



NEWS RELEASE  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Finalists Named for 6<sup>th</sup> Annual M&A Advisor Financing Awards

*Top Deals and Professionals will be honored May 16th in Chicago*

*New York, April 7, 2011* – *The M&A Advisor* has named over 130 finalist companies in 22 different categories in preparation for its annual tribute to the outstanding achievements in the middle market financing industry. The winners will be announced at the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Financing Awards Gala on the evening of Monday, May 16 at The Drake Hotel in Chicago, Illinois.

An independent body of experts, who represent a cross-section of the middle market financing industry, will judge the finalists' deals in the security of Merrill DataSite's™ Virtual Data Room. This secure time saving service allows judges to review finalists' submissions online, maximizing the amount of time for evaluating each award candidate.

“We are very impressed with the quality of the nominations for the 2011 Financing Awards and the range of leading and emerging firms who are finalists candidates. As we continue through this period of recovery, the activity clearly demonstrates the importance of the financing industry to the overall health of the economy.” says Roger Aguinaldo, CEO of *The M&A Advisor*.

This year's finalists represent a number of leading firms, including *Kirkland and Ellis; Sun Capital Partners; BMO Capital Markets; JP Morgan Securities; White & Case; Kohlberg Kravis Roberts & Co.; Ernst and Young; GTCR; R W Baird; Barclays Capital; Houlihan Lokey; Fifth Street Capital* and *The Blackstone Group*, and the most significant transactions of the year including *ESOP buyout of Burnett Companies Consolidated; Acquisition of Terra Industries, Inc. by CF Industries Holdings, Inc.; Acquisition of Loans and Properties from FDIC by Oaktree Capital* and *Initial Public Offering of Vera Bradley*.

To qualify, the Finalists' transactions had to close between March 1, 2010 and February 28, 2011 and be over \$10 million in transaction value.

The M&A Advisor's 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Middle-Market Financing Awards Gala is a premier feature of the M&A Advisor's **Alternative Investing and Financing Summit**. This exclusive symposium brings together leading institutional investors, hedge fund managers, private equity fund managers, lenders and financial advisors for an exclusive symposium. The Summit offers an exclusive venue for industry “thought leaders” to present their views before an informed influential audience and the news media.

**Finalists for the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Financing Awards are listed below and can be accessed at [www.maadvisor.com](http://www.maadvisor.com).**

## **THE M&A ADVISOR**

Since 1998, The M&A Advisor has been the preeminent organization facilitating connections and recognizing achievement in the top performers of the M&A, turnaround and financing industries through its leading Awards, Summits, M&A ALERTS™ newsletters, M&A LINKS™ social network, M&A MARKET INTEL™ research and publishing service and M&A CONNECTS™ business development services. For more information, please visit [www.maadvisor.com](http://www.maadvisor.com).

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## Finalists for the 2011 M&A Advisor Financing Awards

The finalists for the 2011 Financing Awards are as follows. Winners will be announced at the Awards Gala in Chicago, IL on May 16, 2011. Please visit <http://www.maadvisor.com/events/2011-financing-summit-and> for additional details.

### I. Major Deal Categories

#### Acquisition Financing Deal of the Year

- Acquisition of Griffin Industries by Darling International Inc.  
BMO Capital Markets  
Darling International, Inc.  
Griffin Industries  
Harris Williams  
KPMG LLP  
Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP
- ESOP buyout of Burnett Companies Consolidated  
CSG Partners LLC  
JP Morgan Chase Bank  
McGuireWoods LLP  
Meyers Harrison & Pia  
Reliance Trust Company  
Robinson Brog  
The Hudgins Law Firm PC
- Acquisition of Gichner Shelter Systems  
Kratos Defense and Security Solutions  
B Riley & Co.  
Gichner Shelter Systems  
Jefferies & Co.  
KeyBanc
- Acquisition of The Combs Company (BOGS Footwear) by Weyco Group, Inc.  
Partnership Capital Growth  
Cleary Gull Inc.  
The Combs Company  
Doster & Riihimaki, CPAs, LLC  
Gleaves Swearingen Potter & Scott LLP  
Quarles & Brady LLP  
Weyco Group, Inc.
- Acquisition of Controlled Recovery Inc. by R360 Environmental Solutions, Inc.  
Blue Sage Capital, LP  
Morgan Keegan  
R360 Environmental Solutions, Inc.  
Simmons & Company International
- Refinancing for Harden Healthcare  
Houlihan Lokey  
Cyan Partners LLP  
Harden Healthcare, LLC  
KKR Capital Markets  
ORIX Capital Markets, LLC  
Vinson & Elkins LLP  
White & Case LLP

