

# Best Places to Work 2011

## AVALON RISK MANAGEMENT, Elk Grove Village

Avalon Risk Management was founded in 1998 by a group of dedicated insurance professionals committed to providing the highest level of service to the logistics industry, providing insurance and surety solutions to the trade and transportation industry. The core management team has worked together for 20 years and is 100 percent committed to its future.

As a family-oriented business, Avalon promotes its core values, which include integrity, teamwork, communication, personal growth and knowledge, and family and community.

The company operates in a niche segment of the overall insurance industry. Regulations, initiatives and competitive concerns bring changes to any business, but Avalon's employees are always kept in the loop. Monthly Employee Appreciation Days unite Avalon's 11 branch offices to acknowledge birthdays, promotions and corporate anniversaries. Employees enjoy catered food while hearing industry updates and company successes and financial results from Lisa Gelsomino, Avalon president.

"We're proud to be independently owned and give our employees the confidence to make everyday decisions that keep us successful," Gelsomino said. "At all levels, we keep our employees motivated and reward them for their efforts." Management created the Avalon University training program to mentor employees through internal workshops and leadership training for career advancement. With their manager, employees develop a career plan, designed to meet their short and long term professional goals.

Employees are passionate about their industry, their job and their community. Because employees regularly meet outside of work to participate in community service events, the company formed the Avalon Compassion Team to coordinate volunteer opportunities locally and nationally. A.C.T.'s first event was a huge success and benefitted the St. Baldrick's Foundation to prevent childhood cancers. Avalon employees participated in silent auctions, painting faces and even head shaving.

To attract and retain top talent, Avalon keeps salaries and benefits competitive. The company offers health insurance, life and disability insurance, paid time off of 16 days plus paid holidays, a 401(k) retirement plan and tuition reimbursement for approved coursework. Avalon also provides for all insurance licensing including continuing education coursework,

as well as insurance designations such as ARM, CISR and CPCU.

"Employees are Avalon's biggest asset," Gelsomino said. "A key driver of our success is the passion our employees have in our mission to deliver premier insurance products with the highest level of service."



### THANK YOU FOR NAMING AVALON A BEST PLACE TO WORK

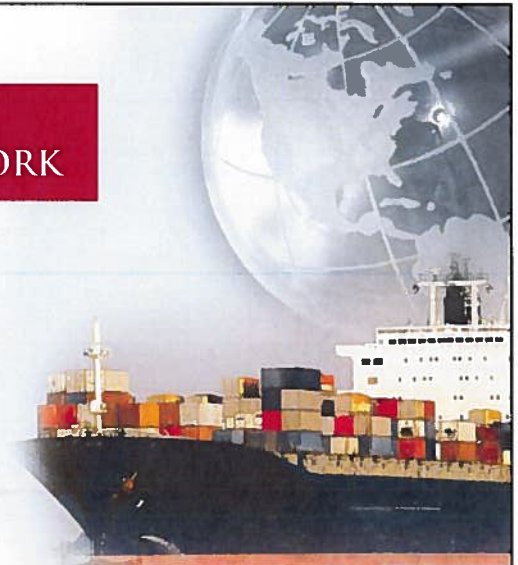
There's no one-plan-fits-all approach when it comes to being a top workplace. Avalon Risk Management operates in a niche segment of the insurance industry, and specializes in coverage for international trade and transportation-related companies.

We know that the talented and knowledgeable people who make up our organization is what sets us apart. At Avalon, we are passionate about our business and it shows in everything we do.

Thank you to our employees, customers and business partners for putting their trust in us and naming Avalon one of the Best Places to Work.

We're committed to our employees, our clients and our industry to deliver the best products and services available in the marketplace.

- Surety Bonds
- Cargo Insurance
- Professional Liability
- Property and Casualty
  - Executive Protection
  - Truck and Auto coverage
  - Courier and Paratransit coverage
- Claim Handling and Subrogation services
- Web Merlin™ technology
  - Streamlined customs bond issuance
  - Quick cargo certificate issuance
  - Importer Fraud Protection



Best Places to  
Work in  
2011  
*A workplace analysis and competition*

  
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