



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Mutual Fund Companies Honored for Communications Excellence**

The Mutual Fund Education Alliance announced winners of the 2009 **STAR Awards** for Excellence in mutual fund marketing and communications Wednesday evening at The-Mid America Club in Chicago. The **STAR Awards** are presented annually by the Mutual Fund Education Alliance (MFEA), a national mutual fund industry trade association and have become a prestigious recognition of companies in the fund industry who excel 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 Communications were presented to the following:

RETAIL COMMUNICATIONS		
<b>Small Companies</b>	Up to \$5 billion in assets	<b>Ariel Investments</b>
<b>Medium Companies</b>	\$5 - \$25 billion in assets	<b>Matthews Asia Funds</b>
<b>Large Companies</b>	Over \$25 billion in assets	<b>John Hancock Funds</b>
ADVISOR COMMUNICATIONS		
<b>Medium Companies</b>	\$5 - \$25 billion in assets	<b>Calvert Investments</b>
<b>Large Companies</b>	Over \$25 billion in assets	<b>John Hancock Funds</b>
PLAN PARTICIPANT COMMUNICATIONS		
<b>Large Companies</b>	Over \$25 billion in assets	<b>Fidelity Investments</b>

*Attached is a complete list of the STAR Awards winners in all categories.*

Now in its 13<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 John Cammack, 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 Cammack.

In addition, the prestigious **Community Investment Award** was presented to Calvert Investments of Bethesda, MD. ([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 nearly \$5 trillion in mutual fund assets.*