

NEWS RELEASE
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**MERGERS AND ACQUISITIONS ACTIVE IN THE
MIDDLE MARKET**

**--FINALISTS ANNOUNCED FOR THE M&A ADVISOR'S MIDDLE-
MARKET M&A AWARDS GALA--**

New York, NY, October 22, 2008—There *is* good news on Wall Street these days! The M&A Advisor received a record number of deal nominations for its upcoming 7th Annual Middle-Market M&A Awards Gala on December 15th demonstrating the brisk activity in the smaller, middle-market transactions this past year.

“The response to our call for nominations this year was overwhelming,” said Roger Aguinaldo, CEO and Publisher of The M&A Advisor. “Considering the current state of the economy and the financial crisis, receiving almost 400 nominations for excellence in middle-market M&A transactions is a true testament to the positive things still happening on Wall Street today.”

The Middle-Market M&A Awards Gala honors deal-teams, deal-makers, and firms whose activities set the standard for the industry. This year, 220 finalists in 35 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 will be judging and determining the ultimate recipients of the award. Winners will then be revealed “Academy-Award style” at the gala, which is being held on Monday, December 15th at the historic Hudson Theatre in New York City.

A complete list of the finalists can be found at www.maadvisor.com

The M&A Advisor’s 7th Annual Awards Gala, which immediately follows the 17th Middle-Market M&A Conference, honors 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 will explore opportunities and challenges for the year ahead. Both take place at the historic Hudson Theatre on Monday, December 15th in New York City. For more information on

finalists, the gala, the conference, speaking opportunities, sponsorships, journal ads, or tickets visit www.maadvisor.com or call 1-877-99-MERGE.

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.

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