



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Kristie Pirkey, (858) 715-8010, editor@sdar.com

Greater San Diego Association of REALTORS® Celebrates Excellence in the Real Estate Industry

SAN DIEGO (January 15, 2018) – The Greater San Diego Association of REALTORS® has recognized individuals within the real estate community at the prestigious Circle of Excellence event held Saturday, January 13, at the Hilton San Diego Bayfront.

The “Awards of Excellence” acknowledge outstanding service to the Association, its members, the community, and the real estate industry as a whole. They reflect the highest ethics, integrity, and professional standards of the individuals who are members of SDAR.

Winners were selected in each of these categories:

REALTOR® of the Year: Seth O’Byrne, Pacific Sotheby’s International Realty

Broker of the Year: Valarie Swanson, Century 21 Award

Office Manager of the Year: Steve Kilgore, Century 21 Award

Rookie of the Year: Kimberly Koll, Pacific Sotheby’s International Realty

Affiliate of the Year: Lori Vialpando, Loan Depot

Commercial Broker of the Year: Terry Moore, Apartment Consultants, Inc.

Commercial Transaction of the Year: Charles Cornwell, SVN

Broker Achievement of Excellence: Big Block Realty

Additionally, SDAR named **2017 Volunteers of the Year**, chosen by association staff who work with scores of volunteers that serve on SDAR’s many committees. They are Cory Shepard, Chris Anderson, and Robert Kevane.

At the Circle of Excellence, SDAR also honored “top producers” in the San Diego real estate field, both teams and individuals. The Circle of Excellence members are the top 5% of approximately 20,000 REALTORS® in the county accounting for \$18 billion of the \$24 billion (or 75%) of total sales dollars in the county. The event was presented in partnership with the San Diego Union-Tribune, and featured keynote speaker Bill Rancic, entrepreneur and author who burst onto the national scene as the first winner of NBC’s “The Apprentice.”

PHOTO CAPTION: Seth O’Byrne of Pacific Sotheby’s International Realty (fourth from right) was awarded REALTOR® of the Year at the Circle of Excellence. (The award was sponsored by Elite Escrow.)

###

The [Greater San Diego Association of REALTORS®](http://www.sdar.com) is the largest trade association in the San Diego County and the largest REALTOR® association in California. We help our members, who adhere to a code of ethics and professional standards, sell more homes. We also help people realize the dream of home ownership, and we are dedicated to protecting private property rights. You can follow SDAR on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/sdar), [Twitter](https://twitter.com/sdar) and [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/sdar).