

# Executive Sounding Board

## Associates Inc.

Management and Financial Consultants

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Executive Sounding Board Associates Inc. Named Turnaround Consulting Firm of the Year**

**Philadelphia, PA—February 27, 2012** —Executive Sounding Board Associates Inc. (“ESBA”) recently received three awards, including the most prestigious Turnaround Consulting Firm of the Year, at the 2012 M&A Advisor’s Turnaround Awards Gala.

In addition, the firm was selected as the recipient of the Refinancing Deal of the Year Award and the Consumer and Retail Products Deal of the Year (\$50 million and under) Award for its role in the turnaround and restructuring of Classic Brands. The awards were presented at The Colony Hotel in Palm Beach, Florida on January 31st.

“We are honored to be selected as the turnaround consulting firm of the year, as well as recognized for our role in the successful Classic Brands transaction,” said Robert D. Katz, ESBA Managing Director. “These awards would not have been possible without the hard work and dedication of our entire staff; of Mike Zippelli, the Company’s President; of the other professionals in the case; and of Cole Taylor Bank.”

“The depth of our expertise, longevity in the market and favorable reputation enable us to serve a range of clients, from middle-market to Fortune 500 companies, both private and public,” said Martin I. Katz, ESBA Founder and President.

The Turnaround Awards Gala honored deal-teams, deal-makers, and firms whose activities set the standard for the industry. The Annual Distressed Investing Summit and Turnaround Awards Gala is the premier event for professionals in the distressed investing, restructuring and turnaround industry. In addition to recognizing and rewarding the industry’s top transactions and firms of the year, the Summit featured over 35 of the top professionals delivering keynote presentations and leading exclusive interactive forums.

#### **About Executive Sounding Board Associates Inc.**

For over 34 years, Executive Sounding Board Associates Inc., a leading turnaround and crisis management advisory firm, has worked with U.S. and international middle market companies experiencing financial or operational challenges. Over 1,000 public and privately-held companies have benefited from ESBA’s partnering approach to restoring value for its clients while restoring confidence with the clients’ shareholders, including investors, lenders, customers, suppliers and employees.

Serving the needs of clients across a wide range of industries, ESBA also has specialty practice areas focused on healthcare companies, government contractors, performing arts and cultural institutions, and not-for-profit organizations. The Beard Group, publisher of *Turnarounds and Workouts Magazine*, *The Deal* publication and the M&A Advisor organization have recognized ESBA as one of the top turnaround consulting firms. In addition, its professionals are consistently ranked among the top ten crisis management professionals in the United States. Headquartered in Philadelphia, ESBA has offices in New York City and Baltimore.

Additional information about the company is available at [www.esba.com](http://www.esba.com).