



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Finalists Named in 3rd Annual Middle Market Financing Awards**

*Top Deals and Professionals will be honored June 9th in Chicago*

New York, May 12, 2008 – *The M&A Advisor* has named 104 finalists in 21 different categories in preparation for its annual tribute to the outstanding achievements in the middle market financing industry. The winners will be announced at a gala awards dinner on the evening of Monday, June 9 at The Drake Hotel in Chicago, Illinois.

“We are truly astonished and gratified at the volume of nominations for these awards and the obvious enthusiasm behind them, given the current climate for credit and financing. The response demonstrates the importance of the middle market financing industry to the overall health of the economy.” says Roger Aguinaldo, CEO and Publisher of *The M&A Advisor*.

Among the organizations up for awards are **PNC Financial Services Group, Inc., Citi Capital Strategies, GE Healthcare Financial Services** and **Houlihan Lokey**.

A panel of judges from business schools, the financial press, the fields of banking, law and private equity will review the entries and select the winners. As with the Academy Awards, the winners will be revealed only on the evening of June 9th in Chicago. The awards gala is part of a two-day conference organized by The M&A Advisor to cover the intricacies of middle market financing and private equity.

For more information, please call 718-997-7900 or visit us on the web at [www.maadvisor.com](http://www.maadvisor.com).

### **About the M&A Advisor**

Since 1998, The M&A Advisor has been connecting professionals in the mergers and acquisitions, distressed investing and related financial industries through its leading conferences and awards galas, M&A Alerts newsletter and online community. More information is available online at [www.maadvisor.com](http://www.maadvisor.com), by calling 1-877-99-MERGE (1-877-996-3743) or emailing to [info@maadvisor.com](mailto:info@maadvisor.com).

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The list of finalists begins on the next pages. Five (5) pages follow.

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The finalists are:

## **Major Awards**

### **Middle-Market M&A Financing Deal of the Year**

- Acquisition of Novamerican Steel Inc. by Symmetry Holdings Inc. and Related Financing *Kelley Drye & Warren LLP*
- MarkWest Energy Partners merger with parent company MarkWest Hydrocarbon *Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP*
- Recapitalization of OMi Holdings, Inc. *Allegiance Capital Corporation*
- Middle-Market M&A Financing of WDC Exploration & Wells *Citi Capital Strategies*
- Acquisition Financing of Michael's Finer Meats & Seafoods *Edgeview Partners*
- Acquisition Financing of Sprint Industrial Holdings *Edgeview Partners*
- Acquisition Financing for Harden Healthcare to acquire Girling Healthcare *Houlihan Lokey*
- Netik's Acquisition of Capco Reference Data Services (CRDS) and Financing from Symphony Technology Group *Marlin & Associates*
- Asset-based debt financing and equity financing of SupplyOne *The PNC Financial Services Group, Inc.*
- Securitization of Receivables and Syndication of Secured Revolver of Presidio, Inc. *The PNC Financial Services Group, Inc.*

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

- LUKOIL offering *Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP*
- Asset-based Financing of Cleveland Die & Manufacturing Company and Cleveland Die of Mexico *Faunus Group International dba. FGI Finance*
- Acquisition Financing for Harden Healthcare to acquire Girling Healthcare *Houlihan Lokey*
- Dividend Recapitalization of Walker Group Holdings LLC, portfolio company of Insight Equity *Miller Buckfire & Co., LLC*
- Collateralized Debt Financing for Sultan Mall *Financial Transaction House*
- Senior and Second-Lien Financing for Life Generations, Healthcare *Houlihan Lokey*
- Senior and Second-Lien Financing of Oviso Manufacturing *Houlihan Lokey*
- Asset-based Financing of Gulf Coast Machine & Supply Company (Gulfco) *The PNC Financial Services Group, Inc.*
- Securitization of Receivables and Syndication of Secured Revolver of Presidio, Inc. *The PNC Financial Services Group, Inc.*

## Equity Financing Deal of the Year

- Cinemark Holdings IPO *Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP*
- Minority Equity Recapitalization of AMPAM Parks Mechanical *Houlihan Lokey*
- Leveraged Buyout of a business unit from a Canadian public Company  
*Lone Star New Markets LP*
- Canopy Financial's \$15 mm Capital Raise Led by Granite Global Ventures  
*Financial Technology Partners*
- Minority Recapitalization of TradingScreen *Financial Technology Partners*
- Sale of Refco's 35% stake in Forex Capital Markets *Financial Technology Partners*
- ViVOtech Financing *Financial Technology Partners*
- Recapitalization of Russell Newman, Ltd. *GW Equity, LLC*
- RiskMetrics Group Initial Public Offering *Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel LLP*
- Netik's Acquisition of Capco Reference Data Services (CRDS) and Financing from Symphony Technology Group *Marlin & Associates*

## Distressed Financing Deal of the Year

- Recapitalization of Tembec Industries, Inc. *Bracewell & Giuliani LLP*
- Chapter 11 Reorganization of Northwest Airlines *Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft LLP*
- St Vincent's Catholic Medical Centers of NY Exit Financing  
*GE Healthcare Financial Services*
- Restructuring/ 363 Sale of Summit Global Logistics, Inc. *Gordian Group, LLC*
- Multi-tranche Financing of Atwood Mobile Products out of Dura Automotive Bankruptcy *Insight Equity*

