

News Release

Re:locate Awards 2014/15 celebrate contribution of employee and family support to successful relocations

Friday 15 May 2015 – The winners of this year's *Re:locate* Awards, which celebrate the contribution of companies and individuals across the relocation sector, were announced and presented with their trophies at a champagne reception and gala dinner held yesterday at London's prestigious Institute of Directors. Among the awards presented was **Excellence in Employee & Family Support**, which recognises the important part played by support providers in successful relocations.

The *Re:locate* Awards are regarded as the ultimate recognition of excellence in all aspects of relocation, both in the UK and internationally. More than 200 guests from across the relocation spectrum – including HR professionals and suppliers – networked the night away as they awaited the announcement of the winners. They were entertained and informed by this year's speaker, Laughology's Stephanie Davies, whose refreshingly interactive keynote was warmly received. Master of ceremonies Dave Keeling, also of Laughology, ensured that the presentation of the trophies went with a swing.

The winners

Between them, this year's 12 *Re:locate* Awards recognised individuals, teams, policy and innovation, with a choice of categories for HR and service providers. Entries were subjected to rigorous scrutiny by a team of independent judges.

The winners, which included companies and individuals from the UK and overseas, reflected the many different types of organisation involved in

relocation, all of which contribute a wealth of knowledge and expertise. Familiar names like InterContinental Hotels Group, PwC and Crown World Mobility were side by side with previously less-familiar ones.

Aimed at specialist providers who don't fit in easily to other categories. **Excellence in Employee & Family Support** is an established and very popular category. It is open to individuals and organisations, from any sector, that provide a specialist service to relocating employees and their families. Education consultants, schools, and providers of childcare services, language tuition, cross-cultural support and concierge services are just some of the specialists that were eligible to enter.

Winner Smith Stone Walters, a UK inbound immigration consultancy, was established in 2001. Said one judge, "The case study supplied showed evidence of going the extra mile and the outcomes of excellent customer service and sound, practical advice.

"The focus is on the employee and family, but the implications for the client organisation are also clearly addressed.

"The entry statement was strong, and I liked the fact that they focus on the personal and not just the purely legal."

James Walters, commenting at the Awards said, 'We [SSW] are delighted to win this award and fully agree with the judges' comments about immigration not solely being a legal service. Providing easily accessible key support to assignees and their families throughout the immigration process is paramount to the SSW ethos.'

Commenting on the importance of immigration for business growth, Fiona Murchie, Managing Editor of Re:locate said, "Property, schools and family support are all in the equation when it comes to delivering excellence in employee support. The Smith Stone Walters win in this hotly contested category shows that a thorough understanding of the impact of relocation on

the employee and the family makes all the difference when providing immigration support. Organisations simply can't afford to lose valuable talent."

Other shortlisted companies were Elite Executive Services, FOCUS Information Services, Management Mobility Consulting, and REA Partners in Transition.

For a comprehensive list of *Re:locate* Awards winners, [click here](#).

The Summer 2015 issue of *Re:locate* magazine, to be published in June, will feature full details of all the winners, with case studies.

The *Re:locate* Awards 2014/15 were sponsored by BridgeStreet Global Hospitality, Cheval Residences, Graebel Relocation, Skyline Worldwide and Smith Stone Walters. The Association of Relocation Professionals (ARP), the European Relocation Association (EuRA), FOCUS, and the Relocation Users Group (RUG) provided professional endorsements.

- ENDS -

Notes for Editors

About the Re:locate Awards

Introduced in 2007 to reward good practice and celebrate the contribution of relocation to business success, the *Re:locate* Awards recognise teams and individuals, as well as organisations. They attract global attention and entries from the UK and overseas. Previous winners range from blue-chip companies to start-ups.

For further information, visit relocatemagazine.com/about-the-awards

About Re:locate Global

Re:locate Global recently celebrated ten years as the leading source of information, support and events for the global mobility sector. Its website, relocateglobal.com, is the gateway to a range of influential multichannel, multimedia products and services. Updated daily and reaching 145 countries, the website includes regional and subject-specific digital magazines. It is the online home of a fast-growing community of HR, global managers, relocation professionals and experts dedicated to global mobility.

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