

# Let The M&A Source be your Bridge to Success



Education Faculty  
Updated February 2016

The M&A Source is so named because it represents "the source" of opportunity and professional growth for merger and acquisition intermediaries and strategic professionals who are dedicated to the lower middle market (LMM).

The M&A Source is committed to providing the best education for intermediaries who operate in the lower middle market. The M&A Source has developed a wide range of courses on various topics that will help you provide value to your clients and manage your practices.

<http://www.masource.org/education/courses>

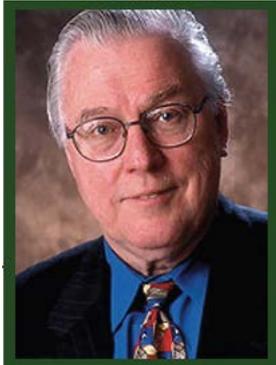
Representing the “source” of professional growth, networking opportunities and resources for M&A intermediaries.

## **M&A Source Faculty: Promoting Professional Knowledge**

One of the fundamental priorities of the M&A Source is to maintain a relevant curriculum that incorporates continuing development of M&A educational courses that provide and promote professional knowledge and skills. The primary purpose for the use of the curriculum is to make the highest quality professional education program available at M&A Source Conferences for Professional development.

Our Faculty, consisting of subject matter experts with years of practical “hands-on” experience, develops the curriculum, authors the content, prepares the course materials, and conducts the presentations, both live and online.

## In Grateful Recognition



**George A. Petrulis, M&AMI, FMAS**  
**Dean Emeritus of the Faculty**  
**M&A Source: Past Chairman (2006)**

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Mr. Petrulis is a nationally-recognized instructor of educational seminars and workshops for M&A intermediaries on a regional and national basis. He has been a popular speaker for various professional groups on M&A subjects dealing with business sales, financing and growth through acquisition strategies. In addition, Mr. Petrulis has held many leadership positions in various regional and national M&A professional associations.

As a long-time member of The M&A Source, Mr. Petrulis served on numerous committees, was a member of the Board of Directors, served as Chairman of the Board (2006), was a recipient of the Darrell Fouts Award (2007), and was recognized as a “Fellow of The M&A Source.”

Mr. Petrulis served as Dean of the Faculty from January 2010 through December 2014. Under his leadership, an unprecedented number of new education course offerings were developed and delivered. During that five year time frame, Mr. Petrulis and his team were responsible for the creation of more than two dozen new courses.

During his tenure as Dean of the Faculty, time and time again Mr. Petrulis was instrumental in determining which topics reflected current market conditions; then selecting the most appropriate subject matter expert to serve as content developer and course instructor.

Mr. Petrulis, a Managing Director at Blue River Financial Group’s Bloomfield Hills, MI office, has more than 30 years’ expertise as a financial advisor to corporations, family-owned companies, institutional and private investors. His advisory engagements have entailed a wide array of clients in manufacturing, distribution and service industries. Throughout his career, he has specialized in seeking acquisition opportunities on behalf of strategic acquirers and private equity groups.

The M&A Source gratefully acknowledges Mr. Petrulis and the countless contributions he made to this Association. Thank you Mr. Petrulis!



**Patricia (Pat) McDonald**  
**M&AMI, CM&AP, CBI, FMAS, FIBBA**  
**Dean of the Faculty**  
**Director: M&A Source (2015 – 2017)**  
**Chair: M&A Source Education Committee**  
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Ms. McDonald is recognized locally and throughout the United States as a developer, author and approved instructor of M&A Source and IBBA (International Business Brokers Association) University education courses. She was also responsible for coordinating the Train the Trainer program (later renamed as the IBBA Speakers' Training Camp) to certify Instructors for the IBBA. She is responsible for helping to develop the M&A Source course, Presentation Skills for the M&A Professional. She was awarded the Fellow of the M&A Source and Fellow of the IBBA. Both Fellowships are lifetime awards and are among the highest honors bestowed by The M&A Source and the IBBA. The award recognizes and honors M&A Source and IBBA members who have made sustained and significant contributions to each Association. She has also earned the Certified M&A Professional designation from Coles College M&A Academy, of the Michael J. Coles College of Business.

