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A

Arthur Adler

**Chairman, Americas
JLL Hotels & Hospitality Group**

Arthur Adler, chairman, has led the Americas division of JLL's Hotels & Hospitality Group for more than 18 years. In his current capacity, Adler provides strategic oversight to the group, which is part of JLL's Hotels & Hospitality Group international. In addition, Adler is directly responsible for the region's hotel transactions business, which consists of arranging the sale and financing of hotels properties throughout the Americas. Over the last several years, JLL has arranged hotel transactions totaling approximately \$10 billion per annum.

Adler's background includes the arrangement of debt and equity transactions; consulting; asset management; litigation support; and strategic planning for owners, investors, and lenders. Adler attended Cornell University, from which he received the Distinguished Alumni Award. He sits on the Cornell University School of Hotel Administration Dean's Advisory Board, and he is the chairman of the Urban Land Institute's Hotel Development Council.

Reza Akhavi

**Co-Head of Real Estate Investment Banking
Deutsche Bank**

Reza Akhavi is the co-head in Deutsche Bank's Americas Real Estate, Gaming, Lodging, and Leisure (REGLL) Investment Banking team. He is responsible for advisory and capital markets client coverage across industries under the REGLL umbrella, including market leaders in the US and international gaming industry, lodging REITs and C corporations, and general leisure operators. Akhavi joined Deutsche Bank in 1998 and joined the REGLL group as a vice president in April 2005. Prior to joining Deutsche Bank, he was an agency equities trader for Herzog, Heine, Geduld, a leading Nasdaq market maker. Akhavi earned a BS cum laude in finance with a concentration in economics from the University of Maryland, College Park. He was a member of the Financial Management Honors Society and the National Business School Honorary Society, and he received the Nations Bank Educational Endowment Award.

Jim Alderman

**Executive Vice President and Chief Development Officer
Extended Stay America**

Jim Alderman has been the chief development officer and executive vice president of Extended Stay America (ESA) since 2016. Alderman brings more than 30 years of hospitality real estate experience to Extended Stay America, including serving as a principal, senior executive, and consultant on real estate projects throughout the world. His focus for the past 25 years has been in hospitality development, strategy, finance, and branding. He joined ESA from Kimpton Hotels, where he was the chief development officer and an investor in the general partnership of the Kearny Street Funds for hotel acquisition.

Alderman focused his career exclusively in hospitality beginning in 1994 when he was recruited to Holiday Inn Worldwide (HIW, now part of IHG). He initially served as manager of capital project analysis and later earned a promotion to director in the Real Estate Group—a position that led to structuring a tax-free spin of the majority of HIW's North American real estate portfolio to Bristol Hotels. This led to the expansion of the FelCor REIT. Alderman executed a global growth strategy at both Starwood Capital Group and Wyndham Hotels. This execution covered all tiers of international hotel brands, from Baccarat and 1 Hotels in China and the Middle East to Super 8 and Days Inn franchises in the Levant through Australia. He acquired the TRYP brand from Melia Hotels for Wyndham in 2011.

Throughout his career, Alderman has been involved in the acquisition, development, joint venture, and financing of more than \$12 billion of real estate projects globally. He has helped to guide the strategy and branding of hundreds of hotel projects, which include independent boutiques to ultra-luxury properties.

Alderman earned a bachelor of science in real estate from Florida State University (FSU). He is an executive board member of the FSU Real Estate Center.

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James F. Allen

**Chairman, Hard Rock International
Chief Executive Officer, Seminole Gaming**

Responsible for all gaming, hospitality, and entertainment operations at the Seminole Tribe of Florida since 2001, James F. Allen has guided the development of Seminole Gaming into one of the world's most successful casino and integrated resort operators, with seven casino sites located throughout Florida.

Allen led the Seminole Tribe of Florida's 2007 acquisition of Hard Rock International, the first acquisition of a major international company by a North American Indian Tribe. He also guided successful gaming compact negotiations between the Seminole Tribe, the State of Florida, and the US Department of the Interior.

At present, Allen is leading the massive expansion of the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood, where the world's first guitar-shaped hotel tower will open in late 2019 as part of a \$2.4 billion capital investment program. There also currently is a major expansion of the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tampa, one of the world's largest and most profitable casinos.

As chairman of Hard Rock International, Allen oversees all operations of one of the most globally recognized brands, known for rock music and its signature cafes, hotels, casinos, memorabilia, and live concerts. Under Allen's leadership since the 2007 acquisition, Hard Rock has expanded its global presence from 46 to 76 countries and has grown from 125 cafes to 184, from nine hotels to 27, and from four casinos to 12, plus Hard Rock Stadium in Miami. Future Hard Rock hotel or hotel-casino projects are planned in Amsterdam, Berlin, Budapest, Dublin, London, Los Cabos, Madrid, Maldives, New York City, Ottawa, Sacramento, and Dalian and Haikou in China.

Allen is a gaming industry veteran with 39 years of experience, and he has held executive positions with The Trump Organization, Hilton, Hemmeter Companies, Park Place Entertainment, and Sun International Resorts. A former member of the New Jersey Casino Control Commission Task Force on Gaming Regulation, Allen has lectured on countless casino industry topics at numerous professional conferences, governmental programs, and college campuses, including at the New Jersey Governor's Business Development Conference and at Harvard and Cornell Universities.

Emmanuel Arroyo

**Regional Director of Wellness
Rosewood Hotels & Resorts**

With more than 15 years of experience in the spa and wellness industry, Emmanuel Arroyo is a seasoned professional with a background in luxury hospitality. He has collaborated with some of the leading hotel groups to manage and open spas in well-known locations across the Americas, the Caribbean, and Europe.

Arroyo started his hospitality journey with Fairmont, Raffles & Swissôtel (FHRI), occupying various spa leadership roles. Then, he was recruited by Hilton to rebrand and operate the spa in one of its prime resort locations, and he successively joined Rosewood Hotels & Resorts to direct the award-winning Sense Spa in Mayakoba. Currently, Arroyo serves as regional director of wellness for Rosewood, supporting openings and ongoing spa operations in eight different countries, including iconic properties in Mexico, California, Tuscany, the Bahamas, London, and Paris. He specializes in luxury standards and business development and spearheads company-wide initiatives, such as Global Wellness Day, to continue strengthening the brand's positioning and culture of wellness.

Arroyo is active in the spa and wellness community, serving as a panelist at different industry conventions and as a member of the board of directors of the Global Mentorship Program, an international initiative of the Global Wellness Institute.

Arroyo holds a bachelor's degree in tourism and hospitality from Concordia University in Montreal, and he is certified in spa and fitness management by La Salle College. He fluently speaks Spanish, English, and French.



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Gary Axelrod

Partner

Latham & Watkins

Gary Axelrod is a partner at Latham & Watkins, and his practice focuses on complex business transactions in the real estate, hospitality, gaming, and leisure industries. His clients include real estate private equity sponsors and funds, REITs, institutional investors, operating companies, and entrepreneurial developers engaged in all aspects of real estate investment and development. In addition, Axelrod has extensive experience in complex asset-level and corporate-level restructurings.

Axelrod has significant experience in the hospitality industry and is co-chair of the firm's Hospitality, Gaming & Leisure Industry Group. He regularly represents owners and operators in connection with the sale, acquisition, development, financing, ownership, and management of hotel, resort, and gaming properties.

He also represents corporate, venture capital, and other private equity clients in bankruptcies, restructurings, mergers, acquisitions, and dispositions involving portfolio companies and their real estate assets. Axelrod's practice also has a substantial cross-border element, including projects in Canada, China, Dubai, India, Abu Dhabi, and Mexico.

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41ST ANNUAL NYU

INTERNATIONAL HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY INVESTMENT CONFERENCE

B

Maud Bailly**Chief Digital Officer
Accor**

Maud Bailly joined Accor as chief digital officer in April 2017. She is head of the digital, distribution, sales, data, and information systems, and she is a member of the executive committee of the company.

Bailly started her career in 2007 at the Inspection Générale des Finances (IGF). After several audit missions at the IGF both in France and abroad, she joined SNCF as the Paris Montparnasse station's director and as deputy director of the TGV product for the Paris Rive Gauche region. She then became director of trains, in charge of network animation and the transformation of 10,000 train controllers' and 3,000 station agents' roles. Called by the office of the Prime Minister of France in May 2015, she became head of the economic pole in Matignon (official Prime Minister's office) in charge of fiscal, tax, industrial, and numerical affairs under Manuel Valls. On May 29, 2018, Bailly joined the French Digital Council (CNNum), a 30-person circle nominated by the French Secretary of State for the Digital Sector to study digital-related topics, with a focus on stakes and perspective of the digital transition of French society, economy, companies, organizations, public action, and territories. Additionally, Bailly gives regular trainings on digital transformation stakes.

Bailly is a graduate of the Ecole Normale Supérieure, the Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Paris, and the Ecole Nationale d'Administration.

Keith Barr**Chief Executive Officer
InterContinental Hotels Group (IHG)**

Keith Barr has been chief executive officer of InterContinental Hotels Group (IHG) since July 2017. He has spent more than 25 years working in the hospitality industry, having started his career in hotel operations. He has been a member of IHG's Executive Committee since April 2011, and he served as chief commercial officer for four years before being appointed CEO. Prior to this, Barr spent four years as CEO of IHG's Greater China business.

Barr joined IHG in 2000 and subsequently held a number of senior positions, including vice president of operations for midscale brands in North America; vice president of operations for the Holiday Inn brand in North America; and chief operating officer for Australia, New Zealand, and South Pacific.

Prior to joining IHG, Barr held senior roles at Bristol Hotels and Resorts, which was acquired by IHG in 2000. He is a graduate of the Cornell University School of Hotel Administration.

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Sébastien Bazin

**Chairman and Chief Executive Officer
AccorHotels**

After five years working in several financial positions in New York, San Francisco, and London, Sébastien Bazin was appointed CEO of Hottinguer Rivaud Finances, an investment bank, in 1990, and then CEO of L'Immobilière Hôtelière, a hotel developer in France, in 1992. In 1997, he moved to Colony Capital, a private real estate investment firm, to head its European branch and to lead several acquisitions, principally in the hospitality sector (Générale des Eaux, Club Med, Lucien Barrière, Fairmont Raffles Hotels International, Buffalo Grill, Château Lascombes, Stadia Consulting, and others).

