



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CLEARY GULL INC. ADVISES BCI BURKE COMPANY ON INCLINE EQUITY PARTNERS' INVESTMENT IN THE COMPANY

Milwaukee, Wisconsin, December 29, 2014 – Cleary Gull Inc. is pleased to announce that Incline Equity Partners (“Incline”) and management have made an investment in BCI Burke Company, LLC (“Burke”). Cleary Gull acted as exclusive financial advisor to Burke.

Founded in 1920 and headquartered in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, Burke (www.bciburke.com) is a leading designer, manufacturer, and marketer of commercial playground and related equipment. The Company’s products are sold into multiple end markets including parks/recreation, school, housing/developer, and day care. Burke is committed to inventing and Reinventing Play™, and to providing market differentiating support to its independent representative network.

“I am proud of the Burke legacy, and its strong, respected brand name in the market,” said Former President and Chief Executive Officer, Tim Ahern. “We chose Incline because they were best positioned to guide us through the first management transition while also driving sustainable future growth.”

Mike Phelan, Chief Executive Officer, added, “We are excited to leverage Incline’s experience to help Burke achieve its strategic growth initiatives in both existing and new markets. Partnering with Incline will enhance Burke’s ability to provide innovative, accessible play environments for children, families, and communities worldwide.”

Wali Bacdayan, Partner with Incline, said, “Burke has an impressive history with a proven ability to garner market share. Our investment will build upon this foundation to further grow and strengthen the company.”

Incline Equity Partners (www.inclineequity.com), headquartered in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, is a private equity firm focused on making investments in lower middle-market growth companies, focusing on companies with enterprise values of \$30MM to \$125MM across a variety of industry sectors including value-added distribution, specialized light manufacturing and business and industrial services. Typical investment types are management buyouts, ownership transitions for privately held businesses and corporate divestitures. Incline Equity Partners has experience with investing, mergers and acquisitions, leveraged finance, leveraged buyouts and growth capital.

About Cleary Gull

Cleary Gull (www.clearygull.com) is an employee-owned firm providing financial advice through two operating divisions: Investment Advisory Services and Investment Banking Services. Cleary Gull provides investment advice with respect to over \$2.2 billion of client assets for high net worth individuals and families, pilots, and not-for-profit hospitals and senior



living communities across the nation. The firm was named by Financial Times in 2014 to its top 300 list of registered investment advisors in the U.S. Cleary Gull's investment bankers specialize in providing advice on exclusive sales, mergers and acquisitions, and private debt and equity capital placement, typically for transactions from \$10 million to \$200 million.

About the 2014 *Financial Times* 300 Top Registered Investment Advisors List

*Being named to the "300 Top Registered Investment Advisors" list is not an endorsement of the adviser, is not indicative of the adviser's past or future performance, and does not ensure that a client will experience a higher level of performance or results. Third party rankings and recognition from ratings services are no guarantee of future investment success and should not be construed as representative of any one client's evaluation. The *Financial Times* solicited from more than 2,000 independent registered investment advisory firms; more than 600 (or approximately 30%) of the firms solicited completed and submitted the questionnaire; 300 (or approximately 50%) of the participating firms were selected for the list. To be considered, advisers solicited by the *Financial Times* completed and submitted a questionnaire about their practice. Only those that completed the questionnaire were considered for the list. To qualify for the list, advisers must be registered with the SEC and have at least \$300 million in verified assets under management as of 12/31/13, with no more than 75% of a firm's assets being institutional. The *Financial Times* graded advisory firms that were considered for the list on six broad factors and calculated a numeric score for each advisor. Areas of consideration included AUM, AUM growth, years the firm has been in existence, industry certifications of staff, SEC compliance record, and online accessibility. The list is independently determined by the *Financial Times*. The registered investment advisory firms are not charged a fee for consideration or selection.*

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