Ms. McDonald has experience which spans the corporate world, national and international mergers and acquisition, business brokerage, marketing and valuations of businesses, the commercial real estate industry, national sales and training, and personal ownership of a start-up business.

Ms. McDonald attended the University of Alabama, maintains a real estate broker's license in Georgia, Florida, and North Carolina, and is a 1973 graduate of the Realtors Institute (GRI). She specializes in specific service companies, wholesale, distribution, and manufacturing.



**Jim Afinowich, CBI, M&AMI, FMAS**

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Mr. Afinowich is a Founding Principal of IBG / Fox & Fin. With more than a quarter century of successful experience in the M&A industry, he has completed transactions with a wide range of value exceeding 100 million dollars. Mr. Afinowich is a Certified Business Intermediary (CBI) and Merger & Acquisition Master Intermediary (M&AMI), and holds real estate and securities licenses.

Mr. Afinowich is a founding member of The M&A Source, a Fellow of The M&A Source, and is a Fellow and Chairman of the International Business Brokers Association (IBBA). He is also past President of the Business Intermediary Education Foundation, Inc. (BIEF).

Nationally recognized in the M&A industry, Mr. Afinowich is a frequent presenter at national conventions, and he is consistently among the organization's most highly rated speakers.



**Darrell V. Arne, CPA, ASA, CM&AA**

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Darrell Arne has been a CPA since 1974, which included eleven years with the public accounting firms of RSM US LLP and KPMG. He also holds designations as an Accredited Senior Appraiser (ASA) in business valuation with the American Society of Appraisers, and is a Certified Merger & Acquisition Advisor (CM&AA) with the Alliance of Merger & Acquisition Advisors.

He is securities licensed as an Investment Banking Representative (Series 79), and Uniform Securities Agent (Series 63). Securities are conducted through StillPoint Capital, Member FINRA/SIPC, Tampa, FL.

Arne & Co. specializes in transition planning, business valuations and merger & acquisitions. Darrell is a nationally known speaker on various merger & acquisition topics that includes business owner transition planning, merger & acquisition tax strategies and deal structures, and maximizing business value.



**Sara Burden, M&AMI, CM&AP, CBI, FMAS, FIBBA**

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Ms. Burden is President of Walden Businesses. She entered the mergers and acquisitions industry in March 1991 and has been actively involved in successful closings of small to middle market sized companies. While she specializes in owner representation, Ms. Burden has handled unique buyer representations in the national marketplace. She has represented and sold companies with sophisticated high profiles in the service sector, heavy manufacturing and distribution businesses with equal success. Ms. Burden is closely involved in valuation services and has been engaged as an expert witness by several of Atlanta's accounting and legal firms.

Ms. Burden's merger & acquisition expertise has led her to be a guest speaker for talk radio shows, M&A Source and IBBA Conference instructor/speaker/trainer, as well as participating in numerous business panels and speaking engagements at local and national levels.

Ms. Burden has served on the Executive Board of the Atlanta chapter of the National Association Women Business Owners, and currently on the Executive Board for Lexington Crossing Homeowners Association, among others. She is a published author and is recognized as a Fellow of The M&A Source and the IBBA.



**Michael (Mike) W. Camerota, JD, M&AMI, FMAS**

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Michael Camerota, Founder of Touchstone Advisors, has 35 years of professional and personal experience in business purchases and sales, family business issues, and marketing and sales.

Before founding Touchstone Advisors, Mike was an owner and officer of Camerota Truck Parts, a re-manufacturing and Distribution Company with more than 150 employees, eight locations, and more than \$25 million in sales. Earlier, Mike was a practicing attorney in Connecticut for 12 years, founded and served as the director of the University Of New Haven Center for Family Business and operated a consulting practice to family businesses.