Bazin joined the Accor Board of Directors in 2005, and via Colony Capital, he became a Paris Saint-Germain Football Club shareholder in 2006 and the club's chairman in 2009.

In August 2013, Bazin resigned from his duties at Colony Capital and was appointed chairman and CEO of AccorHotels. Since his arrival at the head of the group, Bazin has undertaken an ambitious transformation plan aimed at positioning AccorHotels as a digital innovator and expanding its range of services beyond its core business to pioneer a new vision of "augmented hospitality."

Bazin has served as chairman of the Théâtre du Châtelet Board of Directors since 2015 (and a board member since 2013), as vice-chairman of the Gustave Roussy Foundation's Supervisory Board, and as a member of the GE Board of Directors since 2016.

Alan Benjamin

**President and Founder
Benjamin West**

Alan Benjamin is president and founder of Benjamin West, the furniture, fixtures, and equipment (FF&E) and operating supplies and equipment (OS&E) purchasing firm based in Boulder, Colorado, with additional offices in Chicago, Dallas, London, and New Delhi. Benjamin West provides its services to owners, asset managers, and operators in 40 countries and six territories.

Benjamin became a member of the International Society of Hospitality Consultants (ISHC) in 2001, assisting the organization in determining the FF&E budgets for its CapEx 2000 report before joining. Benjamin later co-chaired the ISHC 2007, 2014, and 2018 CapEx studies in partnership with the Hospitality Asset Managers Association (HAMA).

Benjamin has been published in several magazines. His speaking engagements include all major global conferences.

Peter Benudiz

**Partner
Sidley Austin**

Peter Benudiz is co-leader of Sidley Austin's global real estate practice, and he also leads the firm's Global Hospitality Group. His multidisciplinary practice focuses on all aspects of hospitality and real estate. Recognized as one of the leading hospitality lawyers in the United States, Benudiz regularly is called upon to provide strategic advice and guidance to boards of directors and senior management of operating businesses on various cross-border and domestic matters. He has advised on billions of dollars of hospitality, real estate, corporate finance, and M&A deals, including domestic and cross-border leveraged private equity deals. He has counseled some of the world's leading financial institutions and private equity funds on the acquisition, financing, and restructuring of major real estate and hotel projects.

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41ST ANNUAL NYU

INTERNATIONAL HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY INVESTMENT CONFERENCE

Scott D. Berman**Principal, Hospitality Industry Leader US
PwC**

Scott D. Berman is a principal and the US industry leader for the Hospitality & Leisure subsector at PwC, leading the firm's industry program focused on client service, industry perspective, and research. Berman has more than 30 years of diversified experience in the areas of commercial and financial diligence, market and business strategy, and subject matter expert advisory within the hospitality, tourism, and leisure sectors. In his 25-plus years at PwC, he has provided consulting services in more than 40 countries across the firm's network and in all 50 states. Prior to joining PwC, Berman was the director of development for Hilton International, where he was responsible for brand development and acquisition of existing properties in the United States, Canada, Mexico, Latin America, and the Caribbean.

Berman is an active member of the Urban Land Institute Hotel Development Council (HDC) and its former chair, a member of the Cornell University School of Hotel Administration Dean's Advisory Board, a trusted adviser to the American Hotel & Lodging Association (AHLA) Board of Directors, a trustee of the American Resort Development Association, a member of the executive board of the Greater Miami and the Beaches Hotel Association, and a member of the International Society of Hospitality Consultants. He also sits on the Executive Planning Committee of the NYU International Hospitality Industry Investment Conference. He has appeared on CNN and CNBC as an industry expert and is frequently quoted on hospitality issues in *The Wall Street Journal*, *USA Today*, *The New York Times*, *Forbes*, and a variety of industry publications. He recently wrote several academic journal articles for the *Cornell Hospitality Quarterly* and the Cornell Center for Hospitality Research.

Berman holds a degree in hotel administration from Cornell University.

James Bermingham**Executive Vice President, Operations
Montage International**

James Bermingham, executive vice president, operations, for Montage International, is responsible for overseeing all aspects of operations for the company's ultra-luxury brand, Montage Hotels & Resorts, and new luxury brand, Pendry Hotels. Montage Hotels & Resorts is an artistic portfolio of distinctive hotels, resorts, and residences featuring a unique sense of spirit and place. Pendry Hotels is a collection of new luxury hotels for the modern-day traveler located in taste-making destinations.

Bermingham joined Montage in 2002 as part of the pre-opening team of Montage Laguna Beach, and he helped to open the hotel in 2003 as its first general manager. Bermingham was promoted to vice president of operations for the company in 2008. Prior to joining Montage, Bermingham was the general manager of the Latham Hotel and Georgetown Inn in Washington, DC. Before that, he was the vice president of hotel operations at the Beau Rivage in Biloxi, Mississippi, which was part of Mirage Resorts.

Currently, Bermingham is a member of the Preferred Hotels & Resorts Advisory Board and the *Forbes Travel Guide* Standards Advisory Committee (SAC). He also is vice chair of marketing and a commissioner of Visit California.

Karl Bieberach-Dielman**Global Chief Development Officer
Rosewood Hotel Group**

Karl Bieberach-Dielman is the global leader of the development and feasibility teams at Rosewood Hotel Group, overseeing the strategic expansion of the group's distinct brands. With more than 20 years of experience in development, Bieberach-Dielman has worked extensively in Europe, Africa, the Middle East, Latin America, and the United States. Prior to joining Rosewood, he held a variety of senior roles during his 15-year tenure at Starwood Hotels & Resorts, including as head of European development. Prior to Starwood, he was director of development planning and feasibility for Latin America and the Caribbean at Marriott International. Bieberach-Dielman is a graduate of the Cornell University School of Hotel Administration and speaks English, Spanish, and French.

**NYU**SCHOOL OF
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41ST ANNUAL NYU

INTERNATIONAL HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY INVESTMENT CONFERENCE

Greg Bingaman**Director, Asset Management
Westmont Hospitality Group**

Greg Bingaman is director, asset management, of Westmont Hospitality Group, where he manages luxury and full-service hotel portfolios in a variety of partnerships and private equity funds. Previously, Bingaman served as executive director, asset management, of Legacy Hotels REIT, where he oversaw a \$2 billion publicly traded hotel portfolio. In the late 1990s, Bingaman was a founding principal of Boutique Hotel Group, a privately held hotel management company headquartered in New York City. Starting his hospitality career at The Ritz-Carlton Chicago, Bingaman has worked in hotel operations with Four Seasons, Swissôtel, The Ritz-Carlton, and Fairmont. Bingaman is an active member of the Hospitality Asset Managers Association. He earned an MMH in real estate finance from the Cornell University School of Hotel Administration and a bachelor of arts in economics from DePauw University.

Michael D. Bluhm**Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer
Host Hotels & Resorts**

Michael D. Bluhm joined Host Hotels & Resorts as executive vice president and chief financial officer in November 2017. Prior to joining Host, Bluhm served as managing director of investment banking, head of Western Region Real Estate, and global head of Lodging and Leisure at Morgan Stanley, where he was directly involved in more than \$150 billion of merger, acquisition, and restructuring assignments and public and private debt, equity, and equity-linked offerings.

Jennie Blumenthal**Partner
PwC**

Jennie Blumenthal is a partner at PwC and leads its US hospitality practice, where she focuses on counseling executives in sales, marketing, and digital transformations and leads efforts across several major accounts. She has more than 20 years of experience across hospitality, airline, technology, entertainment, and telecommunications industries.

Prior to joining PwC, Blumenthal was a director at PRTM Management Consultants, where she conducted marketing analysis and due diligence for private equity transactions focused on telecommunications in global markets. In past roles, she has analyzed sales trends and campaign performance and executed million-dollar campaigns in strategic planning, marketing, fundraising, and public relations.

Blumenthal has published articles on topics covering customer experience and technology, including connected devices in hotels, digital transformation, and the rise of technology in emerging markets.

Patrick Bosworth**Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer
Duetto**

As co-founder and chief executive officer of Duetto, Patrick Bosworth spearheads the company's strategy and vision, championing a new approach to revenue management. Under his leadership, Duetto has grown to more than 100 employees supporting more than 2,500 hotel and casino properties around the world.

Previously, Bosworth was director of yielding and business strategy for Wynn Las Vegas. He was responsible for revenue management at the Wynn and Encore resort-casinos, and during his tenure, he realigned strategic marketing functions and formulated new pricing strategies for the properties.

Bosworth also worked at the US Department of Labor, driving the modernization of financial reporting standards—the first major update of those standards since the 1950s.

Bosworth holds an MBA from Harvard Business School and a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of San Diego.

**NYU**SCHOOL OF
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41ST ANNUAL NYU

INTERNATIONAL HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY INVESTMENT CONFERENCE

John Bourret**Managing Director
HFF**

John Bourret is a managing director in the Dallas office of HFF and is primarily responsible for institutional-grade hotel and resort property sales, equity placements, and structured finance advisory. Bourret joined the firm in July 2006. During the course of his career with HFF, he has completed more than \$7 billion in commercial real estate transactions. Bourret is a member of the Urban Land Institute and the North Texas Hotel Development Council.

Matthew Brenner**Chief Financial Officer
Loews Hotels & Co**

Matthew Brenner is the chief financial officer for Loews Hotels & Co. In his role, he has oversight of the finance and accounting functions, strategic planning, IT, and risk management. Additionally, he has responsibility for leading the company's shared services center. Upon joining the organization, he transformed the hotel owner and operator business by revisiting a multiyear strategy, including significant transformation of the organization's current portfolio and growth plan.

Prior to Loews, Brenner spent 13 years at PricewaterhouseCoopers' investment management and real estate practices, where he helped to guide private real estate clients in the process of going public and oversaw audits of public and private REITs, investment advisers, real estate investment funds, and other investment companies. He spent part of his time with PwC overseeing a global initiative to improve audit tools and technology to improve the audit effectiveness and efficiency, and he also spent part of his time in PwC's National Office in both the Accounting Services and SEC Services Groups.

