



**Winners Revealed at  
Annual Middle-Market Financing Awards Gala  
Houlihan Lokey Garners Five Award Categories, Including Investment Banking  
Firm of the Year**

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**June 9, 2008**

The M&A Advisor revealed the winners of its 3rd Annual Middle-Market Financing Awards competition during a prestigious ceremony held this evening at the Drake Hotel in Chicago, IL. Jeff Flock, the Chicago correspondent for FOX Business Network, hosted the evening “Academy-award” style – none of the nominated finalists knew the winner until the envelope was opened.

“In a time when financing and the credit-crunch has stalled the economy, it’s ironic that we celebrate the successes in the middle-market financing industry,” said Roger Aguinaldo, CEO and Publisher of The M&A Advisor. “The finalists in this room represent the best of breed in the middle-market financing industry.”

Among the biggest winners of the evening were investment banking firm, Houlihan Lokey, garnering five categories, including Investment Banking Firm of the Year, Debt Financing Deal-Maker of the Year (Noel R. Ryan), and the top category of Middle-Market M&A Financing Deal of the Year (Acquisition Financing for Harden Healthcare to acquire Girling Healthcare). Another top winner was boutique investment banking firm Financial Technology Partners, a recipient in three categories.

A total of 21 awards were presented to dealmakers and firms in the middle-market finance industry. A panel of independent judges selected the winners from among 104 competing finalists.

“Obviously, we were pleasantly surprised by the response to our call for nominations. Every subsequent year, the judges have a more difficult time choosing winners because of the high-quality of finalists,” said Aguinaldo.

**A complete List of 2008 Financing Awards Winners follows.**

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**About the M&A Advisor Awards Program:**

The M&A Advisor organizes a series of domestic and international award programs serving the mergers and acquisitions, financing, and distressed/turnaround industries. The Awards honor top-performing professionals and firms whose activities set the standard in the industry. Nomination is free and open to all industry participants. The finalists are selected from among the qualified nominees.

An independent committee of judges enlisted from the industry encompassing finance professionals, academics, consultants and service providers, chooses winners of the awards. Winners are revealed for the *first time* during the awards gala – an evening of celebrations attended by top-level executives from the industry.

The next awards galas are: The M&A Advisor Awards Gala, New York, NY, December 15, 2008 for excellence in mergers and acquisitions; and The Turnaround Awards Gala, Palm Beach, FL, March 2009 for excellence in distressed investing, turnarounds and bankruptcies.

**About The M&A Advisor:**

The M&A Advisor is a progressive information services provider for executives in the mergers and acquisitions, distressed investing, and related financial industries. The company founded 10 years ago, offers insights into middle-market mergers and acquisitions activities. The company produces a series of conferences and celebrates contributions made by the professionals and firms through its unrivaled, independently judged awards program. The M&A Advisor also publishes the M&A Alerts, a weekly newsletter distributed electronically to over 35,000 subscribers. For more information, please contact us by email: [info@maadvisor.com](mailto:info@maadvisor.com). Or by phone at: 718.997.7900. [www.maadvisor.com](http://www.maadvisor.com)

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## **2008 Middle-Market Financing Awards Winners:**

### **Winners of Major Awards Categories:**

#### **Middle-Market M&A Financing Deal of the Year**

Acquisition Financing for Harden Healthcare to acquire Girling Healthcare  
Nominated by Houlihan Lokey

#### **Debt Financing Deal of the Year**

Securitization of Receivables and Syndication of Secured Revolver of Presidio, Inc.  
Nominated by The PNC Financial Services Group, Inc.

#### **Equity Financing Deal of the Year**

Minority Equity Recapitalization of AMPAM Parks Mechanical  
Nominated by Houlihan Lokey

#### **Distressed Financing Deal of the Year**

St Vincent's Catholic Medical Centers of NY Exit Financing  
Nominated by GE Healthcare Financial Services

#### **Acquisition Financing Deal of the Year**

Multi-tranche Financing of Atwood Mobile Products out of Dura Automotive  
Bankruptcy  
Nominated by Insight Equity

#### **Equity Financing Deal-Maker of the Year**

Steve J. McLaughlin *Financial Technology Partners*

#### **Debt Financing Deal-Maker of the Year**

Noel R. Ryan *Houlihan Lokey*

### **Winners of Firm of the Year Awards:**

#### **Financing Firm of the Year**

Golub Capital

#### **Investment Bank of the Year**

Houlihan Lokey

#### **Boutique Investment Bank of the Year**

Allegiance Capital Corporation

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

Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel LLP

**Financial Restructuring Advisor of the Year**

Focus Management Group

**Private Equity Sponsor of the Year**

Insight Equity

**Winners of Sector Awards Categories:**

**Information Technology Deal of the Year**

Sale of Refco's 35% stake in Forex Capital Markets  
Nominated by Financial Technology Partners

**Media, Entertainment or Telecom Deal of the Year**

Cinemark Holdings IPO  
Nominated by Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP

**Healthcare/Life Sciences Deal of the Year**

Acquisition Financing for Harden Healthcare to acquire Girling Healthcare  
Nominated by Houlihan Lokey

**Energy Deal of the Year**

Financing of WDC Exploration & Wells  
Nominated by Citi Capital Strategies

**Industrial Manufacturing/Distribution & Goods/Services  
Below \$100mm**

Acquisition of Fischbein LLC  
Nominated by Circle Peak Capital

**Industrial Manufacturing/Distribution & Goods/Services  
Above \$100mm**

Acquisition Financing of Sprint Industrial Holdings  
Nominated by Edgeview Partners

**Financial Services Deal of the Year**

Sale of Refco's 35% stake in Forex Capital Markets  
Nominated by Financial Technology Partners

**Retail Manufacturing/Distribution & Goods/Services Deal of the Year**

Recapitalization of Russell Newman, Ltd.  
Nominated by GW Equity, LLC