Mike is Past President of the New England Business Brokers Association (NEBBA). He has earned the prestigious designation of Merger & Acquisition Master Intermediary (M&AMI), several other professional designations, and is recognized as a Fellow of The M&A Source, a lifetime award. Mike holds a B.A. degree from Providence College and a Juris Doctor degree from the University Of Connecticut School Of Law.



**Gerald (Jerry) R. Clark, CBI, CCIM, M&AMI**

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Gerald "Jerry" R. Clark founded SealedBid Marketing, Inc. in 1993 and is a business transaction specialist with some 30 plus years of merger and acquisition ("M&A") experience. As the Managing Officer of the transaction team, Jerry is involved in every phase of Sell-Side and Buy-Side projects.

Over the 20 plus years since starting SealedBid, Jerry has counseled hundreds of individual owners on exit and succession strategies and acted as "the facilitator" in successfully marketing their companies and guiding dozens of transactions to a profitable conclusion. Jerry is a member of the International Business Brokers Association, M&A Source and past President of the Minnesota - Dakotas CCIM Chapter.

Prior to SealedBid, Jerry was a professional musician, educator, club owner, and concert promoter. Upon the sale of his entertainment operations, Jerry gained strong transaction experience managing the marketing and sale of two (2) billion in assets working as Director of Sales in Minneapolis, Cleveland and Washington, D.C. for the Resolution Trust Corporation.

Today, Jerry has the privilege of being a past Director and President of the Minnesota Golf Association and continues to perform with a classic rock band.



**Wayne A. Coleman**

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Wayne Coleman of Coleman and Associates is an internationally recognized training professional with credits for design, development, production, marketing and delivery of training. Clients of his core services, which consist of instructional design, facilitation, consulting, and speaking, include Fortune 100 companies to supplement their full-time training departments, as well as smaller companies that don't have a full-time training professional.

Mr. Coleman has scripted and produced many training videos. One of his videos is currently in use by over 400 organizations around the world.

Mr. Coleman heads two training companies in Atlanta, Georgia. Coleman and Associates addresses corporate performance improvement and training needs. His second company, founded in 1991, creates performance solutions for many major league sports teams and entertainment venues around the world.



**Kevin Dempsey, CBI, CMEA, CMC, FMAS**

**M&A Source: Past Chairman (2013)**

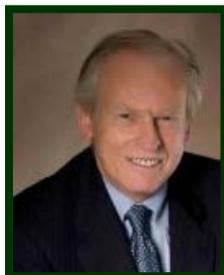
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Kevin Dempsey, President and Founder of Silicon Valley Financial Partners, Inc., has for more than 30 years' experience representing the interests of hundreds of buyers and sellers of middle market businesses. Mr. Dempsey develops merger & acquisition strategies by properly packaging businesses for sale for the highest value and negotiates the best deal structure (price and terms) while being ever mindful of the tax implications.

Mr. Dempsey is an expert appraiser utilizing Internal Revenue Service approved methods and market-based techniques including critical analysis of corporate financial records, industry trends and other market indicators. As a Certified Machinery & Equipment Appraiser (CMEA), he maintains the highest level of confidentiality while representing owners in the sale of a variety of businesses, as well as clients searching to acquire companies, divisions or product lines. As a Certified Management Consultant (CMC) approved by the Institute of Management Consultants, he maintains the highest level of confidentiality while representing owners in the sale of a variety of businesses, as well as clients searching to acquire companies, divisions or product lines.

Mr. Dempsey is a Fellow of The M&A Source, a Lifetime award, and has earned the IBBA's Certified Business Intermediary (CBI) designation.



**Taylor Devine, MBA, CBI**

**M&A Source: Past Chairman (2011)**

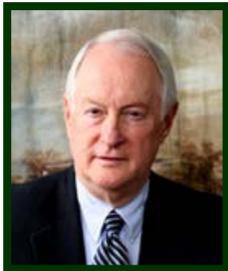
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Mr. Devine founded Corporate Development International, LLC, dba The CDI Group in 2001, a financial and consulting services company, organized to serve the needs of business owners, and those who want to be business owners, as well as corporate leaders who want to increase the value of their company,

and/or outsource the M&A function. He has the experience that comes from growing multi-million dollar revenue private and public companies while a business owner, Chairman, CEO, President and/or COO. His experience includes having led a very successful IPO as that company's President and CEO.