Brenner holds a BS in accountancy and an MAS, both from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and is a certified public accountant.

Nicolas Broussaud**Head of Transactions
Accor**

Nicolas Broussaud is responsible for identifying and executing Accor's portfolio acquisitions, strategic investments, and single-asset takeover opportunities globally. He has been closely involved in Accor's recent acquisitions of Mövenpick and Mantra as well as its investments in SBE and Banyan Tree. Broussaud began his career with Accor in 2004 based in Dubai where he was involved in the company's development across the Gulf and Levant countries. Prior to Accor, Broussaud worked for various French financial institutions in the field of mergers and acquisitions advisory and private equity. He is a graduate of HEC Paris and the Paris Institute of Political Studies.

Eric Brown**Vice President, Business Development
Carbon Lighthouse**

Eric Brown is vice president of business development at Carbon Lighthouse. He is responsible for driving business development and empowering his sales team to create meaningful relationships with clients to deliver exceptional projects. His knowledge of commercial real estate and his technical know-how allow him to uniquely understand Carbon Lighthouse's client needs and connect them with customized solutions that have great impact.

Brown holds a bachelor of science in mechanical engineering from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

**NYU**SCHOOL OF
PROFESSIONAL STUDIE

41ST ANNUAL NYU

INTERNATIONAL HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY INVESTMENT CONFERENCE

Ron Burgett**Vice President, Extended Stay Brands
Choice Hotels International**

Ron Burgett is vice president of extended-stay development for WoodSpring Suites, MainStay Suites, and Suburban Extended Stay at Choice Hotels International, one of the world's largest hotel companies. In this role, he is responsible for leading franchise development for the recently acquired WoodSpring Suites brand, as well as the other extended-stay brands for Choice.

Burgett joined Choice for a second time in February 2018 during the acquisition of WoodSpring Suites, where he most recently served as the executive vice president, franchise development and operations. In that position, he led a national team to further develop the nation's fastest-growing extended-stay brand, with more than 250 hotels open and under development. He previously spent 13 years at Choice in various management positions, including serving as national vice president of development.

Prior to WoodSpring, Burgett served as the executive vice president of lodging and brand development for Red Lion Hotels Corporation. He also was founder and president of Indianapolis-based brokerage firm Hospitality Sales Group, which is a hotel real estate investment and management consulting firm. Burgett has extensive experience in property management, having worked for Maxim Management Corporation.

Burgett earned a bachelor of science from Indiana University and received the certified hotel administrator (CHA) designation in 1990.

**NYU**SCHOOL OF
PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

41ST ANNUAL NYU

INTERNATIONAL HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY INVESTMENT CONFERENCE

C

Chris J. Cahill**Deputy Chief Executive Officer
AccorHotels**

Chris J. Cahill joined AccorHotels in 2016 as CEO, luxury brands, and CEO, HotelServices North America, Central America, and Caribbean Region. He joined the executive committee on July 12, 2016. In July 2018, Cahill was appointed deputy chief executive officer to additionally oversee AccorHotels' hotel operations globally. He also serves on the boards of directors of two Canadian real estate companies—as chairman at Temple Hotels and as board director at Morguard Corporation.

Prior to joining AccorHotels, Cahill worked as executive vice president, global operations, for Las Vegas Sands Corporation, a publicly traded gaming company with operations in the United States, China, and Singapore. Before joining Las Vegas Sands, he served for 19 years at Fairmont Raffles Hotels International and its predecessor companies in various capacities, including president and chief operating officer responsible for the operating performance of all brands globally. Earlier in his career, Cahill developed a strong track record in all facets of hotel business (operations, sales, and marketing) in cities across Canada during an 18-year period.

Cahill, who is Canadian, holds two bachelor's degrees—one in education and one in political science—from the University of Ottawa, and he earned an MBA from the University of Toronto.

Janis Cannon**Senior Vice President, Upscale Brands
Choice Hotels International**

Janis Cannon is senior vice president of upscale brands and a member of the senior executive team for Choice Hotels International, one of the world's leading lodging franchisors. In this role, she is responsible for the overall performance and growth of the company's upscale portfolio and leads the brand strategy and positioning of Cambria Hotels and the Ascend Hotel Collection.

Since joining Choice Hotels in 2016, Cannon has increased Cambria's hotel openings and pipeline developments by more than 50 percent, driven revenue in key urban markets, and grown the Ascend Hotel Collection—recognized as the industry's first "soft" brand—to more than 250 properties worldwide.

Prior to joining Choice Hotels, Cannon spent more than 25 years in branding, sales, marketing, and hotel operations. She most recently served as vice president and global brand leader of upscale and lifestyle brands at IHG, where she developed and implemented brand strategy and facilitated development projects and positioning efforts for the company's portfolio. Previously, she held senior leadership positions as deputy commissioner in the Georgia Department of Economic Development and global SVP at Swissôtel Hotels & Resorts.

She was named one of the travel industry's "Top 15 Women in Leadership" by *Lodging* magazine and one of the industry's "10 to Watch" for 2018 by *Hotel Business* magazine.

Cannon earned a bachelor's degree in speech communication from Valdosta State University.

**NYU**SCHOOL OF
PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

41ST ANNUAL NYU

INTERNATIONAL HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY INVESTMENT CONFERENCE

Bart Carnahan

**Executive Vice President, Global Business Development & Portfolio Management
Four Seasons**

Bart Carnahan oversees global business development efforts and portfolio management at Four Seasons, working collaboratively with teams around the world to advance the company's position as the partner of choice for luxury hotel and residential projects. With more than 30 years of experience in the international lodging and hospitality industry, Carnahan is responsible for bringing people and capital together to support the company's growth objectives and to ensure Four Seasons is well represented in the world's most important and desirable destinations.

Under Carnahan's leadership, Four Seasons continues to leverage its single luxury brand to grow its global portfolio through a combination of new builds, strategic conversions, and adaptive reuses of historic buildings, all while maintaining its focus on custom-designed properties that are purpose-built for each owner and each market.

Prior to joining Four Seasons, Carnahan spent nine years with Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide as senior vice president, acquisitions and development, EAME, and 18 years with Marriott International in various roles, including his last position as SVP of development.

Colin Carroll

**Vice President, Real Estate Investments
Ashford**

Colin Carroll is vice president of investments of Ashford and serves as the vice president of investments of both Ashford Hospitality Trust and Braemar Hotels & Resorts. Carroll's role at Ashford focuses exclusively on hospitality investments across all segments and at all levels of the capital structure, including direct hotel investments and mezzanine loans.

Carroll's responsibilities involve sourcing and underwriting hotel investments, including direct equity investments, joint venture equity, preferred equity, and mezzanine loans. During Carroll's time at Ashford, he has been involved in numerous hotel equity transactions, including its 2007 CNL and 2011 Highland Hospitality acquisitions. In addition, he has been responsible for the asset management of Ashford's loan portfolio and assisted with capital raising activities of both equity and debt capital.

Before joining Ashford, Carroll held roles with ClubCorp, a leading owner and operator of premier destination resorts and private clubs, and with Wyndham International, a fully integrated hotel enterprise that operated primarily in the upper-upscale and luxury segments.

Carroll earned a bachelor of business administration in accounting and management from Texas A&M University and a master of business administration from Southern Methodist University. Carroll is a certified public accountant.

Ben Cary

**Senior Vice President of Development, North America
MEININGER Hotels**

Ben Cary is senior vice president of development, North America, for MEININGER Hotels, where he is responsible for leading the company's expansion in North America. Since opening the first property in 1999 on Meininger Street in Berlin, MEININGER has grown today to 24 properties in Europe's top cities, with 15 additional properties in the pipeline. The unique hybrid concept of MEININGER is based upon combining the service and comfort of a hotel with the uncomplicated nature of a hostel: top locations, high-quality amenities, flexible room structure, and reasonable prices. In 2018, MEININGER announced its first project in North America, a purpose-built property in the NoMa neighborhood of Washington, DC. MEININGER developments are non-prototypical and include conversions, adaptive reuse projects, and new developments (including properties with mixed-use integration).

Cary has more than 16 years of hotel and real estate experience, most recently holding development and feasibility positions with Starwood Hotels & Resorts. Prior to Starwood, Cary held positions with the investment firm Hotel Capital Advisers and with The Carlyle Hotel in New York City.

**NYU**SCHOOL OF
PROFESSIONAL STUDIE

41ST ANNUAL NYU

INTERNATIONAL HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY INVESTMENT CONFERENCE

Lisa Borromeo Checchio**Chief Marketing Officer
Wyndham Hotels & Resorts**

Lisa Borromeo Checchio leads revenue generation strategy for Wyndham Hotels & Resorts, driving brand awareness, engagement, and affinity for some of the world's most iconic hotel brands representing more than 9,000 hotels in 80 countries.

As Wyndham's chief marketing officer, Checchio champions the company's 20 hotel brands by creating meaningful brand experiences for hoteliers and guests alike. In this role, she guides the company's loyalty program, Wyndham Rewards, and digital channels, as well as brand marketing, brand experience, integrated media, owner communications, public relations, global sales, and sales enablement marketing.

Throughout her tenure at Wyndham, Checchio has received recognition across the industry, including being named one of the 2018 "Influential Women in Hospitality" by *Hotel Management* magazine, one of "15 Women Making Their Mark in Hospitality" in 2017 by *Lodging* magazine, and one of the "Top 25 Extraordinary Minds of 2016" by the Hospitality Sales and Marketing Association International (HSMIAI).

Before joining Wyndham in 2015, Checchio spent 11 years at JetBlue Airways overseeing brand strategy and the execution of marketing programs, advertising, sponsorships, brand communications, and design. Prior to JetBlue, she worked in event management in professional tennis (a personal passion) for several years.

Checchio serves as a member of the board for Raritan Valley Habitat for Humanity. She earned a degree in economics from the George Washington University.

