

**For immediate release:**

**PROVIDENT ANNOUNCES THREE WINNERS OF THE  
7th EMERGING LEADERS AWARDS**

BOSTON, MA – April 6, 2016 – The M&A Advisor announced the winners of the Emerging Leaders Awards on Wednesday, April 6, 2016. Steven Aguiar, Greg Wappett and Patrick Keefe were named winners for the Dealmaker category.

Steven Aguiar is a Managing Director in the Los Angeles office and has been involved in approximately 120 healthcare transactions during his eleven years with the firm. Mr. Aguiar maintains relationships with key industry consolidators and private equity firms to assess their growth and investment strategies. He is also responsible for seeking out strategic acquirers and financial sponsors for all current clients, evaluating different acquisition opportunities and facilitating the negotiation process. Prior to joining Provident, Mr. Aguiar worked for a Chicago-based private equity firm focused exclusively on healthcare services. Mr. Aguiar is a graduate of Bentley University, where he received a Bachelor of Science in Corporate Finance and Accounting. He also earned his M.B.A. from the University of Texas at Austin.

Greg Wappett is a Director in the Boston office and has played an integral part in assisting dozens of successfully closed transactions in a variety of healthcare subsectors. Mr. Wappett's responsibilities include client origination, transaction execution, and ongoing analysis of consolidation trends throughout various subsectors of the healthcare services industry. Prior to joining Provident, Mr. Wappett worked for a Connecticut based activist hedge fund focused on value creation through event-driven strategies. Mr. Wappett graduated from Babson College and holds a degree in Business Administration with concentrations in Finance, Economics, and Law.

Patrick Keefe is a Director in the Boston office and leads the firm's growth equity fund, Provident Healthcare Capital. Mr. Keefe's responsibilities include oversight of investment origination, transaction structuring and executing direct investments on behalf of the fund and its limited partners. Prior to joining Provident, Mr. Keefe was a Director at a boutique investment bank where he focused on the consumer and healthcare services sectors. Mr. Keefe was formerly an attorney with Deloitte LLP, in the firm's corporate tax practice. Mr. Keefe began his investment banking career in the capital markets group at CBG Securities, where he worked on the equity capital markets desk analyzing alternative equity-related issues, executing private placements, and marketing and pricing public and private offerings.

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.

Mr. Aguiar, Mr. Wappett and Mr. Keefe have been chosen for their accomplishments and expertise from a pool of international nominees by an independent judging panel of distinguished 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.

**About Provident Healthcare Partners**

Provident is the leading investment banking firm specializing in merger and acquisition advisory, strategic planning, and capital formation for middle-market and emerging growth healthcare service

companies. The firm has a vast network of high-level, senior industry contacts, a thorough knowledge of market sectors and specialties, and unsurpassed experience and insight into the M&A process. Provident uncovers value and opportunities that others often overlook to create transaction premiums for its clients. For additional information on Provident, please visit [www.providenthp.com](http://www.providenthp.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](http://www.maadvisor.com) to learn more.

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