



News Release

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CNL Financial Group Wins Stevie® Award in 6th Annual American Business AwardsSM

(ORLANDO, Fla.) June 17, 2008 – CNL Financial Group Inc. won a Stevie Award for Best Overall Company at The 2008 American Business Awards in New York Thursday.

Stevie Awards were presented in over 40 categories including Best Executive, Best New Product and Best Corporate Social Responsibility Program. More than 2,600 entries from companies of all sizes and in virtually every industry were submitted for consideration.

“We are extremely excited to be recognized by the American Business Awards as we celebrate our 35th anniversary,” said James M. Seneff Jr., Chairman, CEO and Founder of CNL Financial Group. “The Stevie Award is a tremendous honor to our associates for their hard work and dedication in building CNL from a single real estate property to a global real estate business.”

Members of the Awards’ Board of Distinguished Judges & Advisors and their staffs selected Stevie winners from among the finalists. Finalists were chosen by business professionals nationwide during preliminary judging in April and May.

There were 17 finalists in the category that CNL competed in Best Overall Company with up to 2,500 employees. CNL was one of two winners in the category that won this year. The other was Omniture, a software company based in Orem, Utah. Past winners in the category include the Pittsburgh Pirates and KB Homes.

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Details about The American Business Awards and the list of Finalists and Stevie Award winners are available at www.stevieawards.com/aba.

About The Stevie Awards

Stevie Awards are conferred in four programs: The American Business Awards, The International Business Awards, The Stevie Awards for Women in Business, and the Stevie Awards for Sales & Customer Service. Honoring companies of all types and sizes and the people behind them, the Stevies recognize outstanding performances in business worldwide. Learn more about The Stevie Awards at www.stevieawards.com.

About CNL Financial Group

Headquartered in Orlando, Florida, CNL Financial Group, Inc. (CNL) is one of the nation's largest privately held real estate investment and development companies. Since its inception in 1973, CNL and its affiliates have formed or acquired companies with more than \$23 billion in assets, including hotel, retail, restaurant, seniors' housing and lifestyle properties.

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