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Winners Revealed for 4th Annual ACG New York Champion's Awards

Top deals, firms and professionals honored before sell-out crowd

Carlyle and Riverside Executives, NY Congressman receive special recognition

NEW YORK, June 23, 2014 – ACG[®] New York, the leading association in New York for middle market dealmaking professionals, and The M&A Advisor, the premier global network of M&A, turnaround and finance professionals, announced on June 19th the names of 38 winners of the fourth annual ACG New York Champion's Awards, recognizing companies, individual dealmakers and transactions in the middle market mergers and acquisitions industry in the greater New York area.

The winners, selected in five major categories—including M&A Dealmaker of the Year, Firm of the Year, Deal of the Year, Deal Type and Sector—were celebrated by a sell-out audience of more than 200 at the ACG New York Champion's Awards Gala at the Metropolitan Club in New York. The event was emceed by David Deutsch, founder & president of the New York-based investment banking firm David N. Deutsch & Company.

Among the winners, George Thacker III, managing director, CSG Partners, was named Dealmaker of the Year. Gordian Group was recognized as Investment Banking Firm of the Year; CBIZ MHM, LLC, as CPA Firm of the Year; and AGI Partners LLC, as Private Equity Firm of the Year. Fifth Street Management LLC topped three other firms as Senior Lender Firm of the Year. Duane Morris LLP was honored as Law Firm of the Year.

The evening also paid tribute to Kenneth J. Kencel, vice chairman, Carlyle GMS Finance, as recipient of its 2014 Peter Hilton Founder's Award; Robert Landis, a partner at The Riverside Company, as the recipient of this year's ACG New York Chapter Leadership Award; and U.S. Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney of New York as recipient of the ACG Growth Award. The selection of these honorees was previously announced.



Kenneth J. Kencel
Vice Chairman
Carlyle GMS Finance

Robert Landis
Partner
The Riverside Company

Congressman
Sean Patrick Maloney

Other winning firms announced during the evening included Business Development Asia, as M&A Advisory Firm of the Year; Murray, Devine & Company, Inc., as Valuation Advisor of the Year; Merrill DataSite, as Product and Service Provider of the Year; and East West Bank as ACG New York "Growth Story of the Year." In addition, the \$1.8 billion Acquisition of MacDermid, Inc. by Platform Acquisition Holdings Limited was recognized as the Deal of the Year for transactions exceeding \$500 million in value. Sale Capol GmbH was selected as the Leveraged Buyout of the Year by a Strategic

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Buyer (Over \$100mm). Among sector awards, the acquisition of Skip Hop, Inc. by Fireman Capital Partners was selected as Consumer Deal of the Year (Over \$50mm) from among six finalists.

For a full list of the 4th Annual ACG New York Champion's Awards winners [CLICK HERE](#).

For a list of all of the finalists, [CLICK HERE](#).

An independent body of experts representing a cross-section of the middle market industry selected the winning deals and dealmakers from among finalists. With Sector and Deal-Type entries consisting of companies working together in teams, the awards honored over 350 companies. Firms with an office in the New York metropolitan market with at least one ACG New York member and transactions conducted between April 1, 2013 and March 31, 2014 with a transaction value in excess of \$5 million were eligible to be nominated for the 2014 Awards. Individuals active in the New York area were eligible to be nominated for the Dealmaker of the Year award.

"We celebrate outstanding individuals, firms, and transactions that have helped drive America's middle market," said Martin Okner, president of ACG New York. "In so doing, we also recognize middle-market private capital's important contribution to our national well-being. The middle market accounts for over 43 million U.S. jobs and 33% of U.S. GDP. In addition, we honor three special individuals—Ken Kencel, Bob Landis and Sean Maloney—with special awards for the highly significant impact they have had—and we feel certain will continue to have--on our industry, our chapter and the growth of the middle market."

"The ACG New York Champion's Awards winners represent the best of M&A in the New York area in 2014 and earned these honors by distinguishing themselves among a group of very impressive finalists," said Roger Aguinaldo, Founder and CEO of The M&A Advisor. "Each winner should take pride in their award and the message it sends about the accomplishments of our industry."

Judges and their affiliations consisted of the following: Thomas C. Berg, managing director, FMV Opinions, Inc.; Michelle Bergman, attorney, Bergman Law LLC; Brent Earles, senior vice president, Allegiance Capital Corp; John Emanoilidis, partner and co-head of M&A Practice, Torys LLP; Scott Estill, partner-Global Financial Services Practice/M&A, Heidrick & Struggles; Paul Friday, partner, Marlin & Associates; Sylvie Gadant, principal-Transaction Advisory Services, Rothstein Kass; Kenneth Gerasimovich, shareholder, Greenberg Traurig; Justine Mannering, managing director, Business Development Asia; Laura Marcero, managing director, Huron Consulting Group; Dino Mauricio, COO, M&A Advisory Services, Brock Capital Group; Joseph O'Donnell, vice president, Investigative Management Group; John S. Castle, managing director, Branford Castle, Inc.

Criteria used by the judges included the importance of the transaction, product, service or dealmaker to the industry and also the level of creativity, resourcefulness and perseverance it took to complete the deal.

The proceeds from this year's Gala will benefit ACG Cares—NY Chapter Inc., a newly formed 501(c)(3) tax-exempt non-profit organization. It assists college and graduate students who come from a range of social backgrounds and are interested in a career in business, to find their first job.



The Peter Hilton Founder's Award is named for Peter Hilton, who in 1954 founded the Association for Corporate Growth, a global organization based in Chicago. ACG New York Inc. is the New York chapter.

THE M&A ADVISOR

The M&A Advisor was founded in 1998 to offer insights and intelligence on M&A activities. Over the past sixteen years, the firm has established the premier global network of M&A, turnaround and finance professionals. Today, it has the privilege of presenting, recognizing the achievements of, and facilitating connections between the industry's top performers throughout the world with a comprehensive range of services. To learn more visit www.maadvisor.com.

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[ACG® New York, Inc. \(www.acgnyc.org\)](http://www.acgnyc.org), the founding chapter of The Association for Corporate Growth, is the leading membership organization in New York that facilitates relationship building and focused education for middle market deal-making professionals.

Each year over 8,000 professionals participate in ACG New York's 70+ networking and educational events in New York City and Westchester and on Long Island, including healthcare, manufacturing & logistics, and retail conferences. ACG DealSource® and ACG Capital Connection® events put buyers together with funding sources in scheduled private meetings and bring M&A specialists together for open networking.

The organization's annual Champion's Awards recognize the year's outstanding middle market firms and deals, while its Education Cup competition honors the best graduate business school team from the New York City area for M&A counseling prowess. These and other programs have spurred ACG New York's rapid growth in recent years, with membership now exceeding 1,000. This year ACG New York is celebrating the 60th anniversary of its founding by Peter Hilton

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Media Contacts:

ACG New York
Bobby Blumenfeld
Executive Director
bobby@acgnyc.org
T. 212 489 8700 ext.1
M. 917 865 8088

ACG New York
Jeff Bogart
Bogart Communications
jeff@bogart.cc
T. 914 478 5577
M. 917 608-3477

The M&A Advisor
Lessly Castillo
lcastillo@maadvisor.com
T. 718 997 7900