## Acquisition Financing Deal of the Year

- Acquisition Financing of Michael's Finer Meats & Seafoods *Edgeview Partners*
- Acquisition Financing of Sprint Industrial Holdings *Edgeview Partners*
- Acquisition Financing for Harden Healthcare to acquire Girling Healthcare  
*Houlihan Lokey*
- Acquisition by Rain Calcining Limited of CII Carbon, L.L.C. and related financing transactions *Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel LLP*
- Acquisition and Financing of Stabler Companies by New Enterprise Stone & Lime Co. Inc. *TM Capital Corp.*
- Water Street Healthcare Partners and Wind Point Partner merger of Physiotherapy Associates and Benchmark Medical Inc. *GE Healthcare Financial Services*
- Restructuring/ 363 Sale of Summit Global Logistics, Inc. *Gordian Group, LLC*
- Asset-based debt financing and equity financing of SupplyOne  
*The PNC Financial Services Group, Inc.*
- Multi-tranche Financing of Atwood Mobile Products out of Dura Automotive Bankruptcy *Insight Equity*

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

- Arthur W. Hollingsworth *Lone Star New Markets LP*
- Ted Polk *Citi Capital Strategies*
- Steve J. McLaughlin *Financial Technology Partners*

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

- Noel R. Ryan *Houlihan Lokey*
- Ted Polk *Citi Capital Strategies*
- Steve J. McLaughlin *Financial Technology Partners*

## **Sector Deal Awards: (Debt, Equity and/or Combination)**

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

- Canopy Financial's \$15 mm Capital Raise Led by Granite Global Ventures  
*Financial Technology Partners*
- Minority Recapitalization of TradingScreen *Financial Technology Partners*
- Sale of Refco's 35% stake in Forex Capital Markets *Financial Technology Partners*
- ViVOtech Financing *Financial Technology Partners*
- Netik's Acquisition of Capco Reference Data Services (CRDS) and Financing from Symphony Technology Group *Marlin & Associates*

### **Media, Entertainment or Telecom**

- Gorilla Nation Media Received a Significant Investment from Great Hill Partners  
*The Jordan, Edmiston Group, Inc.*
- Cinemark Holdings IPO *Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP*

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

- Canopy Financial's \$15 mm Capital Raise Led by Granite Global Ventures  
*Financial Technology Partners*
- Acquisition Financing for Harden Healthcare to acquire Girling Healthcare  
*Houlihan Lokey*
- Cash Flow Financing of Aptuit, Inc. *GE Healthcare Financial Services*
- Cash-flow based financing of NF Holdings Corporation ("Nursefinders")  
*GE Healthcare Financial Services*
- Senior and Second-Lien Financing for Life Generations, Healthcare *Houlihan Lokey*

## **Energy (includes alternative energy, etc)**

- Middle-Market M&A Financing of WDC Exploration & Wells *Citi Capital Strategies*
- MarkWest Energy Partners merger with parent company MarkWest Hydrocarbon  
*Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP*

## **Industrial Manufacturing/Distribution & Goods/Services (Below \$100mm)**

- Senior and Second-Lien Financing of Oviso Manufacturing *Houlihan Lokey*
- Minority Equity Recapitalization of AMPAM Parks Mechanical *Houlihan Lokey*
- Asset-based debt financing and equity financing of SupplyOne  
*The PNC Financial Services Group, Inc.*
- Asset-based Financing of Gulf Coast Machine & Supply Company (Gulfc) *The PNC Financial Services Group, Inc.*
- Acquisition of Fischbein LLC *Circle Peak Capital*
- Recapitalization of OMi Holdings, Inc. *Allegiance Capital Corporation*

## **Industrial Manufacturing/Distribution & Goods/Services (Above \$100mm)**

- Middle-Market M&A Financing of WDC Exploration & Wells *Citi Capital Strategies*
- Acquisition Financing of Sprint Industrial Holdings *Edgeview Partners*
- Acquisition and Financing of Stabler Companies by New Enterprise Stone & Lime Co. Inc. *TM Capital Corp.*
- Acquisition by Rain Calcining Limited of CII Carbon, L.L.C. and related financing transactions *Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel LLP*
- Multi-tranche Financing of Atwood Mobile Products *Insight Equity*
- Dividend Recapitalization of Walker Group Holdings LLC, portfolio company of Insight Equity *Miller Buckfire & Co., LLC*

## **Financial Services**

- ViVOtech Financing *Financial Technology Partners*
- Canopy Financial's \$15 mm Capital Raise Led by Granite Global Ventures  
*Financial Technology Partners*
- Minority Recapitalization of TradingScreen *Financial Technology Partners*
- Sale of Refco's 35% stake in Forex Capital Markets *Financial Technology Partners*
- Netik's Acquisition of Capco Reference Data Services (CRDS) and Financing from Symphony Technology Group *Marlin & Associates*

## **Retail Manufacturing/Distribution & Goods/Services**

- Acquisition Financing of Michael's Finer Meats & Seafoods *Edgeview Partners*
- Recapitalization of Russell Newman, Ltd. *GW Equity, LLC*

## **Firm of the Year Awards:**

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

- Allied Capital
- Golub Capital
- PNC

### **Investment Bank**

- Citi Capital Strategies
- Edgeview Partners
- Harris Williams
- Houlihan Lokey

### **Boutique Investment Bank**

- Allegiance Capital Corporation
- Financial Technology Partners
- Gordian Group, LLC
- The Jordan, Edmiston Group, Inc.
- TM Capital Corp.

### **Law Firm of the Year**

- Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP
- Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft LLP
- Kelley Drye & Warren LLP
- Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel LLP

### **Financial Restructuring Advisor**

- Alvarez & Marsal
- Yorkville Advisors
- Focus Management Group

### **Private Equity Sponsor**

- Circle Peak Capital
- Insight Equity
- Lone Star New Markets LP