



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

Amanda Passage
Lambert, Edwards & Associates
(616) 233-0500
apassage@lambert-edwards.com

Joseph Presutti Honored with M&A Advisor's Emerging Leaders Award

GRAND RAPIDS, MICH., May 2, 2016 – Blackford Capital, a national private equity firm headquartered in Grand Rapids, Mich., today announced that Joseph Presutti has been selected by *The M&A Advisor* to receive an Emerging Leaders Award. An independent judging panel of distinguished business leaders selected Presutti for this award from a pool of nominees being judged for their accomplishments and expertise in the private equity industry.

Presutti is an Associate at Blackford Capital and currently leads the firm's Deal Execution Team. In that role, he is responsible for deal sourcing and business development, and has driven a 270% increase in deal sourcing since 2011. He is also responsible for portfolio company governance and oversight for several companies within the firm's portfolio, including active management of businesses at the executive and Board level for McClarin Plastics and Quality Aluminum Products, among others. He was also a critical member of the team that led the merger of Amtech Corporation and McClarin Plastics, which was selected as by M&A Advisor as a national "Deal of the Year" in 2015.

"Since joining Blackford in 2010, Joe has developed a broad skill set that includes expertise within deal sourcing, negotiation, debt and equity financing, and portfolio company management," said Martin Stein, Blackford Capital's Founder and Managing Director. "Over the past six years, he has played a key role in numerous transactions including platform acquisitions, mergers, add-on acquisitions, and recapitalizations. Joe is a crucial member of the Blackford team and is more than deserving of this recognition."

The M&A Advisor, renowned globally for its recognition of leading M&A, financing and turnaround professionals, created this event to promote mentorship and professional development amongst the emerging business leaders.

"The Annual M&A Advisor Emerging Leaders Awards was born as the 40 Under 40 Awards in the United States in 2010 to recognize and celebrate the achievements of young M&A, Financing and Turnaround professionals who had reached a significant level of success and made a notable contribution to their industry and community. With the expansion of the Emerging Leaders program to the United Kingdom, and Europe earlier this year, the 2016 US award winners join a truly global network of young leaders," said David Fergusson, President and Co-CEO of The M&A Advisor.

On Friday, June 10th, The M&A Advisor will host a black tie Awards Gala at the New York Athletic Club in Manhattan to introduce the Emerging Leaders Award Winners to the business community and celebrate their achievements. The Awards Gala is a feature of the 2016 Emerging Leaders Summit – an exclusive event pairing current and past Emerging Awards winners together with their peers and industry stalwarts.

Presutti joined Blackford Capital in 2010 with degrees in both finance and economics from Grand Valley State University in Grand Rapids, Mich. He is actively involved in the Grand Rapids community, including serving on a leadership committee for the Association for Corporate Growth's Western Michigan chapter.

About Blackford Capital

Winner of the 2015 M&A Advisor Deal of the Year award, Blackford Capital is a private equity firm based in Grand Rapids, Mich., that acquires, manages and builds middle-market manufacturing, distribution and service companies, with ten portfolio companies across the country. The firm has offices in Grand Rapids (headquarters) and Venice, CA. The firm's investment criteria includes mature, profitable businesses with revenues between \$20 million and \$100 million, with management teams that are either willing to remain with the company or are seeking to retire. For more information, visit www.blackfordcapital.com.

About The M&A Advisor

Since 1998, The M&A Advisor has been presenting, recognizing the achievement of and facilitating connections between the world's leading mergers and acquisitions, financing and turnaround professionals with a comprehensive range of services including M&A SUMMITS; M&A AWARDS; M&A CONNECTS™; M&A ALERTS™, M&A LINKS™, M&A DEALS, MandA.TV and M&A MARKET INTEL™. Visit www.maadvisor.com to learn more.

###