Mr. Devine has an MBA from the University of Chicago. He was a Management Team Leader for the Winter 1985 International Special Olympics Games. He is also adjunct Faculty, Assistant Professor, Northern Virginia Community College, Business Dept. specializing in International Business.



**Don Hankins, CBI, CMEA, CM&AA**

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Mr. Hankins, Founder & Principal of Alamo Corporate Group, has been instrumental in personally representing buyers and sellers in over 100 business transactions. He brings valuable knowledge of the business transfer process, as well as overall knowledge of business operations, business finances and business valuation.

Mr. Hankins is a member of numerous professional organizations and a nationally and internationally known author and instructor for The M&A Source and the IBBA (International Business Brokers Association). He is a business graduate from the University of Arkansas.



**John Johnson, MBA, CBI, M&AMI, FMAS**

**M&A Source: Past Chairman (2002)**

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John C. Johnson is Managing Partner and Owner of IBG Business and BluestemUSA. Since 1987, John has provided strategic counsel; business mergers and acquisitions; and valuations. He serves clients by optimally bringing together strong community, regional and national relationships combined with a professional M&A Broker process. John and his associates have managed projects for over a thousand owners of private family and entrepreneurial businesses.

Mr. Johnson is a course author, instructor and guest speaker on economic evaluation, business sales, & business strategies for The M&A Source, University of Tulsa, Tulsa Technology Center, "Amoco University", Entrepreneurs of Tulsa, Alliance for Manufacturing Excellence, Manufacturers' Counsels, Midwest Business Brokers' Association, Colorado School of Mines, SCORE, Texas Association of Business Brokers (TABB), IBBA & other venues.

Mr. Johnson holds a BS in Petroleum Engineering from The University of Tulsa, and an MBA from Texas Christian University. At Fortune 100 companies, Standard of Indiana and Union Pacific, John held staff and management positions in strategy, business analysis, and mergers and acquisitions. He has served as President of IBBA, Chairman of The M&A Source, received the prestigious Darrel Fouts Award for exceptional leadership and visionary contributions to the M&A profession, and is a Fellow of The M&A Source. Mr. Johnson was selected as Oklahoma Financial Services Advocate of the Year by the U.S. Small Business Administration and was the finalist for Tulsa's Small Business Person of the Year.



**Dora Lanza, CBI, M&AMI, FMAS**  
**M&A Source: Past Chairman (2014)**  
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Ms. Lanza is the co-founder of Plethora Businesses, a leading M&A firm in southern California. She has over 25 years of experience in business, financing, sales, mergers and acquisitions, commercial real estate, and business valuations.

As a nationally recognized lecturer and instructor, Ms. Lanza leads educational seminars and workshops dealing with business sales, growth through acquisition, and negotiating the merger & acquisition process.

Ms. Lanza is a senior appraiser, a machinery and equipment appraiser, a certified credit underwriter, and is licensed under FINRA and holds the securities license series 7, 79, and 63. She is a Fellow of The M&A Source and is the first female to serve as Chair of The M&A Source.



**George Lanza, CBI, M&AMI, FMAS**  
**M&A Source: Past Chairman (2010)**  
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Mr. Lanza is the co-founder of Plethora Businesses. During his thirty plus years of mergers & acquisitions experience, he has successfully closed more than 250 business transactions and completed over 1,500 valuations and appraisals.

Mr. Lanza has co-authored several mergers & acquisitions courses that provide continuing education credits for members of The M&A Source, the IBBA (International Business Brokers Association) and various State & Regional associations, including CABB (California Association of Business Brokers). He is also the author of numerous articles and topics that have been presented as workshops.

Mr. Lanza, a Fellow of The M&A Source, is SEC-licensed as a registered representative stock broker. He is also certified as a Senior Business Analyst (SBA) and a Machinery & Equipment Appraiser.



