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**CRAIG REALTY GROUP**

## **Craig Realty Group Honored By CREW-OC; Wins SPIRE Award for Superior Performance in the ‘Best New Construction’ Category**

*With the construction lenders taking home the win in 2015 for ‘Best Loan’, Outlets at San Clemente project now recognized at each stage of development*

**ORANGE COUNTY, CA (March 17, 2016)** – On March 10, Orange County’s industry-leading professional organization **Commercial Real Estate Women-Orange County (CREW-OC)** named [Craig Realty Group](#) the winner of the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual SPIRE Awards for superior performance in the category of ‘New Construction’. SPIRE– shorthand for Superior Performance In Real Estate – is the only commercial real estate awards program in Orange County recognizing all disciplines and annually seeks to recognize the brightest local talent and top projects in the industry.

“This is a tremendous honor in the project’s first year of construction eligibility – one that builds on an award-winning foundation,” said Steve Craig, President and CEO of Craig Realty Group. “While the road to where we are today was hard-won, we could not be more proud of the destination that has emerged and look forward to serving the community as a gathering place to shop, dine and experience world-class events with friends and family.”

The recent nomination and category win follows a 2014 SPIRE award win by the project’s construction lending team – made up of Wells Fargo Bank and Union Bank as leads and US Bank as a syndicate bank – for superior performance in the ‘Lending’ category. This banking support and structure was vital to project completion and positioned the center for its current success. Of 11 nominations, other project finalists for superior performance in the ‘New Construction’ category include Pacific City by DJM Capital Partners and 200 Spectrum Center by Irvine Company.

More than 18 years in the making, the mixed-use center - which will span 668,000 square feet upon completion of all phases - is located on ocean facing property off of the I-5 freeway in the picturesque town of San Clemente, Calif. A variety of obstacles were encountered in the development process, including California Coastal Commission approvals, the “Great Recession”, and numerous changes in the master developer responsible for the infrastructure of the center and transverse residential development. Led by Steve Craig’s passionate and unceasing vision, Outlets at San Clemente enjoyed a successful Grand Opening on November 12, 2015.

Keeping in theme with San Clemente’s “Spanish Village by the Sea” aesthetic, the center incorporates Spanish Colonial architecture and a thoughtful final design that emerged after more than 100 City design review committee meetings. Billed as *A Beautiful Way to Save*, Outlets at San Clemente boasts ample Craig Realty Group trademark amenities including spectacular luxurious rest rooms, a VIP lounge and ocean views from several vantage points, most notably from the restaurant pads located on top of the parking structure.

“This is a special project that unlocks unlimited potential for the economic development of the greater Orange County community,” said SPIRE Awards Committee Chairperson Catherine Falco. “Outlets at San Clemente will not only provide increasing tax revenue but attract a new, untapped tourism demographic and stimulate local job growth.”

In addition to the on-site jobs created by construction activity, the center currently facilitates employment opportunities for approximately 1,000 retail and property management positions. Outlets at San Clemente is also dedicated to supporting the Orange County community through a variety of philanthropic efforts that include an annual ‘Shopping Extravaganza’. Held on Dec. 5, 2015, the inaugural event – a signature of Craig Realty Group owned and operated centers since 1998 – raised \$37,465 for 18 local nonprofit organizations, serving as a precursor of the positive community impact to come.

For more information about the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual SPIRE Awards or CREW-OC, please visit [www.crewocspireawards.com](http://www.crewocspireawards.com) and [www.crew-oc.org](http://www.crew-oc.org). For additional information about Craig Realty Group or Outlets at San Clemente, please visit [www.craigrealtygroup.com](http://www.craigrealtygroup.com) and [www.outletsatsanclemente.com](http://www.outletsatsanclemente.com), respectively.

### **About Craig Realty Group**

Craig Realty Group is a shopping center development and management firm founded by Steven L. Craig and is based in Newport Beach, California. A leader in the development and management of high income-producing, upscale factory outlet centers, Craig Realty Group owns, operates and manages nearly 5.2 million square feet of existing retail development in 7 states: Outlets at Anthem in Phoenix, Arizona; Outlets at Barstow in Barstow, California; Cabazon Outlets located near Palm Springs, California; Citadel Outlets in Los Angeles, California; Outlets at Conroe located near Houston, Texas; Outlets at Castle Rock located south of Denver, Colorado; Outlets at the Dells, Baraboo, Wisconsin; Outlets at Hillsboro, Hillsboro, Texas; Outlets at Loveland located north of Denver, Colorado; Outlets at Silverthorne located west of Denver, Colorado; Outlets at Vicksburg in Vicksburg, Mississippi; and East Hills Mall in St. Joseph, Missouri. In November 2012, Craig Realty Group grand opened Outlets at Traverse Mountain, located in Lehi, Utah, just 30 minutes from Salt Lake City. The long-awaited opening of Outlets at San Clemente, overlooking the Pacific Ocean just off the I-5 in beautiful San Clemente, California, will take place in early November 2015. Projects in development include Chicagoland Outlets at Country Club Hills, Illinois; Outlets at Kapolei Commons, Oahu, Hawaii; Outlets at Richmond, Virginia; Outlets at Cleveland, Ohio and Outlets at Lacey, Washington. Craig Realty Group founder Steve Craig previously developed Desert Hills Premium Outlets, Carlsbad Company Stores and Woodburn Company Stores, three of the most successful manufacturer outlet centers, and was instrumental in developing Camarillo Premium Outlets. For more information, visit [www.craigrealtygroup.com](http://www.craigrealtygroup.com).

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