AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE CRITERIA & INSTRUCTIONS
(Participation and Industry Involvement for the year of 2026)

I. PURPOSE

The Awards of Excellence honor REALTORS® and Brokers who go beyond sales performance to make a lasting impact in the industry and their communities. These awards celebrate individuals who contribute through mentorship, advocacy, leadership, and community service, shaping the future of real estate with their dedication and influence. Both award categories reflect the highest levels of achievement, recognizing REALTORS® who set the standard for excellence in real estate.

II. ELIGIBILITY

Awards are voluntary and available to all individual members of a REALTOR® Association inside San Diego County, and members in good standing with no ethics violations during the award period.

Applicants may apply in only one Awards of Excellence category each year.

Award sub-committee members, current SDAR officers and any winners for the past three years are not eligible for consideration.

III. AWARD PERIOD

The award period is January 1 to December 31, 2026 of the application being submitted.

IV. AWARD CATEGORIES

The following are the various categories for the Awards of Excellence:

- REALTOR® of the Year
- Broker of the Year
- Office Manager of the Year
- Commercial REALTOR® of the Year
- International REALTOR® of the Year
- 40 Under 40 Recognition

V. HOW TO APPLY

Submit Application to: https://www.sdar.com/circle-of-excellence/2026.html

VI. REVIEW PROCESS

- Any disqualified applications will be removed prior to submittal to Awards Review Group.
- Qualified applications will be distributed to the Awards Review Group, all nominees' names will be removed and replaced with a numeric identifier to allow questionnaires to be anonymous when

calculating points.

- There will be a maximum of three finalists selected in each category based on the written materials submitted. Once identified, the Awards Committee will interview each finalist and determine the winner in each category.
- The final review by the Awards Committee members will consist of an interview. This interview will be based on review of the nominee's submitted application and will occur during mid-January 2027.
- The winners in each category will be known only to the COE Working Group Chair, the Association President and CEO, and shall be kept confidential.
- All finalists will be notified by the President (or designated staff member) of the Association and personally invited to attend the Circle of Excellence event. The winners and finalists will be announced that evening.

VII. AUDIT & VERIFICATION OF APPLICATIONS

SDAR reserves the right to review any application for inaccuracies or misrepresentations.

VIII. NOTIFICATION OF ACCEPTANCE

Once all applications have been received, confirmation notices will be emailed to applicants at the email address provided on the application. Please note, SDAR is not responsible for emails that are caught by the recipients' SPAM filter.

IX. USE OF AWARDS IN ADVERTISING

The use of SDAR Awards designations in advertising is reserved for active SDAR members in good standing and is permitted only upon receipt of Award Notification from SDAR. Guidelines for usage of awards are below:

- SDAR AWARDS ARE FOR THE CURRENT AWARD YEAR and shall, when used in advertising in print and on business cards, be identified as SDAR (award name AND award year).
- SDAR AWARDS GIVEN IN PREVIOUS YEARS, shall, when used in advertising, be identified with the designation of at least one of the years in which the award was earned. i.e., award name AND award year.
- SDAR Members and their firms shall refrain from advertising the names of award nominees and/or winners until receipt of SDAR notification.

X. Acknowledgment of Filming & Media Release

By applying for an award and/or attending this event, you acknowledge and agree that you may be filmed, photographed, or otherwise recorded. Your presence at the event constitutes your consent to the use of your image, voice, and likeness in all media, now known or hereafter devised, in perpetuity and for any purpose, including but not limited to promotional, marketing, and archival uses, without compensation or further notice.

Please, do not enter the event if you do not agree with these terms. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation