

CONGRATULATIONS

13th ANNUAL WINNERS CIRCLE *of the Year*

June 27, 2021: Winners of the world's most prestigious were honored during the 13th Annual Ceremony – held virtually held in conjunction with the forum on June 23-25, 2021.

The independently governed awards recognized excellence in categories of best value creating transactions, outstanding firms, professionals and legendary leaders.

"The award validates excellence, diligent work of professionals and firms from the industry. Winners should take pride for effectuating successful restructurings, proving their creativity, expertise and differentiated talents especially during the Covid-19 circumstance of the last-year ." said, Shanta Kumari, CEO and Global Group Editor at Global M&A Network.

Steve Reisman, partner at Katten, received the Leadership Award honors, Melissa Kibler, senior managing director at Mackinac was awarded the Women Leadership accolade. Cullen Drescher Speckhart, partner, Cooley, LLP, Aaron Kibbey, managing director, Huron, and Jim Doak, managing director, Miller Buckfire /Stifel, were honored in professional categories of lawyer, consultant, and investment banker unique categories.

Outstanding firm award winners included Catalyst Group, FTI Consulting, Carl Marks Advisory, Paladin, A&G Realty Partners, Gordon Brothers, SSG Capital Advisors, MelCap Partners, Dentons, Polsinelli and FTI Strategic Communications.



Prestige: Winning the independently governed awards, equates to achieving the "Gold Standard of Performance" standing in the industry, validating the firm and team excellence.

Host: Privately and women-owned, Global M&A Network is media, events connecting and producer of the world's most prestigious Turnaround Atlas Awards, M&A Atlas Awards and Women Atlas Awards branded programs.

LEADERSHIP AWARDS

STEVEN J. REISMAN

Partner, Co-Chair, Insolvency & Restructuring Katten Muchin Rosenman LLP

Recipient of the Restructuring Leadership Award

MELISSA KIBLER

Senior Managing Director Mackinac Partners

Recipient of the Women Leadership Award

about: Leaders Award is the highest honor given to a c-level executive in admiration of their long-standing accomplishments, managerial skills, as well as influence and contributions made to advance and grow their respective organizations, industries, and economy.

PROFESSIONAL AWARDS

AARON KIBBEY

Managing Director Huron Consulting Group

Recipient of the Turnaround Consultant of the Year Award

CULLEN DRESCHER SPECKHART

Partner, Chair, Business Restructuring, Cooley LLP

Recipient of the Restructuring Lawyer of the Year Award

JAMES DOAK

Managing Director, Co-Head of Restructuring Miller Buckfire & Co., a Stifel Company

Recipient of the Restructuring Investment Banker of the Year Award

about: Professional awards honors industry professionals from the restructuring industries for their record of executing transactions of behalf of the clients. The award recipient must win transactional awards to be considered of this category.



OUTSTANDING FIRMS AWARD *Winners of the Year*

GLOBAL PRIVATE EQUITY FIRM of the YEAR

WINNER: Catalyst Capital Group

GLOBAL TURNAROUND CONSULTING FIRM of the YEAR WINNER: FTI Consulting

MID-MARKETS TURNAROUND CONSULTING FIRM of the YEAR WINNER: Carl Marks Advisory

REAL ESTATE RESTRUCTURING FIRM of the YEAR WINNER: A&G Real Estate Partners

VALUATION & APPRAISAL FIRM of the YEAR WINNER: Gordon Brothers

MID-MARKETS RESTRUCTURING INVESTMENT BANK of the YEAR WINNER: SSG Capital Advisors

MID-MARKETS RESTRUCTURING LAW FIRM of the YEAR WINNER: Dentons

PUBLIC RELATIONS
FIRM of the YEAR
WINNER: FTI Strategic Communications

BOUTIQUE TURNAROUND CONSULTING FIRM of the YEAR WINNER: Paladin Management Group

BOUTIQUE RESTRUCTURING INVESTMENT BANK of the YEAR WINNER: MelCap Partners

U.S.A RESTRUCTURING LAW FIRM of the YEAR WINNER: Polsinelli PC

Evaluation Criteria: (1) Track record as a lead advisor on restructuring transactions; (2) Notable transactions completed over the calendar year 2019; (3) Team leadership, experience, and expertise. Delaware Law firm evaluation is based on serving as a local legal advisor on top bankruptcy related transactions closed in 2019.

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TURNAROUND

Award Winners:

SMALL MID MARKETS Segments

TURNAROUND of the **YEAR** • SMALL-MARKETS

WINNER: Le Pain Quotidien USA restructuring and acquisition by Aurify Brands, and subsequent acquisition of Maison Kaiser 16 U.S. bakeries.

Winners Circle: Aurify Brands, Katten Muchin Rosenman LLP, counsel to Aurify, CohnReznick Advisory, and RCS Real Estate as advisors to Aurify, SSG Capital Advisors advisor to LPQ.

TURNAROUND of the **YEAR** • **SMALL MID-MARKETS** (Value Range: \$50 to below \$100 million.)

WINNER: Bar Louie Restaurant Operations Chapter 11 restructuring.

Winners Circle: Bar Louie Restaurant, Carl Marks Advisory, restructuring advisor to Bar Louie. *Acknowledgement:* Latham & Watkins LLP, counsel to lenders.

MIDDLE MARKET - LARGE MARKETS Segments

TURNAROUND of the **YEAR** • MID-MARKETS (Value range \$100 to \$200 million.)

WINNER: The Anderson Group turnaround and sale of Thayer Power & Communications.

Winners Circle: The Anderson Group.

TURNAROUND of the **YEAR** • LARGE MID-MARKETS (Value range \$500 to below \$1billion.)

WINNER: Lakeland Tours (WorldStrides) chapter 11 restructuring.

Winners Circle: KPMG financial and restructuring advisor to WorldStrides. *Acknowledgement:* Latham & Watkins LLP, counsel to DIP lenders, Togut Segal, counsel to equity holders, and FTI Consulting financial advisor to unsecured creditors.

TURNAROUND of the **YEAR** • LARGE (Value above \$1 billion.)

WINNER: McDermott International Pre-Pack restructuring.

Winners Circle: McDermott International, Bracewell LP counsel to lender Crédit Agricole Corporate and Investment Bank, Brown Rudnick LLP counsel to bondholders, Haynes and Boone LLP counsel to Japanese joint venture partner Chiyoda International Corp.

Acknowledgement: FTI Consulting financial advisor to lenders, Latham & Watkins LLP legal counsel to the agent to the Term Loan Lenders and Mayer Brown LLP.

Standards: Best value-creating restructuring transactions, including asset sale and survivability. Value is determined pre-restructure liabilities and based on financial restructuring. Company must survive in part or per core operations.

about: Transaction Awards, "Winners Circle"

Winners are selected from list of "transaction winner-nominees" for unique category of awards. Firm's participating at the ceremony celebrations are announced as the "winners" and recipient of their prized trophy.

Acknowledgement: Firms participating at the ceremony are also credited in the "winner circle" and are able to promote all their winning per marketing materials. Trophy presentation for transactions including firm's that did not submit nominations is at the discretion of Global M&A Network.

Trophy Shipment: Shipped following the ceremony. Please be patient as personalization takes more time. Additional Trophy Purchase: A fantastic way to strengthen relations with cherished clients and reward colleagues – associates, analysts, team members by purchasing additional trophies. Only participating firms are eligible to purchase trophies – including for any transactions acknowledged in the "winners circle".

CROSS BORDER TURNAROUND, Award Winners:

CROSS BORDER TURNAROUND of the **YEAR** • MID MARKETS

WINNER: Valeritas Holdings Chapter 11 restructuring and acquisition by Zealand Pharma A/S. *Winners Circle:* Lincoln International financial advisor to Valeritas, Cooley LP legal advisor to the buyer, Zealand Pharma.

CROSS BORDER TURNAROUND of the YEAR • LARGE MID MARKETS

WINNER: Cirque du Soleil Entertainment Group restructuring under Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act and Chapter 15 of the US Bankruptcy Code, and takeover by group led by Catalyst Capital Group. *Winners Circle:* Catalyst Capital Group. *Acknowledgments*: Katten Muchin Rosenman LLP, FTI Consulting, Pachulski Stang Ziehl & Jones LLP, E&Y as the Canadian Monitor.

CROSS BORDER TURNAROUND of the **YEAR** • LARGE (Above \$1billion.)

WINNER: Chapter 11 restructuring of Yueting Jia, settlement and resolution with creditors for equity in Faraday Future.

Winners Circle: Pachulski Stang Ziehl & Jones LLP, Latham & Watkins, LLP.

Acknowledgments: Polsinelli LP counsel to unsecured creditor group.

IMPACT RESTRUCTING

COMMUNITY & SOCIAL IMPACT DEAL of the YEAR

WINNER: Bridgeman Sports and Media 363 asset acquisition of Ebony Media Holdings. *Winners Circle:* Bridgeman Sports and Media, Greenberg Traurig, LLP, legal advisor to Bridgeman Sports and Media.

CORPORATE TURNAROUND Award Winners:

CORPORATE TURNAROUND of the **YEAR** ● SMALL MARKETS

WINNER: ETI Tech non-judicial operational and financial restructuring.

Winners Circle: ETI Tech Inc.

CORPORATE TURNAROUND of the **YEAR** • SMALL MID MARKETS

WINNER: Rubio's Restaurants pre-pack financial restructuring.

Winners Circle: Ropes & Gray LLP and Mackinac Partner as legal and restructuring advisor to Rubio's, and Foley Hoag LLP as counsel to Mill Road Capital Management. *Acknowledgments*: B. Riley Real Estate.

CORPORATE TURNAROUND of the **YEAR** ● MID MARKETS

WINNER: CARBO Ceramics restructuring.

Winners Circle: FTI Consulting restructuring advisor to CARBO Ceramics. B. Riley financial advisor to unsecured creditors.

CORPORATE TURNAROUND of the **YEAR** • LARGE

WINNER: Tuesday Morning Corporation Chapter 11 restructuring.

Winners Circle: A&G Realty Partners, real estate advisor, Haynes and Boone LLP legal counsel to Tuesday Moring, Miller Buckfire, Stifel financial advisor to the company, Pachulski Stang Ziehl & Jones LLP, counsel to equity holders, Montgomery McCracken Walker & Rhoads LLP and Munsch Hardt Kopf & Harr PC as legal advisors to unsecured creditor group.

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PRIVATE EQUITY ACQ

Award Winners:

PRIVATE EQUITY DEAL of the YEAR • MID MARKETS

WINNER: Onex Corp acquires Falcon Investment Advisors.

Winners Circle: Oppenheimer & Co financial advisor on the sale. *Acknowledgments*: Onex Falcon, Latham & Watkins, LLP legal advisor to Onex.

PRIVATE EQUITY DEAL of the YEAR ● LARGE MID-MARKETS

WINNER: Briggs & Stratton Corporation restructuring and acquisition by KPS Capital Partners. *Winners Circle:* Ernst & Young restructuring advisor to Briggs & Stratton. *Acknowledgments*: KPS Funds, Latham & Watkins, LLP legal advisor DIP Lender, and Brown Rudnick LLP counsel to unsecured creditors.

PRIVATE EQUITY DEAL of the YEAR ● LARGE MARKETS

WINNER: Guitar Center Chapter 11 financial restructuring, recapitalization and equity investment from Ares Management Corporation, Brigade Capital Management and The Carlyle Group. *Winners Circle:* A&G Real Estate Partners. *Acknowledgments*: Guitar Center, Ares Management Corporation, Brigade Capital Management and The Carlyle Group.

Standards: Best value-creating special situation acquisition, recap, 'loan to own'/credit bid, portfolio company add-on or direct acquisition of troubled assets in or out of court proceedings by private equity and alternative asset managers.

OUT of COURT

Award Winners

OUT of COURT RESTRUCTURING of the **YEAR** • SMALL MARKETS

WINNER: Homer Laughlin China sale of Food Division "Hall China" to Steelite International, a portfolio company of Arbor Investments.

Winners Circle: MelCap Partners financial advisor on the sale.

OUT of COURT RESTRUCTURING of the YEAR • MID-MARKETS

WINNER: ION Geophysical Corp debt exchange and rights offering.

Winners Circle: Oppenheimer & Co as advisor to ION Geophysical. *Acknowledgments*: Ropes & Gray, LLP and Winston & Strawn LLP.

OUT of COURT RESTRUCTURING of the **YEAR** • LARGE

WINNER: Pacific Ethanol operational and financial restructuring (Alto Ingredients).

Winners Circle: Cooley, LLP legal advisor to Pacific Ethanol. Acknowledgments: Ernst & Young.



CROSS BORDER SPECIAL SITUATION M&A DEAL, Award Winners

CROSS BORDER

SPECIAL SITUATION M&A DEAL of the YEAR • SMALL MID-MARKETS

WINNER: P-D Valmiera Glass USA Corp sale of operating asset to Saint-Gobain Adfors America, a subsidiary of Saint-Gobain.

Winners Circle: SC&H Capital and the financial advisor and Scroggins & Williamson, P.C. as the legal advisor to P-D Valmiera Glass.

CROSS BORDER

SPECIAL SITUATION M&A DEAL of the **YEAR** • MID-MARKETS

WINNER: Gold's Gym (GGI Holdings) Chapter 11 restructuring and acquisition by RSG Group GmbH. *Winners Circle:* B Riley Advisory Services financial advisor to Gold's Gym, Wick Phillips TRT Holdings counsel to lenders and Dentons legal advisor to RSG Group.

CROSS BORDER

SPECIAL SITUATION M&A DEAL of the **YEAR** • LARGE

WINNER: GNC Holdings Chapter 11 restructuring and acquisition by Harbin Pharmaceutical Group, affiliate of CITIC Capital.

Winners Circle: FTI Consulting financial advisor to GNC. *Acknowledgments*: Latham & Watkins, LLP legal advisor to Harbin.

about: Transaction Awards, "Winners Circle"

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Disclosure: GM&AN reserves right to evaluate and revise categories. Transactions may be deleted from the list of "transaction award winners" as merited and may be considered for another awards program per eligibility standards.

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CHAPTER 11

Award Winners:

SMALL to MIDDLE MARKETS Segments

CHAPTER 11 RESTRUCTURING of the **YEAR** • SMALL MID-MARKETS

WINNER: Rubie's Costume Company restructuring.

Winners Circle: CohnReznick, SSG Capital, Togut Segal & Segal LLP Meyer Suozzi English & Klein PC. advisors to the company, Rubie's Costume. *Acknowledgement:* Cooley LLP.

CHAPTER 11 RESTRUCTURING of the **YEAR** • MID-MARKETS

WINNER: Libbey Inc Chapter 11 restructuring.

Winners Circle: Latham & Watkins, LLP legal advisor to Libbey. Acknowledgement: Brown Rudnick LLP.

CHAPTER 11 RESTRUCTURING of the **YEAR** • LARGE MID-MARKETS

WINNER: American Addiction Centers (AAC Holdings) restructuring.

Winners Circle: Greenberg Traurig, LLP as counsel to AAC. Acknowledgement: Carl Marks Advisory Group restructuring advisor to AAC, FTI Consulting advisor to creditors.

LARGE - MEGA MARKETS Segments

CHAPTER 11 RESTRUCTURING of the **YEAR** • LARGE

WINNER: Centric Brands restructuring.

Winners Circle: Ropes & Gray LLP, Mayer Brown LLP *Acknowledgement:* B. Riley Real Estate, Latham & Watkins LLP counsel to lenders.

CHAPTER 11 RESTRUCTURING of the **YEAR** • MEGA

WINNER: PG&E Corporation and Pacific Gas and Electric Company Chapter 11 restructuring, settlement, and resolution of wildfire claims (Fire Victim Trust) as well as commitment to participate in State of California go-forward wildfire fund.

Winners Circle: Lincoln Partners, Brown Rudnick, Mayer Brown LLP *Acknowledgement:* Ernst & Young.

SPECIAL SITUATION M&A

Award Winners:

SMALL MID MARKETS Segments

SPECIAL SITUATION M&A DEAL of the YEAR • SMALL CAP

WINNER: The Northwest Company Chapter 11 restructuring and acquisition by Ashford Textiles. *Winners Circle:* Clear Thinking Group advisor to the company.

SPECIAL SITUATION M&A DEAL of the YEAR • SMALL MID MARKETS

WINNER: Lucky's Market sale of stores to Publix, Aldi, Southeastern Grocers, Dave's Markets, Seabra's, Schnuck's, Oryana Food Cooperative, Hitchcock's. Dollar General and LM Acquisition Co. (Lucky's founders Bo and Trish Sharon).

Winners Circle: Polsinelli PC, legal advisor to the debtor, Lucky's Market.

MIDDLE MARKETS Segments

SPECIAL SITUATION M&A DEAL of the **YEAR** • MID MARKETS

WINNER: Borden Dairy restructuring and acquisition by Capital Peak Partners and KKR Credit Advisors. *Winners Circle:* Haynes and Boone, LLP, counsel to Capital Peak Partners.

SPECIAL SITUATION M&A DEAL of the **YEAR** • LARGE MID MARKETS

WINNER: Verity Health Systems of California Chapter 11 reorganization and sale of various assets including sale of St. Francis Medical Center to Prime Healthcare.

Winners Circle: Prime Healthcare Management, Dentons counsel to Verity Health, Davis Wright Tremaine LLP, regulatory counsel to Verity, and Steptoe & Johnson LLP, as legal advisor to Prime Healthcare. *Acknowledgement:* FTI Consulting, advisor to unsecure creditor group.

LARGE Segments

SPECIAL SITUATION M&A DEAL of the YEAR • LARGE

WINNER: Chapter 11 restructuring of J.C. Penney and acquisition of retail and operating assets by Brookfield Asset Management and Simon Property Group.

Winners Circle: Katten Muchin Rosenman LLP, legal advisor to the Board of J.C. Penny. *Acknowledgement:* Bracewell LLP counsel to Wells Fargo, B. Riley Real Estate, Cooley LLP, and FTI Consulting, advisors to unsecure creditor group, Gordon Brothers Retail Partners as store closing consultant, Haynes and Boone LLP counsel to second lien noteholders.

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LIQUIDATION Award Winner:

CHAPTER 11 LIQUIDATION of the YEAR

WINNER: Rochester Drug Co-Operative.

Winners Circle: B. Riley Advisory Services advisor to the committee. Acknowledgement: Pachulski Stang Ziehl & Jones, LLP, FTI Consulting as advisors to the committee, Huron Consulting Group, advisor to the debtor.

PRE-PACKAGED RESTRUCTURING, Award Winners:

PRE-PACK RESTRUCTURING of the YEAR • SMALL MID-MARKETS

WINNER: MD America Energy Prepackaged Chapter 11 Plan of Reorganization. *Winners Circle:* Paladin Management Group restructuring advisor to MD America.

PRE-PACK RESTRUCTURING of the YEAR • MID-MARKETS

WINNER: VIVUS, Inc. Prepackaged Chapter 11 Plan of Reorganization.

Winners Circle: Ernst & Young, Piper Sandler as advisors to the company, VIVUS, and Greenberg Traurig LLP counsel to creditor-side.

PRE-PACK RESTRUCTURING of the YEAR • LARGE MID-MARKETS

WINNER: Northwest Hardwoods financial restructuring.

Winners Circle: Huron Consulting Group and Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP, advisors to Northwest Hardwoods.

PRE-PACK RESTRUCTURING of the YEAR • LARGE MARKETS

WINNER: Quorum Health Corporation restructuring and recapitalization. *Winners Circle:* Winston & Strawn LLP, legal counsel to ABL Facility Agent.

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INDUSTRY, Award Winners:

CONSUMER Sub-Sector Segments

APPAREL RETAIL RESTRUCTURING of the YEAR

WINNER: J. Crew Group pre-arranged restructuring.

Winners Circle: Finsbury, communications advisor on behalf of J. Crew.

Acknowledgement: Pachulski Stang Ziehl & Jones, LLP as legal advisor to creditor group.

e-COMMERCE RESTRUCTURING of the YEAR

WINNER: Saddia Group acquires e-Commerce Business intellectual property including the New York & Company and Fashion to Figure from RTW Retailwinds.

Winners Circle: Saddia Group, B. Riley, financial advisor to debtors, and Robinson & Cole LLP, legal advisor to Saddia. *Acknowledgement:* Pachulski Stang Ziehl & Jones, LLP and FTI Consulting as advisors to creditor group.

CONSUMER GOODS RESTRUCTURING of the **YEAR**

WINNER: Latex Foam International (Talalay Global) Chapter 11 restructuring and sale to Artilat. *Winners Circle:* SSG Capital Advisors served as investment banker to Talalay Global.

FITNESS SERVICES RESTRUCTURING of the YEAR

WINNER: 24 Hour Fitness Chapter 11 restructuring.

Winners Circle: Ropes & Gray LLP, legal advisor to 24 Hour Fitness, Cooley, LLP as legal advisor to creditors. *Acknowledgement:* FTI Consulting advisor to the company.

RESTAURANT RESTRUCTURING of the **YEAR**

WINNER: CraftWorks Holding Chapter 11 restructuring and takeover by Fortress Credit. *Winners Circle:* Katten Muchin Rosenman LLP legal advisor and M-III Advisory Partners financial advisor to Craftworks. *Acknowledgement:* FTI Consulting advisor to unsecured creditors.

HOSPITALITY & REAL ESTATE RESTRUCTURING of the **YEAR**

WINNER: Viceroy L'Ermitage Beverly Hills sale to EOS Investors.

Winners Circle: Keen Summit Capital Partners and Vedder Price PC law firm appointment by the U.S. District Court to serve as special master overseeing the sale of the iconic luxury hotel.

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INDUSTRY, Award Winners:

ENERGY OIL & GAS RESTRUCTURING of the YEAR

WINNER: EP Energy Chapter 11 restructuring.

Winners Circle: FTI Consulting restructuring advisor to EP Energy. Acknowledgement: Mayer Brown, counsel on the creditors side.

HEALTHCARE Sub-Sector Segments

SENIOR CARE & NURSING RESTRUCTURING of the YEAR

WINNER: Safe Haven Health Care sale to Cascadia Real Estate, subsidiary of Cascadia Healthcare. *Winners Circle:* SC&H Group financial advisor to Safe Haven Health Care.

HEALTHCARE SYSTEMS RESTRUCTURING of the **YEAR**

WINNER: Bellwether Behavioral Health receivership and transition of care.

Winners Circle: EisnerAmper advisor to the company, Winston & Strawn, LLP advisor to the lender.

INDUSTRIAL Sub-Sector Segments

INDUSTRIALS RESTRUCTURING of the **YEAR**

WINNER: Shiloh Industries Chapter 11 restructuring and acquisition by MiddleGround Capital. *Winners Circle:* MiddleGround Capital, and Ernst & Young as financial advisor to Shiloh.

MATERIALS & RESOURCES RESTRUCTURING of the YEAR

WINNER: Covia Chapter 11 restructuring, followed by investment from Golden Gate Capital. *Winners Circle:* Mayer Brown, LLP represented secured lender. *Acknowledgement:* FTI Consulting advisor to unsecured creditors, and Ropes & Gray, represented Golden Gate.

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