**Walter (Walt) Lipski, M&AMI, CBI, FMAS**  
**M&A Source: Past Chairman (2005)**  
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Mr. Lipski is the co-founder of Capital Advice, LLC, an investment banking firm in Scottsdale, Arizona serving entrepreneurs whose companies have \$5-50 in annual revenue, and is a nationally known figure in mergers and acquisitions of privately held companies. Since 1980, his business career has focused on effecting corporate growth through a variety of financial solutions including business acquisitions and recapitalizations, capital formation and divestitures.

Mr. Lipski is a popular and frequent speaker at professional meetings and conventions. Topics he speaks on include trends in business sales, growth through acquisition, and negotiating the M&A

process. Mr. Lipski is also a nationally recognized instructor who has authored educational seminars, webinars and workshops for M&A intermediaries and allied industry professionals.

Mr. Lipski, a Fellow of The M&A Source, is a FINRA Registered Representative (series 24, 7, 79 and 66 securities licenses).



**William (Bill) L. Loftis, CBI, M&AMI, CM&AA, CVA, FMAS**

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Mr. Loftis is the co-founder Blue River Financial Group, a Midwest middle market M&A advisory and valuation firm. Blue River specializes in national and international buy-side mandates on behalf of private equity groups and acquisitive corporations by providing target identification, financial modeling, transaction structuring, negotiation support and more. Blue River also maintains a significant sell-side and valuation practice for privately held middle market businesses. Mr. Loftis holds the Series 7, 24, 66 and 79 securities licenses and is a licensed Michigan real estate broker. He is also a Certified Valuation Analyst through the National Association of Certified Valuation Analysts.

Mr. Loftis has discreetly represented clients in service industries, such as, pharmaceutical clinical trials, financial services, distribution, logistics, information services, IT, marketing services, real estate, insurance and others. He also has deep experience in the manufacturing and value added distribution sectors having represented owners of steel distribution, food distribution, advanced manufacturing, forestry, mining, military equipment, automotive, specialty chemicals, surgical equipment and others.

Mr. Loftis holds a Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration from Alma College in Michigan and a Master of Science in Finance from Colorado State University. Mr. Loftis is a regular speaker/instructor at national conferences addressing M&A and valuation topics. He has authored and co-authored multiple advanced courses for M&A aligned professionals. Mr. Loftis has a passion to equip M&A professionals with the information necessary to capably and effectively represent the clients they serve. Mr. Loftis is recognized as a Fellow of The M&A Source, a Lifetime award.



**Heather M. Madland**

Vice President, Business Development

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Ms. Madland has more than 17 years originating, structuring, and executing debt and equity transactions in the middle market. At Huron Capital Partners, she is responsible for marketing, business development and investment sourcing activities, including outreach to deal professionals such as business brokers, investment banks, attorneys, accountants and consultants.

Ms. Madland has served on numerous M&A Source committees and has been instrumental in developing M&A Source conference programs. She received her B.A. from Cornell University and is a Cornell University Council Member and Geographic Team Leader for the Cornell Ambassador Program and recently served as Board Member and Past President of Cornell NorCal, the Cornell

alumni association for Northern California. She also previously served on the Executive Committee for the San Francisco Chapter of the Association for Corporate Growth (ACG) as Head of Sponsorship and was a Co-Chair of the ACG 2013 M&A Conference.



**Richard Mowrey, CBI**

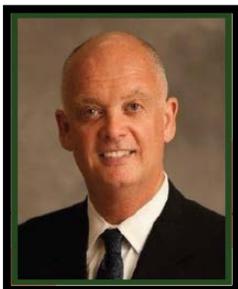
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Mr. Mowrey is President of Management Services & Development, Ltd., a firm which provides private ownership transition advisory services to closely-held businesses. He specializes in valuation, value planning and the sale of “mid-sized” businesses.