Puneet Chhatwal**Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer
The Indian Hotels Company Limited**

On November 6, 2017, Puneet Chhatwal joined The Indian Hotels Company Limited (IHCL) as the managing director and chief executive officer. He is a global professional with more than three decades of leadership experience at highly acclaimed hotel groups in Europe and North America.

Prior to this, Chhatwal was the chief executive officer and member of the executive board of Steigenberger Hotels AG-Deutsche Hospitality. He also was the chief development officer of the Rezidor Hotel Group-Carlson Hotels Worldwide.

Chhatwal is a graduate of both Delhi University and the Institute of Hotel Management, Delhi. He completed an MBA in hospitality from ESSEC Paris and the Advanced Management Programme from INSEAD.

Chhatwal has won awards, including the prestigious Carlson Fellowship, and he was rated one of Europe's "20 Extraordinary Minds in Sales, Marketing & Technology" by HSMIAI in 2014. Also in 2014, Chhatwal was the first alumnus to be inducted into the ESSEC-IMHI Hospitality Hall of Honor.

Raymond Co**Senior Vice President for Human Resources, Americas and Global Learning
InterContinental Hotels Group (IHG)**

As senior vice president for human resources, Americas and global learning, Raymond Co leads the talent, organization, capability, and culture strategies and programs for the Americas geography at InterContinental Hotels Group (IHG).

Co joined IHG in 2013 as vice president for human resources, Greater China, and was based in Shanghai. He relocated to the United States in September 2018 to assume his current role. During his time in Greater China, he played a key leadership role in driving the people and organization strategy to support the company's ambitious expansion plan.

Prior to joining IHG, Co spent 28 years with the Procter & Gamble Company in various HR leadership roles in the Philippines, Hong Kong, China, and the United States.

Co has a degree in industrial management engineering with a minor in mechanical engineering from De La Salle University in the Philippines.

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Meghan Cocci**Co-Chair, Global Hotels and Leisure
Dentons**

Meghan Cocci is co-chair of Dentons' global Hotels and Leisure practice. As an adviser to top hotel and resort owners, investors, and operators around the globe, she works hand in hand with her clients to help them successfully negotiate transactions involving the management, acquisition, and development of hotels, resorts, spas, restaurants, golf courses, and mixed-use projects in the United States, Europe, the Middle East, and Asia. Her clients rely on her understanding of the key role that business, operations, and legal issues play in long-term management and license agreements for hotel and leisure projects, especially in the upscale and luxury sectors of the industry.

Among her numerous accolades, Cocci holds a "Band 1" ranking in the prestigious *Chambers USA: America's Leading Lawyers for Business* and has been ranked as a top hospitality and leisure lawyer in the United States every year since 2007. She was named "Hospitality MVP of the Year" by *Law360* from 2013 to 2015, and *The National Law Journal* included her in its list of "Outstanding Women Lawyers."

John Cohlan**Chief Executive Officer
Margaritaville Holdings**

John Cohlan is the chief executive officer of Margaritaville Holdings, a lifestyle brand management company operating in the diversified hospitality business, which includes resorts, hotels, vacation and active living residential communities, vacation ownership, gaming, and restaurants; alcoholic beverages; lifestyle consumer products; and media. The brand—inspired by the iconic music, lyrics, and life of Jimmy Buffett—is based on the concept of island escapism.

Prior to joining Jimmy Buffett in 1997 to form Margaritaville Holdings, Cohlan worked for TRIARC, a publicly traded holding company comprised of consumer businesses, including Arby's, Snapple, and RC Cola.

Cohlan graduated from Princeton University, attended the London School of Economics, and graduated from the Georgetown University Law Center.

Chad L. Crandell**Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer
CHMWarnick**

Chad L. Crandell is managing director and chief executive officer of CHMWarnick, the leading provider of hotel asset management and owner advisory services. He is responsible for overseeing the CHMWarnick team, comprised of 40 hospitality professionals operating across nine offices nationwide. As a group, they are responsible for asset managing a client portfolio of more than 70 hotels and 29,000 guestrooms, collectively valued in excess of \$15 billion. Crandell has 30 years of experience in the hospitality industry, the majority of which has been dedicated to asset managing, developing strategies for enhancing hotel value, and protecting the rights of hotel owners and investors. He has extensive experience in structuring fair and equitable hotel ownership agreements, and he plays an active role in all client contract negotiations. Crandell also advises on key operational challenges, including revenue management, risk mitigation, capital planning and expenditures, and investor-funded capital projects.

Crandell is a past president and current member of the Hospitality Asset Managers Association (HAMA), took part on the Certified Hotel Asset Manager (CHAM) designation development team, and served on the American Hotel & Lodging Association finance committee that instituted changes for the 11th edition of the Uniform System of Accounts for the Lodging Industry. Crandell is a member of the International Society of Hospitality Consultants (ISHC) and is a certified hotel asset manager (CHAM). He earned a BS in hotel administration from Cornell University.

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D

Pete Dannemiller

**Managing Director
Hodges Ward Elliott**

Pete Dannemiller is managing director of Hodges Ward Elliott (HWE), the leading hotel brokerage and investment banking firm in the United States.

Since joining HWE in 1996, Dannemiller has become one of the leading producers within the firm and the hotel investment sales and financing industry. Dannemiller has teamed with partner Mark Elliott to close sales and financing transactions totaling in excess of \$40 billion in volume during his tenure with the firm, including more than \$5 billion in debt placement.

Dannemiller has been a speaker/panelist at the Atlanta Hotel Investment Conference, the UNC Real Estate Conference, the Hospitality Asset Managers Association (HAMA) Conference, The Lodging Conference, the Midwest Lodging Investors Summit, Meet the Money, and the NYU International Hospitality Industry Investment Conference. He has been quoted in *Hotel Business*, *Real Estate Forum*, and *Lodging Hospitality* magazines as a hospitality brokerage expert.

Dannemiller holds a bachelor of science in business from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and an MBA from Emory University.

Jeffrey Davis

**Senior Managing Director
JLL**

Jeffrey Davis is a senior managing director of JLL's Hotels & Hospitality Group and co-heads the Americas Hotel Capital Markets team responsible for overseeing all investment sales, debt, and equity placement in the Americas. Davis is based in the firm's New York office and, as a leading strategist and investment adviser for JLL, has advised on and transacted in excess of \$20 billion of high-profile lodging transactions and hybrid-use developments globally.

Davis has been involved in the recent sales and marketing efforts for The Standard, High Line; The Plaza Hotel New York; the InterContinental New York Barclay; and JW Marriott Essex House New York.

For more than 20 years, Davis has been intricately involved in all aspects of real estate in the United States from both an institutional and entrepreneurial perspective. With a career as a consultant, investment banker, and private developer, and with institutional acquisitions, Davis has worked with world-renowned real estate companies as well as celebrity entrepreneurs including Ian Schrager, André Balazs, and The Trump Organization.

Prior to joining JLL, Davis served as vice president of asset management and business development for Ian Schrager at Morgans Hotel Group, where he was responsible for sourcing and structuring more than \$100 million of new development projects, including the Gramercy Park Hotel, the Bond Street residential project, and the proposed conversion of the Shore Club in South Beach to a full-service condominium hotel. Davis gained consulting experience at Arthur Andersen as a national hospitality consultant and corporate finance experience, thereafter at Salomon Smith Barney where he completed more than \$15 billion of private and publicly traded real estate transactions.

Davis holds an MBA in real estate finance and strategic planning from the UCLA Anderson School of Management and a bachelor of science from the Cornell University School of Hotel Administration, from which he graduated with honors.

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Kevin Davis

Managing Director

JLL

Kevin Davis is a managing director in JLL's Hotels & Hospitality Group in New York, where he is responsible for raising debt and equity capital for hotel owners and is one of the leaders of the Hotel Investment Banking Group. In this role, Davis works closely with the lending community, including banks, life insurance companies, debt funds, mezzanine providers, and CMBS lenders, as well as institutional owners of commercial real estate.

Since joining JLL in 2013, Davis has been involved in almost \$10 billion of financings, which include ground-up construction projects, value-add/transitional assets, and stabilized properties. Notable transactions include the financing of JW Marriott Essex House; The Standard, High Line; 1 Hotel Central Park; Loews Regency San Francisco; and The Ritz-Carlton St. Thomas. Representative clients include ADIA, Ashford Hospitality Trust, Barings, The Blackstone Group, Highgate Hotels, Rockpoint Group, Starwood Capital, and Walton Street Capital.

Prior to joining JLL, Davis spent almost a decade as a lender at Merrill Lynch and UBS, where he was involved in sourcing and executing more than \$7 billion of first mortgage and mezzanine financings for securitization and balance sheet. In this role, Davis was actively involved in loan origination, loan structuring, and closing. He also spent three years as a partner and co-founder of FundCore Finance, a high-yield lending platform that made opportunistic investments following the financial crisis. Previously, Davis worked as an attorney in Washington, DC, where he covered banking and securities policy issues for members of the House and Senate Banking Committees.

Davis holds a BA with honors in economics from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, a JD from the UCLA School of Law, and an MBA from The Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania.

S. Lawrence Davis

President and Chief Executive Officer

Shorewood Real Estate Group

S. Lawrence Davis, with more than 35 years of experience in commercial real estate, leads Shorewood Real Estate Group as president and chief executive officer.

Shorewood Real Estate Group is a first mover in the Opportunity Zone space, with a focus on New York City area investments. It has three large-scale Opportunity Zone development projects underway with total cost more than \$500 million. Its first Opportunity Zone Fund project begins construction this summer.

Davis was a partner for 10 years at the Emmes Group of Companies, a privately held real estate investment firm. As president of Emmes Asset Management, he was responsible for a nationwide portfolio of properties valued in excess of \$1 billion.

Following his tenure at Emmes, Davis was president of SDS Investments, a New York-based real estate investment firm, where he managed in excess of \$100 million of equity. Davis oversaw the development of approximately \$500 million of real estate projects and platform investments, including the William Beaver House, a \$400 million residential condominium project in the Financial District of Manhattan.

