Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP

Energy Deal of the Year

- Chapter 11 Reorganization of North American Petroleum Corporation USA and its affiliates.
Curtis, Mallet-Prevost, Colt & Mosle LLP
Jackson Walker LLP
Kinetic Advisors
Kirkland & Ellis, LLP
Young Conaway Stargatt & Taylor, LLP



THE M&A ADVISOR

Consumer and Retail Products Deal of the Year (Over \$50 Million)

- 363 Sale of Gas City, Ltd. to multiple strategic buyers
Conway MacKenzie
DSI
Perkins Coie
Proskauer Rose

Consumer and Retail Products Deal of the Year (\$50 Million and under)

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

Consumer Services Deal of the Year

- Chapter 11 Bankruptcy of Alexander Gallo Holdings LLC
Gordian Group, LLC
Alexander
Bayside Capital
DLA Piper
Squire Sanders

Retail Manufacturing/Distribution Deal of the Year (Over \$50 Million)

- Out-of-court Restructuring of Keystone Automotive Operations, Inc.
Miller Buckfire & Co., LLC
Bank of America Merrill Lynch
FTI Consulting
Keystone Automotive Operations, Inc.
Kirkland & Ellis LLP
KPMG
Platinum Equity
Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP

Retail Manufacturing/Distribution Deal of the Year (\$50 Million and under)

- Restructuring of Tomich Brothers Fish Co and Standard Seafood by CounterPoint Capital Partners, LLC
Tomich Brothers, LLC
McGuireWoods
Paul Hastings
PNC Business Credit
Rothstein Kass
Tomich Brothers Fish Co



Real Estate Deal of the Year (\$500 Million and over)

- Asset Sale and Restructuring of Centro Properties Group
Skadden Arps Slate Meagher & Flom
Allens Arthur Robinson
Blackstone Group LP
Bracewell & Giuliani LLP
Clayton Utz
J.P. Morgan Australia Ltd.'s
Lazard, Ltd.
Moelis & Company
Simpson Thacher & Bartlett
Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP

Real Estate Deal of the Year (Under \$500 Million)

- 363 Sale of Gas City, Ltd. to multiple strategic buyers
Conway MacKenzie
DSI
Perkins Coie
Proskauer Rose

Technology, Media, and Telecom Deal of the Year

- Restructuring of Canwest Global Communications (tk: CGS) through Chapter 11/15 and CCAA
Blott Asset Management, L.L.C.
Bennett Jones LLP
Canwest Media Inc
Stikeman Elliot

Professional Services Deal of the Year (B-to-B)

- Sale of Frank Parsons Inc. to The Supply Room Companies, Inc.
SSG Capital Advisors, LLC
Cole, Schotz, Meisel, Forman & Leonard, P.A.
LeClairRyan
NHB Advisors, Inc.
The Supply Room Companies, Inc.
WeinsweigAdvisors LLC

###