



AMERICAS MIDDLE MARKETS M&A AWARDS

AWARDS GALA CEREMONY | October 24, 2011, New York, USA

CONGRATULATIONS to 2012 FIRM AWARD FINALISTS

September 21, 2012. NEW YORK: Global M&A Network enthusiastically announces the top contenders for the coveted AMERICAS M&A FIRM of the YEAR AWARDS. To win at the AMERICAS M&A ATLAS awards is the ultimate mark of excellence as the winners are selected independently based on deal performance metrics.

AMERICAS M&A ATLAS AWARDS: Part of the prestigious M&A ATLAS AWARDS global brand, the annual awards honors outstanding firms, top deals and influential dealmakers from the North and South American mergers, acquisitions, private equity deal communities.

GOLD STANDARD of PERFORMANCE, the awards recognizes excellence based on performance metrics such as deal novelty and structure; sector and market complexities; jurisdictional intricacies; professional leadership; resourcefulness; among other criteria.

WINNERS are revealed for the 1st time at the awards gala ceremony held on October 24, 2012 following the **AMERICAS M&A deal•Xchange** and the **INTELLIGENCE FORUM**. Finalists and nominee representatives must attend the awards gala to be officially recognized by accepting their trophy.

NOMINATIONS any professional from the industry can nominate on behalf of their firm, colleague, client or peers from the industry. There are no fees to enter nominations. Gain the upper hand by entering your nominations on top completed deals, dealmaker and firm if you have not done so.

FIRM ELIGIBILITY STANDARDS: Contenders are qualified per eligibility standards stated for each of the award categories. Winner selection is based on performance criteria: (1) deal finalists for the awards; (2) diversity and/or specialization; (3) team leadership / expertise; (4) nominations received and (5) attendance at awards gala.

WHAT to DO if you are among the FINALISTS LIST?

Many congratulations on making the coveted list. We strongly encourage you to submit additional information including top deal nominations for the WINNER SELECTION PROCESS. A complete list of finalists including your Deal of the YEAR and DEALMAKER of the YEAR nominations is available later in September.

educate, connect, transform YOUR brand

AMERICAS MIDDLE MARKETS
M&A | 2012
October 23 & 24. | New York, NY, USA

- > deal•Xchange Cruise: DAY 1, October 23, 5.30 pm
- > Intelligence Forum: DAY 2, October 24, 8.30 am
- > Awards Gala Dinner: DAY 2, October 24, 5.00 pm

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Day 1: October 23

5.30 - 10.00 pm

M&A deal•Xchange NETWORKING CRUISE

World Yacht Cruises. *Cocktails, Dinner, plus See, the Statue of Liberty up-close!*

Contact to reserve your firm exhibit table or secure your attendance.

Day 2: October 24

8.30 - 5.30 pm

AMERICAS M&A INTELLIGENCE FORUM

PARTICIATE as speaker, supporter or attendee to gain intelligence and explore solutions on the most significant issues impacting the Americas corporate, private equity and middle market mergers and acquisitions communities.

Roundtable Panel Discussions on:

Americas Middle Market M&A Outlook; Private Equity Deal Intelligence; Due Diligence Best Practices; Cross Border Deals; M&A Legal Update; Corporate M&A Strategy

► AMERICAS MIDDLE MARKETS M&A: deal•Xchange Cruise, Intelligence Forum and Awards Gala

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CONGRATULATIONS to 2012 FIRM AWARD FINALISTS

NORTH AMERICA
PRIVATE EQUITY FIRM *of the* YEAR

EVALUATIVE CRITERIA: (1) At least two notable acquisitions or sale transactions completed; (2) Growth transactions completed by portfolio companies; (3) Focused buyout strategy in North America; (4) Team leadership, expertise and track record.

Charlesbank Capital Partners
GTCR Golder Rauner
Genstar Capital
Kelso & Co
Onex Partners
Platinum Equity

NORTH AMERICA
PRIVATE EQUITY FIRM *of the* YEAR | SMALL MID MARKETS

EVALUATIVE CRITERIA: (1) SMALL MID MARKETS qualified as executing deals with equity invested predominately in the range between \$50 to \$5 million; (2) At least two notable acquisitions or sale transactions completed; (3) Growth transactions completed by portfolio companies; (4) Focused buyout strategy in North America; (5) Team leadership, expertise and track record.

Audax Private Equity
H.I.G. Capital
Kinderhook Industries
Ridgmont Equity Partners
The Riverside Company

SOUTH AMERICA
PRIVATE EQUITY FIRM *of the* YEAR

EVALUATIVE CRITERIA: (1) At least one notable acquisitions or sale transactions completed; (2) Growth transactions completed by portfolio companies; (3) Focused buyout deal strategy in South America; (4) Team leadership, expertise and track record in South America.

