



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE M&A ADVISOR ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF THE 6TH ANNUAL MIDDLE MARKET FINANCING AWARDS AT CHICAGO GALA

CHICAGO, May 31, 2011 - [The M&A Advisor](#) announced the winners of the 2011 Financing Awards to a vibrant crowd on May 16 at the 6th Annual Middle-Market Financing Awards Gala at the Drake Hotel in Chicago, IL. The event was hosted by FOX Business Network reporter, Jeff Flock.

“As we continue through this period of recovery, we are proud to recognize those firms and individuals who are leading the financing of American business,” said Roger Aguinaldo, CEO of *The M&A Advisor*. “All of our financing award recipients are true industry leaders who have performed at the highest level.”

The Financing Awards Gala honored deal teams, deal makers, and firms whose activities set the standard for the industry. This year, 130 finalists in 22 categories were chosen. An independent body of experts who represent a cross-section of the middle-market financing industry determined the ultimate recipients of the awards. Winners were revealed “Academy Awards-style” at the gala.

A Complete list of the winners is attached.

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.

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Winners of the 6th Annual Financing Awards

I. MAJOR CATEGORIES

Acquisition Financing Deal of the Year

- ESOP buyout of Burnett Companies Consolidated CSG Partners LLC

Debt Financing Deal of the Year

- Lifetime Brands Secured Second Lien Credit Facility Carl Marks Advisory Group LLC

Equity Financing Deal of the Year

- Initial Public Offering of Vera Bradley Robert W. Baird & Co.

Distressed Financing Deal of the Year

- Turnaround, Refinancing and Equity Infusion of Multimedia Commerce Group, Inc. (Jewelry TV). NHB Advisors

Financing Deal Maker of the Year

Chris Dunlop Houlihan Lokey



II. FIRM OF THE YEAR CATEGORIES

Boutique Investment Banking Firm of the Year

SSG Capital Advisors, LLC

Investment Banking Firm of the Year

Houlihan Lokey

Private Equity Firm of the Year

GTCR, LLC

Debt Financing Firm of the Year

Fifth Street Capital, LLC

Product/Service of the Year

Capital IQ

Senior Secured Financing Firm of the Year

Fifth Street Capital, LLC

Law Firm of the Year

Kirkland & Ellis LLP

Institutional Investor of the Year

NYS Common Retirement Fund

Fund of Funds Manager of the Year

Hamilton Lane



III. Sector Deals of the Year

Consumer and Retail

- Acquisition of The Combs Company (BOGS Footwear) by Weyco Group, Inc. Partnership Capital Growth

Energy

- Public Offering of ECA Marcellus Trust I Royalty Trust Securities Raymond James & Associates, Inc.

Financial Services

- Sale by Deutsche Börse of its majority interest in Avox to Depository Trust & Clearing Corporation (DTCC) Marlin & Associates New York, LLC

Healthcare/Life Sciences

- Equity financing for The SCOOTER Store McColl Partners, LLC

Industrial Manufacturing/Distribution

- Acquisition of Gichner Holdings, Inc. Kratos Defense and Security Solutions

Information Technology

- Sale of iSuppli Corp to IHS Inc. Marlin & Associates New York, LLC



Professional Services

- Acquisition of Controlled Recovery Inc. by R360 Environmental Solutions, Inc. Blue Sage Capital, LP

Real Estate

- Acquisition of loans and properties from FDIC by Oaktree Capital Paul Hastings Janofsky & Walker