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.

AMERICAS M&A ATLAS AWARDS Gala Ceremony
October 24, 2011, New York, USA

CONGRATULATIONS to 2012 FIRM AWARD FINALISTS

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Day 1: October 23
5.30 - 10.00 pm

M&A deal●Xchange 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

PARTICIPATE 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

M&A Atlas Awards committee reserves the right to evaluate/decide categories based on proof of attendance confirmation.
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
Ridgemont 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.
AMERICAS MIDDLE MARKETS M&A AWARDS

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

CONGRATULATIONS to 2012 FIRM AWARD FINALISTS

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
Gowing 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, Barrieu & Flesch Advogada
Baker & McKenzie
Davis Polk & Wardwell
Linklaters
Pinheiro Neto Advogados
Tozzini Freire Teixeira e Silva

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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.

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