



SMITH WHILEY & COMPANY

NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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SMITH WHILEY & COMPANY PORTFOLIO COMPANY HONORED AS A DOUBLE FINALIST FOR FUND INVESTMENT

The M&A Advisor, a publication dedicated to middle market merger and acquisition activity recently announced the finalists for the 8th Annual M&A Advisor Awards.

Smith Whiley & Company's portfolio company, Spencer N. Enterprises, is a finalist in two categories: **Consumer and Retail Products and Lower Middle Market Deal of the Year** for the Firm's investment in Spencer N. Enterprises. The award winners will be announced at a black tie dinner on Monday, December 14, 2009 in New York City.

The M&A Awards is an annual selection of companies and individuals in the middle market who have made contributions to this industry. In July 2009, Smith Whiley, through its SW Pelham Fund III, L.P., invested \$7.3 million to support the acquisition of Spencer N. Enterprises. Spencer is a leading designer, manufacturer, importer and marketer of soft home décor products such as decorative pillows and window coverings sold into the mass-merchant, department, specialty and discount channels.

The deal was led by Smith Whiley investment professionals Mark Evans and George Thompson. Senior Managing Director and Co-Founder of Smith Whiley, Colette M. Nakhoul, stated that this investment team "demonstrated their exceptional credit acumen, industry knowledge and negotiating expertise to finance a Company that performed well despite one of the worst retail sectors and market environments in history. The nomination recognizes exceptional execution amid these challenging conditions."

About Smith Whiley & Company

Smith Whiley & Company is a registered investment advisor specializing in management buyouts, recapitalizations, acquisitions and growth capital, and make private equity and mezzanine investment. Established in 1994, the Firm is headquartered in Hartford, CT and has a Chicago regional office in Evanston, IL. Investments are made in the following sectors: Business Services, Food & Beverage, Consumer Products & Services, Health Care Products & Services, Industrial Products & Services and Communications & Technology.

About The M & A Advisor

The M&A Advisor is a newsletter, website, and conference publisher delivering services that provide executives, M&A professionals, and others about the intricate world of buying and selling middle market companies. The company's products include the M&A Advisor monthly newsletter; The M&A Advisor Online (<http://www.maadvisor.com>); The M&A Advisor Conference series (<http://www.maadvisor.co/conference>); the M&A ALERTS e-zine; special reports, software, and publications; and consulting services.

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