



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Mutual Fund Companies Honored for Communications Excellence**

Old Mutual, Ariel Mutual Funds and John Hancock Funds Take Top Awards

The Mutual Fund Education Alliance announced winners of the 2007 **STAR Awards** for Excellence in Shareholder Communications Wednesday evening at The Mid-America Club in Chicago atop the Aon Building. The **STAR Awards** are presented annually by the Mutual Fund Education Alliance (MFEA), a national fund industry trade association, and have become a prestigious recognition of companies in the fund industry who excel in print and online marketing, education and communications for shareholders, advisors and the investing public. Top awards for outstanding overall communications were presented, as well as awards for achievement in specific categories, based on a company's assets under management.

The top **STAR Awards** for Excellence in Overall Shareholder Communications, which evaluates a fund company's comprehensive efforts, were presented to the following:

<b>Small Companies</b>	Up to \$5 billion in assets	<b>Old Mutual</b>
<b>Medium Companies</b>	\$5 - \$25 billion in assets	<b>Ariel Mutual Funds</b>
<b>Large Companies</b>	Over \$25 billion in Assets	<b>John Hancock Funds</b>

[View a complete list of the STAR Awards winners in all categories.](#)

Now in its 11<sup>th</sup> year, the **STAR Awards** program continues to distinguish itself as the premier fund industry competition and is unique in that members of the MFEA serve as judges and evaluate the programs of their peers. That, according to MFEA Executive Committee Chairman Merrilyn Kosier, Executive Vice President and Director of Mutual Fund Marketing and Investor Services at Ariel Mutual Funds, is one of the most gratifying aspects of the awards program. "To be fairly evaluated by your colleagues, who are your competitors, provides a great sense of achievement," says Kosier.

Additional awards presented:

- The **Excellence in Investor Education Award** was presented to Lawrence Strauss of *Barron's*. ([See separate press release for details.](#))
- The fifth annual **Community Investment Award** was presented to T. Rowe Price of Baltimore, for their "T. Rowe Price in the Community" program. ([See separate press release for details.](#))

*The Mutual Fund Education Alliance is the national trade association of mutual fund marketers and distributors. Since 1971, the MFEA has been dedicated to informing and educating the investing public about how to achieve important lifetime goals using mutual funds. The members of the Alliance represent over \$6 trillion in mutual fund assets.*