



**December 13, 2012 – Cleary Gull Inc. transaction awarded Corporate and Strategic Acquisition of the Year; Recognized as Finalist in Several Other Categories, Including Boutique Investment Banking Firm of the Year and M&A Dealmaker of the Year**



Cleary Gull Inc. is pleased to announce that the sale of Royal Purple, Inc. to Calumet Specialty Products Partners, L.P. was the 2012 winner of the “*Corporate and Strategic Acquisition of the Year (between \$200 million and \$500 million)*” Award at the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual M&A Advisor Awards Gala held on December 11<sup>th</sup> at the New York City Athletic Club in New York, New York. Cleary Gull acted as exclusive financial advisor to Royal Purple.

Cleary Gull was also honored by M&A Advisor as a 2012 finalist for “*Boutique Investment Banking Firm of the Year.*” Cleary Gull Managing Director, Ronald Miller was a finalist for “*M&A Dealmaker of the Year,*” and three other Cleary Gull transactions were recognized as M&A Advisor Awards finalists in the “*M&A Deal of the Year (between \$50mm and \$100mm),*” “*Industrial Manufacturing/Distribution (between \$10mm and \$50mm),*” and “*Corporate and Strategic Acquisition of the Year (between \$10mm and \$100mm)*” categories.

“The award winners represent the best of the M&A industry in 2012 and earned those honors by standing out in a group of very impressive finalists,” says Roger Aguinaldo, Founder and CEO of The M&A Advisor. “For their achievements, Cleary Gull Inc. is to be commended,” he added.

“We are honored to win such a prestigious award,” said John Peterson, Managing Director, Cleary Gull Inc. “What is very special about this recognition is that the transactions recognized involve a variety of industries, a range of transaction sizes, and nearly all of our team members.”

**CLEARY GULL INC.**  
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Cleary Gull ([www.clearygull.com](http://www.clearygull.com)) is an employee-owned firm providing specialized financial services through two operating divisions: Investment Banking and Investment Management Services. Cleary Gull's investment bankers help clients achieve their financial and business goals by advising on exclusive sales, mergers and acquisitions, raising private debt and equity capital, and other transactions. Cleary Gull's core ideology and mantra is "*A Firm Belief in the Entrepreneurial Spirit.*"

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