Mr. Mowrey holds a BS degree in Mechanical Engineering and a MS degree in Management from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. He has taught at Wentworth College, Rollins College, Indiana University of Pennsylvania, The M&A Source, the IBBA (International Business Brokers Association), TABB (Texas Business Brokers Association), PBBA (Pennsylvania Business Brokers Association), BBF (Business Brokers of Florida), and NEBBA (New England Business Brokers Association).

Mr. Mowrey is a Certified Management Accountant (CMA) and a Certified Business Appraiser (CBA).



**James (Jim) P. O'Sullivan, JD**

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Mr. O'Sullivan, a Shareholder of the law firm of Tiffany & Bosco, P.A., represents primarily closely-held businesses, including law firms and other service professionals. He frequently serves as counsel and as consulting counsel to other attorneys in transactions and as an expert witness in business law matters. Mr. O'Sullivan has substantial experience with mergers and acquisitions, business growth issues, formation and dissolution of businesses and resolving disputes among owners. He frequently advises clients concerning financing and disadvantaged business owner programs regulated by the United States Small Business Administration, as well as similar programs administered by state and local agencies.

Mr. O'Sullivan is a member of both the M&A Source and the American Bar Association Mergers & Acquisitions Committee.

Mr. O'Sullivan has lectured and published extensively on business law and related ethics issues, and received the State Bar of Arizona 2013 Continuing Education Award. He has been selected by The Best Lawyers in America for Closely-Held Companies and Family Business Law. Mr. O'Sullivan was also one of the drafters of the revised Arizona corporate statutes and is a co-author of Arizona Corporate Practice, published by Thomson Reuters/West.



**J. Larry Stevens**

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J. Larry Stevens is an Executive-In-Residence and Part-time Professor at Kennesaw State University where as a member of the faculty of the School of Accountancy of the Coles College of Business, he teaches courses in mergers and acquisitions and accounting in the graduate Master of Accounting program. Additionally, he is the Founder and Co-director of the Coles College M&A Academy, an executive education program in the Coles College for senior executives and M&A professionals.

Mr. Stevens retired in 2007 as a Partner with PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP where, as Partner-in-Charge of Transaction Services, he led a team of specialists involved in all aspects of buy and sell-side mergers & acquisitions, due diligence, valuation and financial and tax structuring. From 1989 through 2002, as Partner-in-Charge of Corporate Finance, he led a team of investment banking and transaction specialists involved in all aspects of acquiring companies, selling businesses, and structuring M&A transactions.

Mr. Stevens recently published his first book, *Riding Elevators Backwards: The Aspiring Leader's Field Guide to Building Relationships*, and is a frequent speaker on a variety of topics around mergers and acquisitions and building and nurturing relationships. He sits on a number of corporate boards and consults with middle-market companies on acquisition and divestiture strategy. Mr. Stevens received a BBA from Georgia State University, and completed the Executive Program for Smaller Companies at Stanford University. He is a Certified Public Accountant and is a member of the Georgia Society of Certified Public Accountants and the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants.



**Monty Walker, CPA, CGMA, CBI**

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Monty Walker is a Certified Public Accountant and a Certified Business Intermediary (CBI) with a diversity of experience in the private, closely held business arena.

Mr. Walker supports entrepreneurial clients throughout the country, and focuses in the business transfer industry, providing support to small business owners in the areas of business transactions, business structuring and design, business tax planning, and business exit planning. He works with sellers, buyers, and their various advisors, such as intermediaries, accountants, and attorneys to manage the unique financial, tax, planning, and procedural matters associated with buying and selling a business.

Due to his background in the area of business transfers and business transitions, he is often referred to by his clients and colleagues as a "Business Transaction CPA." Besides Walker Advisory Service, Mr. Walker has owned and operated several other businesses.



**Thomas (Tom) B. Whipple, M&AMI, FMAS**

**M&A Source: Past Chairman (2008)**

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Mr. Whipple was one of several senior M&A Source members who volunteered to participate in the complete renewal, update and rewrite of the entire M&A Source curriculum beginning in 2010. This curriculum effort was in response to the changing needs of our members to address new opportunities and requirements in the M&A marketplace. He has been both a lead and contributing subject matter expert in addition to being an instructor for many of the new courses. Mr. Whipple, a recipient of the Fellow of The M&A Source lifetime award, earned the prestigious M&AMI (Mergers & Acquisitions Intermediary) certification. He brings the perspective of the M&A dealmaker to his work on behalf of the M&A Source education program.

