

Winner of Outstanding Contributor of the year

Tony Rettino, Elementum Advisors

Tony Rettino took home top honours at the *Trading Risk Awards* for his long and distinguished career in the reinsurance convergence markets.

He was recognised by the judges for pioneering new ways to transfer risk, while educating new investors on the sector and lobbying the market on the importance of best practice.

Rettino first became involved in the reinsurance convergence markets during his time at broker Aon in the early 1990s. He helped found Aon Capital Markets in 1997, guiding the division to become a leading catastrophe bond sales manager.

His early convergence work included sitting on an advisory board for the Chicago Board of Trade as it worked to introduce the forerunners of exchange-traded reinsurance derivatives.

In 2002 Rettino moved to investment bank Cochran, Caronia where he helped to develop new reinsurance structures that have continued in the

form of sidecars and privately placed quota shares.

At this time Rettino and DeCaro founded a hedge fund that has now invested profitably in ILS for more than eight years. The duo moved their fund to hedge fund manager Stark Investments in 2005 before going solo under the Elementum brand in December 2009.

Elementum's success has included bringing in one of the sector's largest mandates from the Guardians of New Zealand Superannuation. The firm is a heavyweight trader of catastrophe bonds and also promotes the exchange-traded market.

Rettino thanked his "other family", co-founding partners at Elementum John DeCaro and Mike France, in his acceptance speech, saying they shared the recognition that the award conferred.

He paid tribute to the "spirit of cooperation and partnership" on which the ILS asset class has been founded and called for the industry to continue striving for improved transparency.



Outstanding Contributor of the year Tony Rettino of Elementum Advisors (left) receives his award from Aon Benfield Securities president Paul Schultz

Entry criteria: This category recognises an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to the sector in the past year and consistently aided its development from an early stage. Judges were also looking for someone who developed new products and original solutions to deploy capital and meet investor appetite for insurance-linked risk. Special acknowledgement will be given to those who have also shown a genuine interest in sharing knowledge and understanding of the market and its potential with prospective participants.