



## NEWS RELEASE

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **THE M&A ADVISOR ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF 9<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL M&A AWARDS AT NEW YORK GALA**

**NEW YORK, Dec. 14, 2010** — [The M&A Advisor](#) announced the winners of the 2010 M&A Awards to a sold out audience at the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual M&A Awards Gala at the New York Athletic Club on Tuesday night. The culmination of the premier M&A Summit of the year attracting global leaders in M&A, this year's Gala was hosted by [Bloomberg](#) TV anchor Margaret Brennan.

“The award winners represent the best of the M&A industry in 2010 and earned these honors by standing out in a group of very impressive finalists,” said Roger Aguinaldo, CEO of The M&A Advisor. “From the lower middle market transaction to those over \$1 billion - Magnus Deal of the Year, we have recognized the determined deal makers who have performed at the highest levels in mergers and acquisitions.”

The M&A Awards Gala honored deal-teams, deal-makers, and firms whose activities set the standard for the industry. This year, 243 finalists in 47 categories were chosen. An independent body of expert judges that span the M&A industry determined the ultimate recipients of the awards. The winners were revealed “Academy-Award style” at the gala.

In addition to the 2010 honorees, Robert “Steve” Miller, Chairman of AIG, was awarded a Lifetime Achievement Award. In a first, The M&A Advisor introduced its Hall of Fame inducting past Lifetime Achievement Award recipients: Peter G. Peterson; David T. Morgenthaler; John K. Castle; Wilbur L. Ross; Charles W. Downer, Robert “Steve” Miller and Bruce Wasserstein (in memoriam).

The Annual M&A Advisor Awards Gala and Summit is one of the largest and most exclusive networking events in the M&A industry. In addition to recognizing and rewarding the industry's top transactions and firms of the year, the Summit features over 50 of the world's leading M&A professionals participating in exclusive interactive forums. M&A in the BRIC's; US Financial Reform – Dodd Frank and Beyond; and Navigating Turbulent Markets were just some of the key feature sessions.

**A complete list of the winners is attached 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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## Winners of the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual M&A Advisor Awards

The winners of the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual M&A Awards are as follows. Winners were announced at the Awards Gala in New York City on December 14, 2009. Please visit [www.maadvisor.com](http://www.maadvisor.com) for additional details.

### The M&A Advisor Lifetime Achievement Award

- Robert "Steve" Miller, Chairman, MidOcean Partners and American International Group (AIG)

### The M&A Advisor Hall of Fame Inductees

- Peter G. Peterson
- David T. Morgenthaler
- John K. Castle
- Wilbur L. Ross
- Charles W. Downer
- Bruce Wasserstein (in memoriam)
- Robert "Steve" Miller

### Major Deal Categories

#### Upper Middle-Market Deal of the Year (Over \$500mm)

- Sale of Mercury Payment Systems to Silver Lake Partners  
**Nominated by:**  
Financial Technology Partners  
**Deal Team Members:**  
Mercury Payment Systems  
Silver Lake

#### Middle-Market Deal of the Year (Between \$250mm and \$500mm)

- Acquisition of Diedrich Coffee Inc. (Nasdaq: DDRX) by Green Mountain Coffee Roasters Inc. (Nasdaq: GMCR)  
**Nominated by:**  
Houlihan Lokey  
**Deal Team Members:**  
Diedrich Coffee  
Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP

#### Middle-Market Deal of the Year (From \$100mm to \$250mm)

- Acquisition of Character Licensing LLC ("Peanuts"), owned by The E.W. Scripps Company by, Iconix Brand Group  
**Nominated by:**  
Baker Hostetler LLP  
**Deal Team Members:**  
Blank Rome LLP  
The E.W. Scripps Company

#### Corporate/Strategic Acquisition of the Year (Over \$750mm)

- Sale of Volvo Car Corporation by Ford Motor Company to Zhejiang Geely Holding Group Company Limited  
**Nominated by:**  
Hogan Lovells US LLP  
**Deal Team Members:**  
Citigroup Global Markets  
J.P. Morgan Securities  
KPMG

**Corporate/Strategic Acquisition of the Year (Over \$500mm to \$750mm)**

- Acquisition of Bell Microproducts Inc. by Avnet, Inc. ("Avnet") **Nominated by:**  
Raymond James & Associates, Inc.

**Corporate/Strategic Acquisition of the Year (Over \$300mm to \$500 mm)**

- Sale of COMSYS IT Partners, Inc. to Manpower, Inc. **Nominated by:**  
Robert W. Baird & Co.