As the founding member of Falcon Advisors, LLC, Mr. Whipple brings more than twenty-five years of executive operating, marketing and sales experience with traditional middle-market manufacturing and distribution companies to his mergers and acquisitions practice. In more than fifteen years of practice he has worked closely with owners and senior management of privately owned, middle-market companies throughout the United States advising them on growth and exit strategies in broadly diverse industries His practice serves buy and sell side, profitable and distressed clients.



**Janet Nykaza, PhD**

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Ms. Nykaza, PhD, President, Learning Solutions Group, Inc. (LSG) provides clients with cost-effective customized technical training solutions. Since 2001, LSG has been providing education consulting to the Faculties of The M&A Source and the IBBA, working closely with the Education Chairs, Education Committees and volunteer subject matter experts to provide training that helps intermediaries succeed. Dr. Nykaza is a dual citizen of

Canada and the USA and graduated from the University of Guelph, Ontario and Purdue University, Indiana.

Learning Solutions Group, Inc. is a team of instructional development experts. Their specialty is creating customized, needs-based training material that improves knowledge, skills and performance.

- LSG is experienced working with clients in agriculture, computer applications, education, finance, legal, management development, manufacturing, medicine, marketing and foods.
- LSG excels at working in a variety of formats, including workshops, self-study written and online modules, job aids, assessments and videos.
- LSG has assembled a network of contract web and graphic designers, video producers, and training facilitators that enables us to work cost-effectively.
- LSG provides many training solutions, including needs analysis, job aids, instructor-led training, and e-learning. With flexible staffing systems, LSG can recommend what's right for the client.

## In Memoriam



**Chet Walden, M&AMI, CBI, FMAS**  
**October 21, 1944 - June 20, 2014**  
**M&A Source: Past Chairman (2012)**

Mr. Walden served on numerous boards and associations at State and National levels. As a long-time member of The M&A Source, he served on the Board of Directors (2009 – 2014), served as Chairman of the Board (2012) and was involved with numerous committees. In 2008, he earned one of the highest certifications in the merger & acquisition profession, the coveted Mergers & Acquisitions Master Intermediary (M&AMI) designation.

In grateful recognition of his devotion to The M&A Source, Mr. Walden was the recipient of the Darrell Fouts Award (2013) and was recognized as a “Fellow of The M&A Source.”

Mr. Walden was an active member of the IBBA (International Business Brokers Association) and earned its prestigious Certified Business Intermediary (CBI) certification. Mr. Walden was named as a “Fellow of the IBBA,” and was the recipient of the IBBA Chair’s Award (2012).

Mr. Walden was Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Walden Businesses. Since 1990, he guided business owners through the buying and selling process, completing several hundred transactions. Mr. Walden was proactive in strategic structuring, corporate buy-outs, mergers, capital procurement, acquisitions, and buyer representation. He had been retained by law firms, accounting firms, and private business owners to handle market opinions for them and their clients.

Through the years he was honored by Catalyst Magazine as one of the Top 50 Entrepreneurs in Georgia. Atlanta Magazine voted his firm as “one of the top places to work in Atlanta.” In December 2011, Walden Businesses was named 2011 Best in Business Atlanta by the Small Business Commerce Association Community.

Mr. Walden was frequently featured in the Atlanta Business Chronicle, Competitive Edge magazine, and Mover Magazine. He was considered one of the top speakers and instructors for mergers and acquisitions in the Southeast.

One of his favorite quotes was: “Life should not be a journey to the grave with the intention of arriving safely in a pretty, well preserved body, but rather to skid in broadside, thoroughly used up, totally worn out, and loudly proclaiming WOW, what a ride!!!”

So long, pal. You will be missed, but not forgotten!