SYMMETRY[®] ADVISORFEST EXPERIENCE • GROWTH • TRANSFORMATION

Buying, Selling, & Valuing Practices



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Introduction



- Work across Symmetry and Apella serving as in-house investment bankers and consultants to advisor community
 - Have worked on buy and sell side of transactions
- Lead integration teams to ensure end to end deal success
- Completed 12 transactions over 6 years, totaling over \$1.4 bn in AUM
- Executed **full capital raise process without external banker**, sourcing, evaluating and **closing a minority investment in Apella Capital** in less than 10-month time frame

Industry Insights



• Tiburon reports 763 transactions in wealth management space in 2021.

Transactions per year consistently increasing for long period of time with no signs of deceleration

• Average EBITDA multiples have jumped from 9.1 in 2019 to 11.3 in 2020.

Greater appetite from non-traditional lenders to fuel inorganic growth has increased in recent years.

 "Permanent Capital" (undefined investment horizon) has supported higher valuations due to their stronger focus on ongoing yields as opposed to short term value growth.



 Consolidation to achieve scale continues to trend strongly year over year as compliance and technology costs edge up.

Interest from outside of the RIA industry such as banks and insurance firms continues to heat up.

Succession needs are projected to be in high demand for the foreseeable future.

Consolidation needs expected to continue as fragmentation in broader marketplace remains high





Firm	AUM	Revenue	Margin	Valuation	Rev Multiple	EBITDA Multiple
Deal 1	\$ 105,000,000	\$ 900,000	28.5%	\$ 2,407,000	2.7	9.4
Deal 2	\$ 450,000,000	\$ 3,159,697	12.6%	\$ 5,955,827	1.9	14.9
Deal 3	\$ 85,000,000	\$ 1,414,831	42.1%	\$ 3,487,655	2.5	10.0*

*estimated based on historical EBITDA

	Percent of	Deal Value		
Firm	Cash at Close	Equity at Close	Payment Period	ROI
Deal 1	26.2%	12.8%	4 years	12.7%
Deal 2	50.0%	6.5%	3 years	20.2%
Deal 3	30.3%	24.2%	4 years	17.1%*

*estimated based on historical EBITDA

Metric	Average
Revenue multiple	2.4x
EBITDA multiple	11.4x
Margin	27.8%
Cash and Equity at close	50.0%
Payment period	3.7 years

This is for illustration only. It is not intended to provide a basis for all of the M&A deals that were undertaken.

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Deal 2 Overview

AUM: \$450m Revenue: \$3,159, 697 Numbers of employees: 14 Transaction EBITDA multiple: 14.9x Realized EBITDA multiple: ~4x

Executive Summary

- Rapidly growing firm.
- Strong brand recognition in the firm's market.
- Utilized media channels to attract new clients.
- Team approach to service clients.
- Seeking merger to manage rapid growth and operational complexities.
- Cultural alignment and "client first" mentality were primary criteria in a partner.
- Scalability of the firm was strongly considered in valuation.
- Focused on long-term cash flow impact when it provided its offer.

Multiples Scenario Grid Illustration

		ć				
Firm Size		\$	500,000,000			
Revenue		\$	5,000,000			
Profit Margin	8		9	10		
15%	6,000,000		6,750,000	7,500,000		
20%	8,000,000		9,000,000	10,000,000		
25%	10,000,000		11,250,000	12,500,000		
30%	12,000,000		13,500,000	15,000,000		
Firm Size		\$	750,000,000			
Revenue		\$	7,500,000			
Profit Margin	9		10	11		
15%	10,125,000		11,250,000	12,375,000		
20%	13,500,000		15,000,000	16,500,000		
25%	16,875,000		18,750,000	20,625,000		
30%	20,250,000		22,500,000	24,750,000		
Firm Size	\$1,000,000,000					
Revenue		\$	10,000,000			
Profit Margin	10		11	12		
15%	15,000,000		16,500,000	18,000,000		
20%	20,000,000		22,000,000	24,000,000		
25%	25,000,000		27,500,000	30,000,000		
30%	30,000,000		33,000,000	36,000,000		

Assumptions:

 100 basis points fee performance

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- Traditional full firm acquisition structure
- Market rate multiples applied to EBITDA





M&A Strategy and Implementation

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Establish a proactive and repeatable M&A program that:

- Grows firm's profitability through prudent acquisitions of likeminded advisory firms
- Expands capacity and depth of talent by leveraging existing human capital with broader firm wide opportunities for impact
- Reduces keyperson risk through diversification of revenue producers, support staff and geographic overlap

Target Profiles



- Value Proposition
 - Investment Style
 - Planning Focus
 - Subject Matter Expertise
- Geographic Alignment
 - Expansion vs. Critical Mass
- AUM/AUA Range
 - Growth Targets vs. Capacity
- Tech Stack
 - Overlap vs. Scale Opportunities
- Custodian
 - Conversion vs. Options





- Digital Exchanges
 - RIA Match, FP Transitions, SuccessionLink
- 3rd party recruiters
- Internal outbound sales & marketing
 - RIA Database, Discovery purchase
 - Proactive marketing campaign to advisory firms
- Referrals from custodians, partners firms



The following documents are critical in support of the development of an M&A Process:

- Valuation Model
- Due Diligence Checklist
- Client Demographic Template
- LOI Template
- Transfer Agreement Template





- Need a designated team that can:
 - Learn
 - Refine
 - Execute over multiple transitions
- Project plan development
 - Include seller and seller staff SMEs are critical for success
- Client communications, brand transition
- Paperwork requirements
 - Custodial changes
 - Investment Advisory Agreement













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