**Corporate/Strategic Acquisition of the Year (Over \$100mm to \$300mm)**

- Acquisition of Diedrich Coffee Inc. (Nasdaq: DDRX) by Green Mountain Coffee Roasters Inc. (Nasdaq: GMCR) **Nominated by:**  
Houlihan Lokey  
**Deal Team Members:**  
Diedrich Coffee  
Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP

**Corporate/Strategic Acquisition of the Year (\$100 mm and less)**

- Sale of Pfizer's animal vaccine business in China to Harbin Pharmaceutical **Nominated by:**  
Business Development Asia LLC  
**Deal Team Members:**  
Clifford Chance US LLP  
King & Wood

**Lower Middle Market Deal of the Year (From \$50mm to \$100mm)**

- Sale of Hugin to Thomson Reuters by NYSE Euronext **Nominated by:**  
Marlin & Associates New York, LLC

**Lower Middle Market Deal of the Year (From \$30mm to \$50mm)**

- Sale of E-Mon LLC to Honeywell International by Branford Castle **Nominated by:**  
Branford Castle, Inc.  
**Deal Team Members:**  
Boies, Schiller & Flexner LLP  
Harris Williams / Cobblestone  
Peninsula Capital Partners LLC

**Lower Middle Market Deal of the Year (Less than \$30mm)**

- Acquisition of Sun Water Systems, Inc. d/b/a Aquasana by Catterton Partners **Nominated by:**  
JD Ford & Company  
**Deal Team Members:**  
Catterton Partners  
Sun Water Systems, Inc.

**Cross-Border Deal of the Year (Over \$1 Billion)**

- Sale of Volvo Car Corporation and related assets by Ford Motor Company to Zhejiang Geely Holding Group Company Limited **Nominated by:**  
Hogan Lovells US LLP  
**Deal Team Members:**  
Citigroup Global Markets  
J.P. Morgan Securities  
KPMG

### **Cross-Border Deal of the Year (Between \$100 mm and \$1 Billion)**

- Sale of Custom House to Western Union

**Nominated by:**  
Financial Technology Partners  
**Deal Team Members:**  
Custom House

### **Cross-Border Deal of the Year (\$100mm and less)**

- Sale of Pfizer's animal vaccine business in China to Harbin Pharmaceutical

**Nominated by:**  
Business Development Asia LLC  
**Deal Team Members:**  
Clifford Chance US LLP  
King & Wood

### **Dealmaker of the Year**

- John Ferrara, Capstone Partners LLC

### **Woman Dealmaker of the Year**

- Christine LaFollette, Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP

### **Magnus Deal of the Year (Over \$1 billion)**

- Acquisition of Terra Industries by CF Industries

**Nominated by:**  
Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP

### **Magnus Cross-border/International Deal of the Year**

- Acquisition of Pearl Group by Liberty Acquisition Holdings (International) Company

**Nominated by:**  
Tegris Advisors, LLC  
**Deal Team Members:**  
Citigroup Global Markets  
Greenberg Traurig, LLP

## **Sector Deal Categories**

### **Information Technology (Over \$500mm)**

- Acquisition of Bell Microproducts Inc. by Avnet, Inc.

**Nominated by:**  
Raymond James & Associates, Inc.

### **Information Technology (\$500 mm or less)**

- Sale of Custom House to Western Union

**Nominated by:**  
Financial Technology Partners  
**Deal Team Members:**  
Custom House

#### **Media, Entertainment or Telecom (Over \$500mm)**

- Acquisition of Marvel Entertainment, Inc. by The Walt Disney Company

**Nominated by:**  
Paul, Hastings, Janofsky & Walker

#### **Media, Entertainment or Telecom (\$500mm and less)**

- Acquisition of EducationCity by Archipelago Learning (Nasdaq: ARCL)

**Nominated by:**  
MHT Partners, LP  
**Deal Team Members:**  
Archipelago Learning  
Weil, Gotshal & Manges, LLP

#### **Healthcare/Life Sciences (Over \$100mm)**

- Sale of Pfizer's animal vaccine business in China to Harbin Pharmaceutical

**Nominated by:**  
Business Development Asia LLC  
**Deal Team Members:**  
Clifford Chance US LLP  
King & Wood

#### **Healthcare/Life Sciences (\$100 mm and less)**

- Acquisition of Spectrum Pharmacy Products by Harvard Drug Group

**Nominated by:**  
McGladrey Capital Markets LLC  
**Deal Team Members:**  
Seyfarth Shaw LLP  
Spectrum Chemical  
Stahl Cowen Crowley Addis LLC

