

**News Release January 2005**  
**Strategic Advisors Principals Awarded Certification**  
**Mergers & Acquisitions Designation (CM&A)**

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The Alliance of Merger & Acquisition Advisors (AMAA) has conferred *Certified in Mergers & Acquisitions (CM&A)* certification upon Andrew R. Hays, Andrew J. Bianco, Daniel R. Sarver and David M. Eichenlaub. Mr. Hays, Mr. Bianco, Mr. Sarver and Mr. Eichenlaub join an elite group of experienced corporate financial advisors who have mastered a comprehensive body of essential knowledge and have committed to staying abreast of continuing new developments in the profession.

The Alliance of Merger & Acquisition Advisors initiated the CM&A program to develop an essential standard of excellence for middle market corporate financial advisory. "To achieve our goals," noted Michael Nall, Executive Director of AMAA, "we've created a practical, relevant, and comprehensive professional development program that builds on the previously existing skills. This advanced credential provides an important 'gold standard' to assist the client in selecting the best advisor. Moreover, we've established extremely high professional and ethical requirements to insure the integrity of the CM&A designation. For the 1<sup>st</sup> time ever, owners of privately held companies now have a key benchmark of competency for help with 'once in a lifetime' kind of decisions."

To attain the CM&A designation, an extensive benchmark for expertise, each of the principals at Strategic Advisors met the high standards for eligibility, attended training classes in San Diego, California, in December 2004 and completed and passed a rigorous examination. They are pleased to add the CM&A certifications to their existing credentials, academic degrees, other certifications and licenses.