

The Deal Pipeline

MCR cracks top crisis managers

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Updated 05:28 PM, Mar-11-2010 ET

Competition was steep among crisis management firms for bankruptcy work. **Executive Sounding Board Associates Inc.** (12th, 20 active cases) was pushed out of the top 10 by **MCR**, despite a gain of two cases. MCR, formerly known as **Menzies Corporate Restructuring**, has never been ranked before. The newcomer settled comfortably in 10th place with 22 active cases. (See table of [top crisis management firms](#) and [top crisis management professionals](#).)

NHB Advisors Inc. and **Focus Management Group** climbed over **Begbies Traynor Group plc** to tie for sixth place, with 41 active cases each. NHB gained 13 in the midst of making several changes. Aside from a name change from **NachmanHaysBrownstein Inc.**, it established several specialty groups to take advantage of work in particularly crippled industries, such as automotive and healthcare, securing such cases as **Vion Pharmaceuticals Inc.**, according to principal Edward "Ted" Gavin.

Alvarez & Marsal LLC (50) leapfrogged **Huron Consulting Group Inc.** (fourth, 48 active cases) into third place. The firm seized work in several troubled industries, including manufacturing (**Taylor-Wharton International LLC** and **Champion Enterprises Inc.**), media (**NextMedia Group Inc.**) and financial services (**Advanta Corp.**).

Among crisis managers, a gain of three assignments was enough to put **Jeffrey Granger** (18 active assignments) of Focus Management Group into third, pushing **Michael Eisenband** (17 active assignments) of **FTI Consulting Inc.** (first, 166) down a slot to fourth.

At the top of the table, NHB's Gavin (second, 34 active assignments) was unable to unseat **Ronald Glass of GlassRatner Advisory & Capital Group LLC** (44) from his first-place perch. Gavin, however, crept closer with a gain of 13 assignments, the biggest in his category. He attributes his increase to good old-fashioned "pounding the pavement" to build and maintain relationships. Gavin secured assignments on the **Tavern on the Green LP** filing, among others. In addition, he says an uptick in committee engagements in the first half of 2009 helped by driving an increase in expert witness engagements.