- Acquisition of Terra Industries, Inc. by CF Industries Holdings, Inc.
  - White & Case
  - Cravath, Swaine & Moore LLP
  - Credit Suisse Securities
  - Innisfree M&A Inc.
  - Mellon Investor Services, LLC
  - Morgan Stanley
  - Osler, Hoskin & Harcourt LLP
  - Rothschild North America Inc.
  - Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom, LLP
  - Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz

### **Debt Financing Deal of the Year**

- Acquisition of Gichner Shelter Systems
  - Kratos Defense
  - B Riley & Co.
  - Gichner Shelter Systems
  - Jefferies & Co.
  - KeyBanc
- Acquisition of Loans and Properties from FDIC by Oaktree Capital
  - Paul, Hastings, Janofsky & Walker LLP
  - Barclays Capital
  - Federal Deposit Insurance Company
  - Hughes Hubbard
  - Oaktree Capital Management
- Lifetime Brands Secured Second Lien Credit Facility
  - Carl Marks Advisory Group LLC
  - Citibank
  - Lifetime Brands
  - Rivkin Radler LLP
- Endeavour International Financing
  - Houlihan Lokey
  - Cyan Partners
  - Endeavour International Corporation
  - Vinson & Elkins LLP
  - White & Case LLP
- Refinancing for Harden Healthcare
  - Houlihan Lokey
  - Cyan Partners LLP
  - Harden Healthcare, LLC
  - KKR Capital Markets
  - ORIX Capital Markets, LLC
  - Vinson & Elkins LLP
  - White & Case LLP

### **Equity Financing Deal of the Year**

- Initial Public Offering of Vera Bradley
  - Robert W. Baird & Co.
  - ICR Inc.
  - Winston & Strawn LLP
- Acquisition of Controlled Recovery Inc. by R360 Environmental Solutions, Inc.
  - Blue Sage Capital, LP
  - Morgan Keegan
  - R360 Environmental Solutions, Inc
  - Simmons & Company International

- Equity financing for The SCOOTER Store  
 McColl Partners, LLC  
 Haynes & Boone, LLP  
 Kirkland & Ellis, LLP  
 Morgan, Lewis & Bockius, LLP  
 Navigant  
 Sun Capital Partners  
 The SCOOTER Store
- Public Offering of ECA Marcellus Trust I Royalty Trust Securities  
 Raymond James & Associates, Inc.  
 Baker Botts L.L.P.  
 Energy Corporation of America  
 Ernst & Young LLP  
 Ryder Scott  
 Vinson & Elkins LLP
- Acquisition of Terra Industries, Inc. by CF Industries Holdings, Inc.  
 White & Case  
 Cravath, Swaine & Moore LLP  
 Credit Suisse Securities  
 Innisfree M&A Inc.  
 Mellon Investor Services, LLC  
 Morgan Stanley  
 Osler, Hoskin & Harcourt LLP  
 Rothschild North America Inc.  
 Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom, LLP  
 Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz

### **Distressed Financing Deal of the Year**

- Acquisition of Loans and Properties from FDIC Oaktree Capital  
 Paul, Hastings, Janofsky & Walker LLP  
 Barclays Capital  
 Federal Deposit Insurance Company  
 Hughes Hubbard  
 Oaktree Capital Management
- Recapitalization and Restructuring of The Protective Group, Inc. debt and equity  
 SSG Capital Advisors, LLC  
 Chadbourne & Parke LLP  
 The Exxel Group  
 Greenberg Traurig  
 The Protective Group, Inc.  
 The Royal Bank of Scotland Group
- Turnaround, Refinancing and Equity Infusion of Multimedia Commerce Group, Inc. (Jewelry TV).  
 NHB Advisors  
 Multimedia Commerce Group, Inc.  
 Wachovia Bank