Robert De Niro

Co-Owner

Nobu

Highly acclaimed actor, director, and producer and two-time Academy Award winner, Robert De Niro was instrumental in bringing the artistry of Nobu first to New York and around the world.

As a core principal of the group, he has co-founded and provided creative direction for all the Nobu restaurants, and he continues to provide creative leadership and insight into the development of Nobu Hotels for years to come. His support of the brand draws actors, musicians, and socialites from around the globe.

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Sean M. Dell'Orto**Executive Vice President, Chief Financial Officer, and Treasurer
Park Hotels & Resorts**

Sean M. Dell'Orto serves as executive vice president, chief financial officer, and treasurer of Park Hotels & Resorts. Dell'Orto served most recently as senior vice president and treasurer of Hilton Worldwide Holdings from September 2012 until November 2016. He previously served as vice president of corporate finance of Hilton from February 2010 until September 2012. During his tenure at Hilton, Dell'Orto also served as chairman of Hilton's Global Benefits Investment Committee. Prior to his tenure at Hilton, Dell'Orto served as senior vice president and chief financial officer for Barceló Crestline Corporation and as vice president and treasurer of Highland Hospitality Corporation.

Dell'Orto earned a bachelor of science from the University of Virginia and a master of business administration from The Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania. He currently serves on the board of directors for the University of Virginia Foundation.

Greg Doman**Senior Vice President, Development, North and Central America, Luxury Hotels Americas, and Residential
Accor**

Greg Doman has been working with Accor since July 2016, upon the company's acquisition of Fairmont Raffles Hotels International. Prior to that, Doman had been with Fairmont Raffles Hotels International since May 2003. At Accor, Doman is responsible for leading the development of the North and Central America network and the luxury and upper-upscale network in South America. He also is responsible for the global residential business for the company.

Prior to joining Accor, Doman was vice president of strategic planning and business development at Promus Hotels. He also was a management consultant at A.T. Kearney.

Doman holds an MBA from the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University and a bachelor of science in business administration from Indiana University.

Randy Durband**Chief Executive Officer
Global Sustainable Tourism Council (GSTC)**

Randy Durband is the chief executive officer of the Global Sustainable Tourism Council (GSTC), the UN-created nongovernmental organization (NGO) that manages global standards for sustainable tourism. He brings a unique blend of skills and experience, based on two career paths he has taken in travel and tourism spanning 35 years: first, in senior leadership positions with major tour operators, including as president of Travcoa and Clipper Cruise Lines (brands within TUI Group) and executive vice president of Tauck World Discovery, and now a second career in sustainable tourism. He is a frequent adviser and speaker to governments and businesses on sustainable travel and tourism policies and implementation. He has served on many tourism boards and committees in Asia, North America, Europe, and Africa and has been a judge for leading sustainable tourism awards.

Mark Durliat**Chief Executive Officer and Co-Founder
Grace Bay Resorts**

Prior to visiting the Turks and Caicos Islands in 2001, Mark Durliat had spent nearly 10 months searching the Caribbean for the right location and property on which to expand his entrepreneurial career in the development of condo-resorts. Durliat's first acquisition was the Grace Bay Club, from which the Grace Bay Resorts brand was born. Under his leadership, the luxury brand has either developed or managed 10 different projects in the Turks and Caicos Islands, consisting of resorts, condominiums, and single-family residential projects that have accumulated hotel affiliations and accolades from names such as The Leading Hotels of the World, *Travel + Leisure*, and Preferred Hotels. The company has been responsible for more than 300,000 square feet of new construction and has directly sold \$145 million of real estate. In 2009, Durliat was presented with the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Turks and Caicos Hotel and Tourism Association.

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PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

41ST ANNUAL NYU

INTERNATIONAL HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY INVESTMENT CONFERENCE

E

Joel Eisemann

**Chief Development Officer, The Americas
InterContinental Hotels Group (IHG)**

Joel Eisemann joined the InterContinental Hotels Group (IHG) in September 2011 and is chief development officer, The Americas. He is responsible for all development and conversion activities (both managed and franchised) for the Regent, InterContinental, Crowne Plaza, Hotel Indigo, EVEN Hotels, Staybridge Suites, Candlewood Suites, Holiday Inn, Holiday Inn Express, and avid hotels brands in the Americas. Eisemann also is responsible for the company's Transactions & Asset Management group for the Americas, which handles workouts and restructurings, and the region's Owner & Franchise Services team, which leads the IHG organization to attract, support, and cultivate those owners and franchisees who will help the company to continue to grow its brands' distribution and preference.

Previously, Eisemann was with Marriott International for 29 years, where he held a number of senior positions including chief owner and franchise relations officer; chief development officer, select-service and extended-stay brands; executive vice president, global asset management; and senior vice president, lodging development, Asia/Pacific, based in Hong Kong. Prior to joining Marriott, he was with Laventhol & Horwath in Tampa, Florida, for three years.

Eisemann serves on a variety of committees and boards, including as a board member of AHLA, a fellow of the Cornell Center for Real Estate Finance, and a member of the Executive Planning Committee for the NYU International Hospitality Industry Investment Conference.

Eisemann is a graduate of the master of professional studies program at the Cornell University School of Hotel Administration, and he earned an AB in economics from Stanford University.

Jeffrey Emenecker

**Senior Director of Analytics
Cvent**

Jeffrey Emenecker brings more than 20 years of experience in both entrepreneurial and corporate roles to bear for clients every day. He heads up analytics for the Hospitality Cloud division of Cvent, developing leading-edge analytical software for the hospitality industry.

Emenecker co-founded Decision Street in 2012 as his third startup, which was eventually acquired by Cvent in 2014. His first startup was SRI Analytics, an analytics consulting firm. He helped to lead SRI through three years of rapid growth before being acquired by Aspen Marketing in 2005, where he was the president of analytics. He co-founded his second startup, Five x Five, in 2008 to deliver proprietary software helping customers to better measure and plan advertising spend across media and geographies. He spun out Decision Street from Five x Five in 2012 to focus on hospitality analytics software.

Emenecker holds an MBA in finance from the Crummer Graduate School of Business at Rollins College and a BBA in accounting from the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire.

Kelly Evans

**Anchor, *The Exchange*, and Co-Author, *Power Lunch*
CNBC**

Kelly Evans is anchor of CNBC's *The Exchange*, the newsroom-based program for today's investor. She also is co-anchor of CNBC's *Power Lunch*, which broadcasts from the network's headquarters in Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey.

She joined the network in February 2012 as an on-air correspondent, reporting across CNBC's Business Day programming. Evans was most recently co-anchor of CNBC's *Closing Bell* and earlier *Squawk on the Street* and *Worldwide Exchange* based in London.

Prior to CNBC, Evans was an economics reporter and "Heard on the Street" columnist for *The Wall Street Journal*. She also hosted the daily *News Hub* program on WSJ.com. Evans joined *The Wall Street Journal* in 2007 after graduating magna cum laude with a bachelor's degree from Washington & Lee University in Lexington, Virginia.

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41ST ANNUAL NYU

INTERNATIONAL HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY INVESTMENT CONFERENCE

F

Katie B. Fallon**Executive Vice President, Global Head of Corporate Affairs
Hilton**

Katie B. Fallon is the global head of corporate affairs for Hilton. She is responsible for managing the company's communications, government relations, and corporate responsibility efforts.

Fallon has more than a decade of experience serving as a top leadership aide in the highest levels of the US government. Prior to Hilton, Fallon was senior adviser and director of legislative affairs for President Barack Obama. As President Obama's chief liaison to Congress, Fallon played a lead role in negotiating major bipartisan legislation and improving communications between the White House and Congress. Before becoming President Obama's chief liaison to the Hill, Fallon served as his deputy communications director at the White House, where she devised and executed communications strategies for the president to promote his economic agenda across the country.

From 2011 until May 2013, Fallon was the staff director of the Senate Democratic Policy and Communications Center in Congress. Fallon's other roles in government and politics include legislative director to US Senator Chuck Schumer (D-NY), deputy staff director of the Joint Economic Committee, and policy director at the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee.

Fallon graduated from the University of Notre Dame and pursued two graduate degrees in politics in the United Kingdom as a Marshall Scholar.

Michael A. Fishbin**Global and Americas Hospitality Leader
EY**

As the global and Americas hospitality leader at EY, Michael A. Fishbin is an active adviser around the globe to leading hospitality and leisure (H&L) companies, developers, private equity funds, lenders, and government agencies in all aspects of hospitality, leisure, and tourism. In addition to being the market leader in assurance and tax, the H&L practice provides advisory services to the sector focused on transactions, strategy, customer and talent experience, digital transformation, development, valuation, operations, IT, privacy and cyber risk, and future destinations.

Fishbin has served as an adjunct faculty member at the NYU School of Professional Studies Jonathan M. Tisch Center of Hospitality. He is a member of the Rock and Wrap It Up! Advisory Board. He and his wife, Dori, were honored in 2014 with the Rock and Wrap It Up! Humanitarian of the Year Award for greatly expanding the organization's distribution network through relationships in the sports and hotel sectors.

Fishbin earned a BA in economics from Union College and a master's degree in finance and real estate from the Cornell University School of Hotel Administration.

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PROFESSIONAL STUDIE

41ST ANNUAL NYU

INTERNATIONAL HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY INVESTMENT CONFERENCE

Kathleen (Kat) Chiechi Flores**Executive Vice President
Trump Hotels**

Kathleen (Kat) Chiechi Flores, executive vice president at Trump Hotel Group, is responsible for sales, marketing, branding, and communication. She is charged with driving customer acquisition and the innovation and evolution of products and services across the business.

Flores joined Trump Hotels from The Assemblage, a hospitality concept blending social clubs and innovative work environments, where she served as managing director. There, she was responsible for the development and administration of the nascent brand concept.

Previously, Flores held the roles of chief administrative officer for Hampshire Hotels Management and executive vice president of human resources and communication at Wyndham Hotel Group.

She holds an MBA from Columbia Business School, a master's degree in education from the University of San Francisco, and a bachelor's degree in economics from the University of California, Irvine.