#### **Energy (Over \$100mm)**

- Hostile acquisition of Energy Developments Ltd, an Australian Public Company

**Nominated by:**  
Pacific Equity Partners  
**Deal Team Members:**  
Gilbert & Tobin Lawyers  
UBS

#### **Energy (\$100mm and less)**

- Recapitalization of Global X-Ray and Testing Corp. by Platte River Ventures

**Nominated by:**  
McGladrey Capital Markets LLC  
**Deal Team Members:**  
King, Krebs & Jurgens, PLLC  
Leblanc and Carpenter

#### **Retail Manufacturing/Distribution (Over \$500mm)**

- Acquisition of 230 ExxonMobil gas stations and convenience stores by Mid Atlantic Convenience Stores

**Nominated by:**  
Xnergy LLC  
**Deal Team Members:**  
Catterton Partners  
Global Solutions  
Las Vegas Business Services  
Law Offices of Donald Johnson

**Retail Manufacturing/Distribution (\$500 or less)**

- Acquisition of Reynoldsville Casket Company by Matthews International Corporation

**Nominated by:**  
Generational Equity, LLC

**Industrial Manufacturing/Distribution (Over \$100 mm)**

- Sale of Volvo Car Corporation by Ford Motor Company to Zhejiang Geely Holding Group Company Limited

**Nominated by:**  
Hogan Lovells US LLP  
**Deal Team Members:**  
Citigroup Global Markets  
J.P. Morgan Securities  
KPMG

**Industrial Manufacturing/Distribution (\$100 mm and less)**

- Creation of US LBM Holdings, LLC by BlackEagle Partners, LLC

**Nominated by:**  
BlackEagle Partners LLC  
**Deal Team Members:**  
Alvarez & Marsal, Inc.  
Honigman Miller Schwartz and Cohn LLP  
Moelis & Company

**Industrial Goods and Basic Resources**

- Acquisition of Terra Industries by CF Industries

**Nominated by:**  
Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP

**Financial Services (Over \$500mm)**

- Acquisition of Pearl Group by Liberty Acquisition Holdings (International) Company

**Nominated by:**  
Tegris Advisors, LLC  
**Deal Team Members:**  
Citigroup Global Markets  
Greenberg Traurig, LLP

**Financial Services (\$500mm or less)**

- Acquisition of SMARTS Group Holding Pty, Ltd (Australia) by NASDAQ OMX

**Nominated by:**  
Marlin & Associates New York, LLC

**Consumer and Retail Products (\$400mm and over)**

- Sale of a majority equity stake of Provo Craft to BAML Capital Partners

**Nominated by:**  
Robert W. Baird & Co.

**Consumer and Retail Products (Between \$100mm and \$400mm)**

- Acquisition of Diedrich Coffee Inc. (Nasdaq: DDRX) by Green Mountain Coffee Roasters Inc. (Nasdaq: GMCR)

**Nominated by:**  
Houlihan Lokey  
**Deal Team Members:**  
Diedrich Coffee  
Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP

### **Consumer and Retail Products (\$100mm or less)**

- Acquisition of Sun Water Systems, Inc. d/b/a Aquasana by Catterton Partners

**Nominated by:**  
JD Ford & Company  
**Deal Team Members:**  
Catterton Partners  
Sun Water Systems, Inc.

### **Professional Services (Over \$100mm)**

- Sale of COMSYS IT Partners, Inc. to Manpower, Inc.

**Nominated by:**  
Robert W. Baird & Co.

### **Professional Services (\$100mm or less)**

- Acquisition of SGIS by Salient Solutions, a portfolio company of Frontenac Company

**Nominated by:**  
BB&T Capital Markets | Windsor Group  
**Deal Team Members:**  
SGIS  
Venable LLP

### **Green/Environmental Deal of the Year**

- Sale of E-Mon LLC to Honeywell International by Branford Castle

**Nominated by:**  
Branford Castle, Inc.  
**Deal Team Members:**  
Boies, Schiller & Flexner LLP  
Harris Williams / Cobblestone  
Peninsula Capital Partners LLC

### **Consumer Services**

- Acquisition of PCAA Parent, LLC by Commercial Finance Services 2907, Inc.

**Nominated by:**  
SSG Capital Advisors, LLC  
**Deal Team Members:**  
Dykema Gossett PLLC  
Milbank, Tweed, Hadley & McCloy, LLP  
Richards, Layton & Finger, P.A.

## **Firm/Product Categories**

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

- Business Development Asia LLC

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

- P&M Corporate Finance, LLC

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

- Morrison & Foerster LLP

### **Services/Valuation Firm of the Year**

- Houlihan Lokey

**Private Equity Firm of the Year**

- Huron Capital Partners, LLC

**M&A Product/Service of the Year**

- Merrill DataSite, *Merrill Corporation*

**Accounting/Due Diligence Firm**

- RSM McGladrey, Inc.

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