### **Financing Deal Maker of the Year**

- Casey Zmijeski, Fifth Street Capital, LLC (Debt)
- Chris Dunlop, Houlihan Lokey (Equity)
- Chuck Adair, BMO Capital (Acquisition)
- Thomas Hays III, NHB Advisors (Distressed)

## **II. Firms of the Year**

### **Boutique Investment Banking Firm of the Year**

- Carl Marks Advisory Group
- CSG Partners LLC
- Marlin & Associates New York, LLC
- McColl Partners
- SSG Capital Advisors, LLC

### **Investment Banking Firm of the Year**

- BMO Capital Markets
- Harris Williams
- Houlihan Lokey
- Jefferies & Co.
- Robert W. Baird

### **Private Equity Firm of the Year**

- Blue Sage Capital, LP
- GTCR, LLC
- Kohlberg Kravis Roberts & Co.
- OakTree Capital Management
- TA Associates
- The Exxel Group

### **Debt Financing Firm of the Year**

- Barclays Capital
- Citibank
- CSG Partners LLC
- Fifth Street Capital, LLC
- JP Morgan Chase

**Product/Service of the Year**

- AxialMarket
- Capital IQ
- IBIS World
- Merrill Corporation
- PitchBook

**Senior Secured Financing Firm of the Year**

- Cyan Partners
- Fifth Street Capital, LLC
- KeyBanc

**Law Firm of the Year**

- Cahill Gordon & Reindel LLP
- Greenberg Traurig LLP
- Haynes and Boone LLP
- Kirkland & Ellis LLP
- Paul, Hastings, Janofsky & Walker LLP
- Weil Gotshal & Manges LLP
- Winston & Strawn LLP

**Institutional Investor of the Year**

- California Public Employees Retirement System
- Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund
- Illinois State Board of Investment
- NYS Common Retirement Fund
- Teachers Retirement System of the State of Illinois

## **Fund of Funds Manager of the Year**

- Adams Street Partners
- Grove Street Advisors
- HarbourVest Partners
- Hamilton Lane
- INVESCO Private Capital

## **III. Sector Deals**

### **Consumer and Retail**

- Acquisition of The Combs Company (BOGS Footwear) by Weyco Group, Inc. Partnership Capital Growth  
The Combs Company  
Cleary Gull Inc.  
Doster & Riihimaki, CPAs, LLC  
Gleaves Swearingen Potter & Scott LLP  
Quarles & Brady LLP  
Weyco Group, Inc.
- Lifetime Brands Secured Second Lien Credit Facility Carl Marks Advisory Group LLC  
Citibank  
Lifetime Brands  
Rivkin Radler LLP
- Cath Kidston Limited TA Associates, Inc.  
Cath Kidston Limited  
Quayle Munro Holdings PLC  
Hammonds LLP  
KPMG LLP  
Macfarlanes LLP

### **Energy (includes alternative)**

- Acquisition of Controlled Recovery Inc. by R360 Environmental Solutions, Inc. Blue Sage Capital, LP  
Morgan Keegan  
R360 Environmental Solutions, Inc  
Simmons & Company International
- Public Offering of ECA Marcellus Trust I Royalty Trust Securities Raymond James & Associates, Inc.  
Baker Botts L.L.P.  
Energy Corporation of America  
Ernst & Young LLP  
Ryder Scott  
Vinson & Elkins LLP

- Endeavour International Financing  
Houlihan Lokey  
Cyan Partners  
Endeavour International Corporation  
Vinson & Elkins LLP  
White & Case LLP

### **Financial Services (institutional or consumer services)**

- NASDAQ OMX Acquires SMARTS Group Holding Pty, Ltd (Australia)  
Marlin & Associates New York, LLC  
ArgyStar.com
- Sale by Deutsche Börse of its majority interest in Avox to Depository Trust & Clearing Corporation (DTCC)  
Marlin & Associates New York, LLC  
Avox
- Turnaround of Bank United  
The Blackstone Group  
The Carlyle Group  
Centerbridge Partners  
LeFrak Organization  
Wellcome Trust  
W.L. Ross