Bill Fortier**Senior Vice President, Development, Americas
Hilton Worldwide**

Bill Fortier was named senior vice president of development, Americas, for Hilton Worldwide in June 2008. He is responsible for developing both the managed and franchised businesses for all of Hilton's brands in the region. Prior to his current role, Fortier was senior vice president, franchise development, of Hilton's brand performance and development group, a position he held since 2001. In that capacity, he was responsible for overseeing franchise development efforts for Hilton Hotels Corporation's brands in North America, including Hilton, Doubletree, Embassy Suites, Hampton Inn, Hampton Inn & Suites, Hilton Garden Inn, and Homewood Suites by Hilton. These activities also included continuing the expansion of the company's network of hotels and ensuring the consistent delivery of brand standards from a development standpoint. Fortier joined Hilton in 1996 as vice president of franchise development, where he worked with owners to develop Hilton and Hilton Garden Inn franchised hotels in the western region.

Prior to Hilton, Fortier spent 10 years at Marriott International, where he was vice president of development. Fortier earned a bachelor of science in hotel and restaurant management from the University of Houston Conrad N. Hilton College of Hotel and Restaurant Management.

Laura Fuentes**Senior Vice President, Talent and Rewards
Hilton**

As the senior vice president of talent and rewards, Laura Fuentes oversees the entire team member life cycle: recruiting, learning and development, compensation, benefits, recognition, and diversity and inclusion programs, as well as all people analytics and strategy for Hilton team members around the globe.

Fuentes has been featured in *The Huffington Post* and *Hispanic Executive* for her role in creating an inclusive environment where all team members can Thrive@Hilton.

Under Fuentes's leadership, Hilton has rolled out industry-leading programs for its team members including parental leave, adoption assistance, and its signature "Go Hilton" Team Member Travel Program.

Prior to Hilton, Fuentes worked for Capital One in various strategy and human resources roles, and for McKinsey & Company.

Fuentes holds a BS in civil engineering from the University of Virginia, an MS in structural engineering from the University of Texas at Austin, and an MBA from Columbia University.

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41ST ANNUAL NYU

INTERNATIONAL HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY INVESTMENT CONFERENCE

G

Heather Geisler

**Vice President, Global Brands
Hyatt**

Heather Geisler is vice president, Global Brands, at Hyatt, overseeing brand strategy and execution for Hyatt's Luxury, Lifestyle, and Independent Collections brands. Previously, she was vice president, Creative + Field Marketing, at Hyatt, leading in-house creative services, as well as field marketing for 200-plus full-service properties in the Americas.

Prior to joining Hyatt, Geisler was vice president, brand marketing, at MSNBC, where she guided the development of the brand's positioning and growth strategy; the integrated brand experience programs and creative campaigns; and the promotion of new programming, partnerships, and special events. She spent more than 15 years at marketing and creative agencies in New York and Washington, DC, and she began her professional career as deputy press secretary to US Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA).

Geisler is a graduate of the University of Iowa.

Sourav Ghosh

**Senior Vice President, Enterprise Analytics
Host Hotels & Resorts**

Sourav Ghosh is the head of enterprise analytics at Host Hotels & Resorts. In his role, he is responsible for all analytic functions, including feasibility and portfolio analysis, business intelligence, revenue management, corporate financial planning, and capital expenditure analysis, as well as innovations and initiatives for the company's various departments and investment platforms. He joined Host in 2009 and most recently worked as senior vice president, global business intelligence. Prior to joining Host, Ghosh held numerous positions at Starwood Hotels & Resorts, including senior director of real estate investments and director of acquisitions and development. Prior to Starwood, Ghosh was a senior associate with HVS International, a global hospitality consulting firm.

Karen Gilbride

**Head
avid hotels, InterContinental Hotels Group (IHG)**

Karen Gilbride is the head of avid hotels, a brand launched by InterContinental Hotels Group (IHG) in September 2017 that is focused on the needs of the lower-midscale guest. In her role, Gilbride leads a team responsible for the marketing and commercial performance of the brand, definition of the end-to-end guest experience, and design and architecture of the prototype. Prior to this role, Gilbride was the director of multibrand guest experience within the Americas. She also held leadership roles within the Global Brands & Marketing organization on the Crowne Plaza Hotels & Resorts and Hotel Indigo brands. Gilbride has held several leadership positions across multiple functions of the business and regions of the company over her 18-year career with IHG, including in global human resources where she developed tools and programs that support the delivery of brands through people, such as service culture initiatives, recruitment strategies, and education for the front line. She also spent several years in hotel operations and on-property regional leadership roles.

Gilbride holds a master of science in adult education and human resource development from Fordham University and a bachelor of science in hotel administration from Cornell University.

**NYU**SCHOOL OF
PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

41ST ANNUAL NYU

INTERNATIONAL HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY INVESTMENT CONFERENCE

Arthur Goldfrank**Managing Director, Mergers & Acquisitions
Deutsche Bank**

Arthur Goldfrank is a managing director in the Mergers & Acquisitions Group of Deutsche Bank Securities. He heads the advisory effort within the bank's Real Estate, Gaming, Lodging & Leisure Group. Over the past several years, Goldfrank has undertaken transactions on behalf of Marriott International, Hilton Worldwide, Ryman Hospitality, Wyndham Worldwide, Accor, Fairmont Raffles, Centaur Gaming, Affinity Gaming, JACK Entertainment, and Invitation Homes, among others.

Prior to joining Deutsche Bank, Goldfrank practiced law at Skadden, Arps. He has a BA in economics from the University of Pennsylvania and a JD from the University of Chicago Law School.

Phillip Gordon**Partner
Perkins Coie**

As a partner at Perkins Coie, Phillip Gordon focuses his practice in the areas of private equity, hotel transactions and management agreements, corporate mergers and acquisitions, and representation of boards of directors of public companies. Over the years, he has supervised the acquisitions, financing, and management agreement negotiations of hotels in North America and Europe. He has advised sponsors on establishing private equity funds and has represented the portfolio companies of the private equity funds. Gordon has handled numerous public and private corporate acquisitions and dispositions, and he has advised boards of directors and committees of boards of public companies on a range of topics. He is listed in *The Best Lawyers in America* and in *Illinois Law & Politics*; he also is ranked nationally in *Chambers USA* as a leading lawyer in leisure and hospitality. He is a frequent panelist at hotel industry seminars and has been recognized as a leader in the industry by various publications and organizations.

Gordon is a graduate of Oxford University, the University of Chicago Law School, and the University of Witwatersrand.

Akshay Goyal**Senior Vice President, Hotel Acquisitions
Starwood Capital Group**

Akshay Goyal is a senior vice president in the Hotel Acquisitions Group at Starwood Capital Group. In this role, Goyal focuses on sourcing, structuring, underwriting, and executing investments in the lodging sector. During his time at Starwood, he has been responsible for various direct real estate asset investments, corporate acquisitions, and recapitalizations. Prior to joining Starwood Capital in 2012, Goyal served in the real estate investment banking group at Bank of America Merrill Lynch.

Goyal earned a BS in finance and accounting from the University of Maryland, College Park.

Nicolas Graf**Associate Dean
NYU School of Professional Studies Jonathan M. Tisch Center of Hospitality**

Nicolas Graf, PhD, is the associate dean of the NYU School of Professional Studies Jonathan M. Tisch Center of Hospitality. Prior to this, he served as chief academic officer of Les Roches Global Hospitality Education, managing director at Alain Ducasse, and professor and director of the IMHI Center at ESSEC Business School in Paris. He earned a PhD from Virginia Tech and is a graduate of the Ecole hôtelière de Lausanne.

He has published in numerous academic journals in the fields of finance and strategy, including the *International Journal of Hospitality Management*, *The Real Estate Finance Journal*, and the *Journal of Retail & Leisure Property*.

Over the past 20 years, he has delivered executive education courses for various companies in Asia, the Middle East, Africa, North and South America, and Europe, and he has conducted several consulting projects in the fields of asset management, strategic planning, and business development.

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41ST ANNUAL NYU

INTERNATIONAL HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY INVESTMENT CONFERENCE

Susan Greenbaum

Interim Dean

NYU School of Professional Studies

Susan Greenbaum, EdD, is a long-time member of the NYU community and an experienced administrator. She served in numerous leadership capacities at the NYU Stern School of Business over her 31-year career, culminating in her role as the associate dean of the Undergraduate College. During her time at Stern, Greenbaum was involved in a wide range of areas, including admissions, financial aid, curriculum initiatives, student affairs, development, and alumni relations. She also was an adjunct faculty member. Following her tenure at Stern, she worked as a consultant and executive coach, focusing on educational institutions by assisting clients with communications, reorganizations, and public relations. In addition, she served as the CEO of the Girl Scouts of Greater New York.

Greenbaum returned to NYU during the 2017–2018 academic year to serve as the interim assistant vice president/ executive director of the Wasserman Center for Career Development, where she strategically led and worked with the team to develop and execute a comprehensive range of career development-related programs and services for students, alumni, and employers. Most recently, she was appointed interim dean of the NYU School of Professional Studies, carrying on the School's mission to educate the industry leaders of today and tomorrow.

Ken Greene

President, Americas

Radisson Hotel Group

Ken Greene is president, Americas, for Radisson Hotel Group (formerly Carlson Rezidor Hotel Group). He is responsible for leading operations, development, and technical services in the Americas. Greene reports to John Kidd, chief executive officer and chief operating officer, Radisson Hospitality.

In his role, Greene is focused on the performance and expansion of the Americas portfolio, which includes more than 700 hotels in operation and under development across the company's core brands: Radisson Blu, Radisson, Radisson RED, Park Inn by Radisson, Park Plaza, and Country Inn & Suites by Radisson. In addition, he oversees the company's managed portfolio in the Americas, ensuring operational excellence and optimizing performance.

Prior to joining Radisson Hotel Group, Greene was the chief executive officer of Greenthouse Consulting, a Toronto-based startup that provides management consulting and advisory services on company strategy, branding, and real estate transactions. Prior to that, he was the president and chief executive officer for Delta Hotels and Resorts, where he transformed the company by repositioning it as a leader in the Canadian upscale full-service hotel segment.