ACON Investments
Actis
General Atlantic
Stratus Private Equity
Vinci Partners

Plus, the coveted:

DEAL *of the* YEAR AWARDS

NORTH AMERICA DEAL *of the* YEAR

SOUTH AMERICA DEAL *of the* YEAR

BRAZIL, CANADA, MEXICO & U.S.A DEAL *of the* YEAR

plus, 12

AMERICAS INDUSTRY DEAL *of the* YEAR

Finalists List announced September 28, 2012 post review of nominations received.

TOP 10 NORTH AMERICA
M&A INVESTMENT BANK of the YEAR

EVALUATIVE CRITERIA: (1) Notable transaction completed in the stated timeframe; (2) Mid-market segment qualified as advising predominately in deal size ranging above \$5 million to \$500 million, (3) Improvement in terms of volume and values on deals advised over the previous year, (4) Diversity on deals across various industry sectors; (5) Dedicated North America team presence.

Evercore Partners

Houlihan Lokey Howard & Zukin

Lazard Middle Markets

RBC Capital Markets

Stifel Financial Group

Harris Williams & Company

Jefferies & Company

Raymond James Investment Banking

Sagent Advisors

William Blair & Company

TOP 10 NORTH AMERICA
M&A LAW FIRM of the YEAR

EVALUATIVE CRITERIA: (1) Notable transaction completed in the previous 12 months; (2) Mid-market segment qualified as advising predominately in deal size ranging above \$5 million to \$500 million, (3) Improvement in terms of volume and values on deals advised over the previous year, (4) Diversity on deals across various industry sectors; (5) Dedicated North America team presence.

DLA Piper , LLP

Greenberg Taurig LLP

Jones Day LLP

Latham & Watkins LLP

Skadden

Fenwick West LLP

Gowling Lafleur Henderson LLP

Kirkland & Ellis LLP

Morrison & Foerster, LLP

Vinson & Elkins LLP

TOP 10 SOUTH AMERICA
M&A INVESTMENT BANK of the YEAR

EVALUATIVE CRITERIA: (1) Notable transaction completed in the previous 12 months; (2) Mid-market segment qualified as advising predominately in deal size ranging above \$5 million to \$500 million, (3) Improvement in terms of volume and values on deals advised over the previous year, (4) Diversity on deals across various industry sectors; (5) Dedicated South America team presence.

Citigroup

Banco BTG Pactual

Credit Suisse

HSBC

Rothschild

Banco Itau BBA

Banco Bradesco SA

Goldman Sachs

Lazard

Virtus BR Partners

TOP 10 NORTH AMERICA
M&A LAW FIRM of the YEAR

EVALUATIVE CRITERIA: (1) Notable transaction completed in the previous 12 months; (2) Mid-market segment qualified as advising predominately in deal size ranging above \$5 million to \$500 million, (3) Improvement in terms of volume and values on deals advised over the previous year, (4) Diversity on deals across various industry sectors; (5) Dedicated North America team presence.

Azevedo Sette Avogados

Dechert, LLP

Lefosse Advogados

Machado, Meyer, Sendacz e Opice

Souza, Cescon, Barriau & Flesch Advoga

Baker & McKenzie

Davis Polk & Wardwell

Linklaters

Pinheiro Neto Advogados

Tozzini Freire Teixeira e Silva

TOP 10 NORTH AMERICA BOUTIQUE
M&A INVESTMENT BANK *of the* YEAR

EVALUATIVE CRITERIA: (1) Notable transaction completed in the previous 12 months; (2) Boutique practice qualified as advising predominately in small mid-markets OR advisory focus by sector specialty; (3) Improvement in terms of volume and values on deals advised over the previous year.

BB&T Capital Partners
GCA Savvian Group
Greene Holcomb & Fisher
McColl Partners
Roth Capital Partners

Corporate Finance Associates
Generational Equity
Lincoln International
Robert W. Baird & Co.
Stephens Inc.

ACCOUNTING & TRANSACTIONS
ADVISOR *of the* YEAR

BDO
Deloitte
Ernst & Young
KPMG
PriceWaterHouse

Crowe Horwath
Duff & Phelps
Grant Thornton
McGladrey, Inc

M&A TECHNOLOGY SOLUTIONS
PROVIDER *of the* YEAR

BMC SmartRoom
Firmex, Inc
IntraLinks
Merrill DataSite
RR Donnelley

The prestigious,

AMERICAS DEAL MAKER TEAM

WINNERS ANNOUNCED *at the* GALA CEREMONY

CORPORATE DEAL TEAM *of the* YEAR

PRIVATE EQUITY DEAL TEAM *of the* YEAR

M&A INVESTMENT BANKER *of the* YEAR

M&A LAWYER *of the* YEAR

M&A BOUTIQUE INVESTMENT BANKER *of the* YEAR

Award is presented to a deal team leader for successfully executing an award winning deal.