



**NEWS RELEASE**  
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**WINNERS REVEALED FOR THE M&A ADVISOR'S  
MIDDLE-MARKET M&A AWARDS GALA**

New York, NY, December 16, 2008—The M&A Advisor revealed the winners of the 2008 Middle-Market M&A Awards to a sold out crowd on Monday, December 15<sup>th</sup> at the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Middle-Market M&A Awards Gala at the Hudson Theatre in NYC. The event was co-hosted by FOX Business Network Anchors Brian Sullivan and Jenna Lee.

“Each winner has excelled in their field and is truly deserving of the honor,” said Roger Aguinaldo, CEO and Publisher of The M&A Advisor. “All winners should be proud of their award, especially in these tough economic times”

The Middle-Market M&A Awards Gala honored deal-teams, deal-makers, and firms whose activities set the standard for the industry. This year, 220 finalists in 37 categories were chosen. This is the biggest response since the awards began in 2002. An independent body of experts that span the M&A industry determined the ultimate recipients of the awards. Winners were revealed “Academy-Award style” at the gala. In addition, John K. Castle, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Castle Harlan, Inc. was awarded a Lifetime Achievement Award.

**A complete list of the winners is attached.**

The M&A Advisor's 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Awards Gala, which immediately followed the 17<sup>th</sup> Middle-Market M&A Conference, honored excellence in deal-making between \$10 million and \$1 billion deal-value. The gala is one of the biggest and most exclusive networking events in middle-market M&A. The all-day conference explored opportunities and challenges for the year ahead and featured speakers such as David Rubenstein and John Castle.

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.

For more information on The M&A Advisor please contact 1.877.99.MERGE (1.877.996.3743) or [www.maadvisor.com](http://www.maadvisor.com).

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## Winners of The 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Middle Market M&A Awards

The Middle Market M&A Awards winners were announced “Academy-Awards style” at an Awards Gala at the Hudson Theatre in New York City on December 15, 2008. From over 220 finalists, an independent panel of judges determined winners in 37 different categories. In addition to the annual awards, the M&A Advisor chooses the Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient, which recognizes excellence in deal making throughout the career of the individual. For more information, please contact the M&A Advisor 718-997-7900 or info@maadvisor.com or visit www.maadvisor.com.

### Major Deal Categories

#### **Lifetime Achievement Award**

John K. Castle, *Castle Harlan, Inc.*

#### **Middle-Market Deal of the Year**

Sale of Smith & Wollensky Restaurant Group  
*Nominated by TM Capital Corp.*

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

Minority Investment in Corsa Controladora, S.A. de C.V. by Gerdau S.A.  
*Nominated by Pron Asociados, S.C.*

#### **Cross-Border Middle-Market Deal of the Year (Below \$100 mm)**

Acquisition of ProLogic Incorporated by Ultra Electronics  
*Nominated by Citi Capital Strategies*

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

Acquisition of Republic Fastener Mfg. Corp. by Alcoa  
*Nominated by FMV Capital Markets, Inc.*

#### **Corporate/Strategic Acquisition of the Year (Below \$100 mm)**

Acquisition of Humm Foods (dba LÄRABAR) by General Mills  
*Nominated by JD Ford & Company LLC*

#### **Green/Environmental Deal of the Year (NEW)**

Acquisition of DuraTherm, Inc. by MASDAR Clean Tech Fund and the Virgin Green Fund  
*Nominated by Morgan Joseph & Co. Inc.*

#### **Lower Middle Market Deal of the Year (Below \$100 mm)**

Acquisition of Intelligent Automation Corp. by Honeywell International, Inc.  
*Nominated by Houlihan Lokey*

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

Chuck Gaetano, *The Braff Group*

## Sector Deal Categories

### **Information Technology (\$100 mm and above)**

Acquisitions of Gateway Inc. and Packard Bell BV by Acer Inc.

*Nominated by Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP*

### **Information Technology (Below \$100 mm)**

Acquisition of McDonald Bradley, Inc. by ManTech International Corporation

*Nominated by BB&T Capital Markets*

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

Acquisition of Cyberview Technology Inc. by International Game Technology

*Nominated by Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel LLP*

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

Acquisition of Authentix, Inc. by Carlyle Venture Partners and J.H. Whitney & Co.

*Nominated by MHT Partners LP*

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

Sale of Dinex Holdings, Inc. to Carlisle Companies, Inc.

*Nominated by TM Capital Corp.*

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

Acquisition of Concept Mining & The Ridge Land Company by Arcelor Mittal

*Nominated by KPMG Corporate Finance LLC*

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

Management Buyout of Simpson Housing Solutions by MacFarlane Costa Housing

Partners *Nominated by Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP*

### **Retail Manufacturing/Distribution**

Sale of Summit Global Logistics, Inc.

*Nominated by Gordian Group, LLC*

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

Acquisition of Atwood Mobile Products LLC from Dura Automotive

*Nominated by Insight Equity LP*

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

Acquisition of Jervis B Webb Company by Daifuku Co., Ltd.

*Nominated by Houlihan Lokey*

### **Industrial Goods and Basic Resources**

Acquisition of Maxim Crane Works Holdings, Inc. by Platinum Equity Capital Partners

II, LP *Nominated by Alvarez and Marsal*

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

Acquisition of D.F. King & Co., Inc. by Sage Holdings, with backing from The Riverside Company      *Nominated by Houlihan Lokey*

**Consumer and Retail Products (\$450 mm and above)**

Acquisition of Technical Concepts Holdings LLC by Newell Rubbermaid Inc.  
*Nominated by Robert W. Baird & Co. Inc.*

**Consumer and Retail Products (Between \$100 mm and \$450 mm)**

Acquisition of Nellson Nutraceutical, Inc. by GE Capital, Barclays, Citigroup, Goldman Sachs, MeLife and New York Life, et.al.

*Nominated by Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP*

**Consumer and Retail Products (Below \$100 mm)**

Acquisition of Manchester, Inc. and its affiliates by Palm Beach Multi-Strategy Fund L.P.

*Nominated by Winston & Strawn LLP*

**Consumer Services**

Acquisition of Veterans Transportation Services by Harrison Transportation

*Nominated by Lockebridge*

**Professional Services (\$100 mm and above)**

Sale of HD Supply Lumber and Building Materials to Pro-Build Holdings, a holding of Fidelity Capital by Bain Capital, The Carlyle Group and Clayton, Dubilier & Rice

*Nominated by Edgeview Partners LLC*

**Professional Services (Below \$100 mm)**

Acquisition of Coto Global Solutions LLC by Language Line Holdings, a portfolio co. of ABRY      *Nominated by Reynolds Advisory Partners LLC*

**Magnus Award Categories**

**Deal of the Year**

Northwest Airlines Corporation Chapter 11 proceedings

*Nominated by Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft LLP*

**International Deal of the Year**

Norilsk Nickel Group acquires LionOre Mining International Ltd.

*Nominated by Hogan & Hartson*

## **Firm/Product Categories**

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

Houlihan Lokey

### **Boutique Investment Banking Firm of the Year (Generalist)**

Edgeview Partners

### **Boutique Investment Banking Firm of the Year (Sector Specialist)**

Financo, Inc. (Retail Merchandising)

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

Summit Partners

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

Seward & Kissel

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

Empire Valuation Consultants

### **Accounting Due Diligence Firm of the Year**

Crowe Horwath LLP

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

The J.H. Cohn Private Equity Deal-Flow Initiative

### **Marketing/Public Relations Firm of the Year**

Michael A. Burns & Associates