From 2001 to 2012, Greene held various positions at Wyndham Worldwide, including president and managing director, helping to establish Wyndham's Asia Pacific regional headquarters.

Jennifer Gribble

Vice President, Global avid hotels and Mainstream Growth

IHG

Jennifer Gribble has overall responsibility for leading the development and launch of IHG's newest brand, avid hotels, and identifying additional growth opportunities for IHG in the mainstream travel category.

Prior to this role, Gribble led Holiday Inn Express, as well as Staybridge Suites and Candlewood Suites, IHG's two extended-stay brands. In this role, she was responsible for developing and delivering brand strategies that enhanced the guest experience and drove sustainable brand performance. In her nearly 15-year tenure at IHG, she also has served as director, brand management, Crowne Plaza Hotels & Resorts, and as director, marketing services.

Prior to joining IHG, she worked for four years in distribution and e-commerce with Midwest Express Airlines in Oak Creek, Wisconsin.

Gribble earned a bachelor of business administration from Butler University.



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Andrea Grigg

**Managing Director
JLL Hotels & Hospitality Group**

Andrea Grigg, managing director, leads JLL's North America Hotels Asset Management practice and is an integral member of the firm's Global Asset Management business. Grigg's asset management projects span the major North American gateway markets, and her client base includes both domestic and off-shore hotel owners. JLL's Hotels & Hospitality Group asset manages 90 hotels globally; the current asset management portfolio includes more than \$6.8 billion in asset value, 25,000 rooms, and 45 different brands and operators.

Grigg has extensive asset management experience and has worked with brands and independent management companies such as Marriott, St. Regis, Sheraton, Four Seasons, Fairmont, Two Roads Hospitality, Hyatt, Viceroy, Davidson, and Pyramid.

Grigg brings more than 20 years of leisure real estate and hospitality industry experience to her role as practice leader, including luxury resort and master planned community operations, branded residences, pre-opening hotel asset management services, management contract negotiations, operational reviews, budgeting, and forecasting.

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H

John Hach

Senior Hotel Industry Analyst
TravelClick

John Hach is TravelClick's senior hotel industry analyst and adviser. He joined the company in 2004 and has more than 39 consecutive years of e-commerce marketing and technology experience within the travel industry. Prior to joining TravelClick, Hach held executive positions at Galileo International and with The Hertz Corporation.

Hach is a regular industry speaker. His insights and perspectives have been featured on CNN, CNBC, and Bloomberg and in *The New York Times*.

Hach is a graduate of Chicago State University and has served as a guest lecturer and adviser at Roosevelt University, Boston University, and the Cornell University School of Hotel Administration. He has served as chairman of the Florida Commission on Tourism and as an executive director of the California Tourism Industry Association.

Leslie Hale

President and Chief Executive Officer
RLJ Lodging Trust

Leslie Hale became the president and chief executive officer of RLJ Lodging Trust in August 2018. She has served as RLJ's chief operating officer since 2016; executive vice president, real estate and finance since 2013; and chief financial officer since 2007, after joining the company in 2005. In these roles, Hale has been key to RLJ's investment decision-making and long-term strategic planning processes; has overseen asset and corporate-level transactions; and has managed the investor relations, design/construction, and asset management functions.

Before joining RLJ, Hale held positions within General Electric Capital Corp. and was an investment banker at Goldman, Sachs & Co.

Hale earned a BBA from Howard University summa cum laude and an MBA from Harvard Business School, where she was a Goldman Sachs and Robert F. Toigo Fellow. She currently serves on the board of directors of Macy's and as a trustee of Howard University.

Dan Hansen

Chairman, President, and Chief Executive Officer
Summit Hotel Properties

Dan Hansen serves as chairman, president, and chief executive officer of Summit Hotel Properties, a publicly traded real estate investment trust (REIT) that owns 77 hotels with a total of 11,659 guest rooms located in 26 states. The company's hotels are branded with Marriott, Hilton, Hyatt, and IHG. Since taking the company public in February 2011 with an IPO in excess of \$265 million, Hansen and the Summit team have raised more than \$1 billion in common and preferred equity and completed over 140 hotel transactions.

Hansen was previously the president and chief financial officer of the company's predecessor, Summit Hotel Properties, after serving as chief development officer. Hansen holds a BA in economics from South Dakota State University.

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Jennifer Hansson**Divisional Vice President of Asset Management
Ashford**

Jennifer Hansson serves as divisional vice president of asset management at Ashford in Dallas. She has been with Ashford for 14 years and currently has portfolio responsibility for 58 hotels across multiple brands and management companies, including direct responsibility for assets in Key West and the Caribbean. Hansson leads a team of three asset managers who oversee property performance and operations, strategic positioning, and capital investment and execution for the portfolio. As a senior member of the asset management team, she champions strategic initiatives for the department and regularly represents Ashford at brand and owner conferences.

Hansson has been an active member of the Hospitality Asset Managers Association for 11 years. She graduated magna cum laude from Southern Methodist University with a bachelor of business administration in finance and a bachelor of arts in psychology with distinction.

Glenn Haussman**Creator and Host
*No Vacancy News***

Glenn Haussman (@TravelingGlenn) hosts the *No Vacancy* podcast and is publisher of novacancynews.com. He also cohosts *Checking In with Anthony & Glenn*, a podcast he does with Travel Channel personality Anthony Melchiorri, as well as the *Hotel Tech Podcast*, the *Hotel Design Podcast*, the *Business of Hotels* podcast, and more. Haussman also is an in-demand public speaker, educator, custom content creator, and consultant for major hotel brands, leading industry influencers, and suppliers.

The *No Vacancy* podcast attracts the biggest names in hospitality, including major public company CEOs and industry influencers. The show was recently mentioned in *The New York Times* and was previously chosen by *USA Today* as a “best podcast to listen to while traveling.”

Haussman has been quoted in leading publications such as *The New York Times*, *USA Today*, and *The Washington Post*. He previously served as an adjunct professor at New York University, teaching classes in public relations and advertising, as well as consumer behavior.

Danielle Hawkins**Senior Manager
Deloitte Consulting**

Danielle Hawkins is a senior manager and leader in Deloitte's Organizational Change and Transformation practice, focused on hospitality and travel. She has 15 years of consulting experience leading clients through large-scale global transformations, with a focus on organizational, cultural, change management, and talent implications. In addition to consulting with leading hospitality and travel clients, Hawkins has served as adviser to the National Economic Council and the White House around alternative talent and upskilling initiatives. Hawkins earned a bachelor of science from Cornell University in industrial and labor relations and has served on the Cornell Institute for Hospitality and Employment Relations Advisory Board.

Michael Heaton**President
Waterford Hotel Group**

Michael Heaton is the president of Waterford Hotel Group and is responsible for all aspects of ongoing operations for the organization and its managed portfolio. For more than 30 years, Waterford Hotel Group has developed a reputation for achieving successful performance and profitability of each property, while maintaining the highest standards of service and excellence. Heaton joined the organization in 1997 and has held numerous management positions before assuming the role of president in January 2018. His combination of operations, sales, and finance expertise translates into efficient and optimally profitable results. The company currently operates 41 properties in nine states, representing more than 6,200 keys. Heaton holds a bachelor of arts in economics from the State University of New York.

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Sean Hennessey

Clinical Assistant Professor

NYU School of Professional Studies Jonathan M. Tisch Center of Hospitality

Sean Hennessey has taught hospitality accounting, finance, and development courses at the NYU School of Professional Studies for more than 20 years. He also is a principal with Lodging Advisors, a firm that he founded in 2004. Hennessey began his career in daily operations with companies such as Marriott and Walt Disney World and at numerous restaurants.

Hennessey is co-chair of the Lodging Industry Investment Council and past chairman of the International Society of Hospitality Consultants. He has appeared on CNN, MSNBC, National Public Radio, and Bloomberg News, and he has been quoted by *The Wall Street Journal*, *Barron's*, and *The New York Times*. He has contributed chapters to the third and fifth editions of *Hotel Investments: Issues and Perspectives* and to the second edition of *Hotel Asset Management*, all published by the American Hotel & Lodging Association.

Sean has a BA in hotel administration from Cornell University and an AS in culinary arts from Johnson & Wales University. He has earned the MAI designation from the Appraisal Institute.

Kate B. Henriksen

Co-Chief Investment Officer

RLJ Lodging Trust

Kate B. Henriksen, a veteran RLJ executive, is co-chief investment officer of RLJ Lodging Trust. Since joining RLJ, Henriksen has overseen the underwriting on completed transactions totaling \$8 billion, including the merger with FelCor Lodging Trust. Henriksen also has been actively involved in RLJ's capital recycling program, marketing for sale nearly \$3 billion in sold assets. When RLJ was privately held, she also oversaw the portfolio management function, and her responsibilities included tracking the performance of the company's investment portfolios, assisting with capital raising efforts, and managing relationships with investors in RLJ's investment funds. Prior to joining RLJ in 2002, Henriksen served as a director of development planning and feasibility at Marriott International. Henriksen's experience also includes consulting on and appraising more than \$4 billion in existing and proposed lodging facilities for HVS International. Henriksen graduated from the Cornell University School of Hotel Administration, earning a BS with a concentration in real estate and property asset management.

Amanda W. Hite

President and Chief Executive Officer

STR

Amanda W. Hite is the president and chief executive officer of STR. Founded in 1985, STR provides clients from multiple market sectors with premium global data benchmarking, analytics, and marketplace insights. STR's presence has expanded to 15 countries, with corporate North American headquarters in Hendersonville, Tennessee; international headquarters in London; and Asia Pacific headquarters in Singapore.

As president and CEO, Hite oversees all operations and business activities to ensure they produce the desired results and are consistent with the overall strategy and mission. She also serves as chairman of the board for STR's international business.

Hite is a member of the American Hotel & Lodging Association (AHLA) Board of Directors, the US Travel Association, the AHLA Women in Lodging (WIL) Executive Council, and the Forward Sumner Economic Partnership Board of Directors. She also serves as a member of the Travel and Tourism Advisory Council for the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta and the Industry Advisory Board of the Hospitality Management program at Auburn University.