### **Healthcare/Life Sciences (pharmaceutical, biotech, etc)**

- Equity financing for The SCOOTER Store  
McColl Partners, LLC  
Haynes & Boone, LLP  
Kirkland & Ellis, LLP  
Morgan, Lewis & Bockius, LLP  
Navigant  
Sun Capital Partners  
The SCOOTER Store
- Refinancing for Harden Healthcare  
Houlihan Lokey  
Cyan Partners LLP  
Harden Healthcare, LLC  
KKR Capital Markets  
ORIX Capital Markets, LLC  
Vinson & Elkins LLP  
White & Case LLP
- ACI Medical Devices, Inc.  
The Pritzker Group  
Argon Medical Devices, Inc.  
Jones Day  
Kirkland & Ellis LLP  
Robert W. Baird & Co.  
RoundTable Healthcare Partners

## **Industrial Manufacturing/Distribution**

- Acquisition of Gichner Shelter Systems  
Kratos Defense and Security Solutions  
B Riley & Co.  
Gichner Shelter Systems  
Jefferies & Co.  
KeyBanc
- Recapitalization and Restructuring of The Protective Group, Inc. debt and equity  
SSG Capital Advisors, LLC  
Chadbourne & Parke LLP  
The Exxel Group  
Greenberg Traurig  
The Protective Group, Inc.  
The Royal Bank of Scotland Group
- The Linc Group, Inc.  
ABM Industries Inc.  
Credit Suisse (USA) Inc.  
GI Partners  
Global Innovation Private Equity Fund I, L.P  
Jefferies & Company, Inc  
Jones Day  
Paul, Hastings, Janofsky & Walker LLP
- Acquisition of Terra Industries, Inc. by CF Industries Holdings, Inc.  
White & Case  
Cravath, Swaine & Moore LLP  
Credit Suisse Securities  
Innisfree M&A Inc.  
Mellon Investor Services, LLC  
Morgan Stanley  
Osler, Hoskin & Harcourt LLP  
Rothschild North America Inc.  
Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom, LLP  
Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz

## **Information Technology (includes internet, computers, etc)**

- Sale of iSuppli Corp to IHS Inc.  
Marlin & Associates New York, LLC  
Stradling Yocca Carlson & Rauth
- Acquisition of Ambit Messaging Hub from Sungard by SWIFT (Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication)  
Marlin & Associates New York, LLC  
S.W.I.F.T. SCRL
- Acquisition of RI3K by Qatar Insurance Services  
Marlin & Associates New York, LLC  
Charles Russell LLP

## Professional Services (B-to-B focus)

- Refinancing and Restructuring of The Matlet Group LLC  
SSG Capital Advisors, LLC  
Cameron & Mittleman LLP  
Citigroup  
Cole Taylor Business Capital  
Contrarian Capital Management, LLC  
CRG Partners Group LLC  
The Matlet Group LLC  
Winston & Strawn, LLP
- ESOP buyout of Burnett Companies Consolidated  
CSG Partners LLC  
JP Morgan Chase Bank  
McGuireWoods LLP  
Meyers Harrison & Pia  
Reliance Trust Company  
Robinson Brog  
The Hudgins Law Firm PC
- Acquisition of Controlled Recovery Inc. by R360 Environmental Solutions, Inc.  
Blue Sage Capital, LP  
Morgan Keegan  
R360 Environmental Solutions, Inc  
Simmons & Company International

## Real Estate (commercial, industrial, development, etc)

- Acquisition of loans and properties from FDIC by Oaktree Capital  
Paul Hastings Janofsky & Walker  
Barclays Capital  
Federal Deposit Insurance Company  
Hughes Hubbard  
Oaktree Capital Management
- Grove Park Apartment Community  
Angelo, Gordon & Co.  
Avalonbay Communities Inc.  
Federal Capital Partners
- TIAA-CREF, Royal Palm I & Royal Palm II Class A Office Buildings in Southpointe Centre Office Park  
Duke Realty Corp.  
Cushman & Wakefield Capital Markets Group

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