Prior to joining STR, Hite was the director of research for the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce. She is a graduate of Birmingham-Southern College with a bachelor of business administration.

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Edward Hoganson**Chief Financial Officer
Hospitality Investors Trust**

As chief financial officer at Hospitality Investors Trust, Edward Hoganson oversees the firm's finance, accounting, and asset management teams. The \$2.5 billion public nontraded REIT owns 144 predominately select-service hotels located across the country, branded by Marriott, Hilton, and Hyatt.

Since joining the REIT in 2014, Hoganson has been deeply involved with the firm's acquisitions, financings, and corporate operations. Previously, he was CFO of Crestline Hotels & Resorts, a leading third-party management company, and earlier, he headed up asset management for Highland Hospitality. Hoganson has more than 20 years of hospitality industry experience. He began his career with Deloitte and then joined Marriott International, where he held various finance positions.

Hoganson earned an undergraduate degree from Yale University and an MBA from The Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania. He also holds a master of arts in international relations from the University of Pennsylvania. When he's not talking with hotel managers, Hoganson can be found teaching hospitality finance at Georgetown University.

Naftali Holtz**Managing Director
Goldman, Sachs & Co.**

Naftali Holtz is a managing director and global head of lodging and leisure in the Investment Banking Division of Goldman, Sachs & Co. He is active in strategic advisory and financing transactions for companies in the lodging, hospitality, travel, and leisure sectors. Holtz joined Goldman Sachs as an associate in 2007 and was named managing director in 2017.

Prior to joining the firm, Holtz was an associate at Bear Stearns & Co. in the healthcare investment banking group. Prior to that, he served as an officer in the Israeli Air Force.

Holtz earned a BS in computer sciences and economics from Tel Aviv University and an MBA from the University of Chicago Booth School of Business.

Mark S. Hoplamazian**President and Chief Executive Officer
Hyatt Hotels Corporation**

Mark S. Hoplamazian was appointed to the board of directors in November 2006 and named president and chief executive officer of Hyatt Hotels Corporation in December 2006. Prior to being appointed to his present position, Hoplamazian served as president of The Pritzker Organization (TPO), the principal financial and investment adviser for Pritzker family business interests. During his 17-year tenure with TPO, he served as adviser to various Pritzker family-owned companies, including Hyatt Hotels Corporation and its predecessors. He previously worked in international mergers and acquisitions at First Boston Corporation in New York.

Hoplamazian was appointed to the VF Corporation Board of Directors in February 2015, and he serves on the Council on Chicago Booth for the University of Chicago Booth School of Business, the executive committee of the board of directors of World Business Chicago, and the boards of trustees of the Aspen Institute and the Latin School of Chicago. Hoplamazian is a member of the World Travel & Tourism Council and the Commercial Club of Chicago. He also is a member of the Discovery Class of the Henry Crown Fellowship.

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Jeffrey A. Horwitz

**Partner
Proskauer**

Jeffrey A. Horwitz is a partner in Proskauer's Corporate Department, where he heads the internationally recognized Lodging & Gaming Group and the Private Equity Real Estate practice. He also has served as co-head of mergers and acquisitions and as a member of the company's executive committee. Horwitz is a general corporate and securities lawyer with broad-based experience in mergers and acquisitions, international transactions, and corporate and real estate private equity.

Horwitz regularly counsels clients on the full range of their activities, from raising seed capital through to public offerings, acquisitions, and operational matters. He has regularly represented major financial institutions, such as Credit Suisse, JPMorgan, and Morgan Stanley, as well as foreign sovereign wealth funds, in sophisticated financial and other transactions. He also represents hedge, private equity, and venture capital funds and other investors in structuring, managing, and disposing of investments. He has handled tender offers, "going-private" transactions, IPOs, restructuring, and structured finance transactions.

As head of the Lodging & Gaming Group, Horwitz has handled virtually every type of matter, and he has worked with virtually every major player in the industry. His experience, both in and outside the United States, extends to hotel and casino development and construction; acquisitions, sales, and restructurings; financings; management; marketing; reservations systems; litigation counseling and strategic planning; and ancillary services. This breadth of work is key to executing complex and sophisticated transactions, which have included the billion-dollar acquisition and sale of chains (such as Motel 6, Red Roof Inns, and Swissôtel), sale-and-management-back transactions, multibillion-dollar financing and secondary deals, and many of the largest luxury hotel transactions in the world.

As a frequent lecturer on hotels and private equity real estate, Horwitz regularly teaches and speaks at the Cornell University School of Hotel Administration; NYU School of Professional Studies Jonathan M. Tisch Center of Hospitality; and at investment conferences around the world, including the NYU International Hospitality Industry Investment Conference, the International Hotel Investment Forum, and private equity real estate conferences nationwide.

Amy Hulbert

**Vice President of Boutique and Upscale Brands
Best Western Hotels & Resorts**

Amy Hulbert is vice president of boutique and upscale brands for Best Western Hotels & Resorts. A 20-year veteran of the hospitality design industry, Hulbert joined the company in 2010 and now leads the brand team in helping to promote the successful growth and performance of its upscale brands, as well as the construction and operation of Best Western's corporate-owned assets.

At the helm of the design department for Best Western Hotels & Resorts for nearly a decade, Hulbert was responsible for implementing the company's highly successful Design Excellence Program, which was introduced in 2015 and now offers exclusive design services to hoteliers as part of their Best Western membership. She also has led the design of two of Best Western's newest brands—Vīb and GLō—and rolled out various prototypes to contemporize the company's legacy brands: Best Western, Best Western Plus, and Best Western Premier. Helping to catapult the company to the forefront of industry innovation through cutting-edge design, Hulbert is an industry thought leader who frequently shares her insight in forward-thinking articles and industry panels focused on hotel design trends.

Hulbert began her career in hospitality interior design at The Gettys Group in Chicago, specializing in hospitality interiors for the firm. In 1998, Hulbert joined Hilton Hotels Corporation and was an integral part of its design team for 11 years, most recently covering the Latin America and Caribbean territory for all 10 of Hilton's brands. Hulbert earned a degree in interior design from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio.

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Kevin J. Jacobs**Chief Financial Officer
Hilton**

Kevin J. Jacobs is chief financial officer of Hilton. He oversees all of the company's finance and real estate functions globally. He joined the company in 2008 as senior vice president of corporate strategy, was elected treasurer in 2009, was appointed executive vice president and chief of staff in 2012, and assumed his current role in 2013.

Prior to Hilton, Jacobs was senior vice president, mergers and acquisitions, and treasurer of Fairmont Raffles Hotels International. While in this role, he was responsible for sourcing, evaluating, and executing on potential mergers, acquisitions, or other strategic corporate transactions and leading the company's corporate strategic and business planning efforts. As treasurer, he oversaw the company's corporate finance and treasury activities globally.

Prior to Fairmont Raffles, Jacobs spent seven years with Host Hotels & Resorts, preceded by various roles in the Hospitality Consulting practice of PricewaterhouseCoopers and the Hospitality Valuation Group at Cushman & Wakefield.

Jacobs is a member of the Cornell University School of Hotel Administration Dean's Advisory Board and of the American Hotel & Lodging Association's Industry Real Estate Financing Advisory Council and Hospitality Investment Roundtable. He is a trustee and member of the executive committee of the Federal City Council and a trustee of Holton-Arms School. He serves on the board of directors of Goodwill of Greater Washington and is involved with several other charitable and civic organizations, including the Colorectal Cancer Alliance and the Trust for the National Mall.

Jacobs is a graduate of the Cornell University School of Hotel Administration.

Neil B. Jacobs**Chief Executive Officer
Six Senses**

Neil B. Jacobs is the chief executive officer at Six Senses Hotels Resorts Spas. His passions include wellness, sustainability, innovative design, food, and experiential travel.

Prior to joining Six Senses, Jacobs spent five years at Starwood Capital Group as president of global hotel operations, where he led the group responsible for development of two exciting new brands—Baccarat Hotels and 1 Hotels. He spent 14 years with Four Seasons Hotels and Resorts, serving as senior vice president of operations for Asia Pacific since 2003. He was responsible for the operation of 16 hotels throughout the region and new properties under development in China, India, and the Indian Ocean. His global career included key leadership roles in Europe, Asia, and the Americas.

Jacobs studied hotel management at Westminster Hotel School in London, French civilization at la Sorbonne, and Italian culture and art in Florence. He is fluent in five languages.

Mathew A. Jalazo**Executive Vice President of Development
Winston Hotels**

Mathew A. Jalazo is executive vice president of development for Winston Hotels, where his responsibilities include sourcing acquisition and development opportunities, as well as overseeing the company's development and construction.

Prior to joining Winston, Jalazo served as vice president of development for more than 13 years at Urgo Hotels and Resorts, a leading hotel and resort management and development company, where he focused on acquisitions, financing, development, and construction of hotel projects. While he was associated with Urgo Hotels, Jalazo helped to grow the company's portfolio from 18 to more than 40 hotels.

Jalazo is a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where he earned a BSBA from the Kenan-Flagler Business School. Jalazo remains actively involved in the school, serving on the Business School Alumni Council. Jalazo has spoken at several industry events and institutions, including at the Cornell University Baker Program in Real Estate.



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Kym Janney

**Chief Financial Officer
MCR**

Kym Janney is the chief financial officer of MCR. She joined the company in 2017 and has 34 years of accounting, financial reporting, investor reporting, operations, and transactional experience for private equity, investment management, and commercial real estate firms.

Prior to joining MCR, Janney held senior executive roles with USAA Real Estate, Goldman Sachs, Behringer Harvard Opportunity Funds, Hawkeye Partners, and the Hampstead Group. In these positions, she was responsible for all aspects of accounting, financial reporting, and portfolio management for private and public commingled investment funds, joint ventures, REITs, and separate accounts. Janney's responsibilities also included serving on investment committees and advisory boards; making presentations to audit committees and boards of directors; and overseeing the reporting and due diligence requirements of the funds' institutional, family office, and high-net-worth investors.

Janney earned a BBA in accounting from Baylor University and is a certified public accountant in Texas.

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Gregory P. Kennealey**Principal and Head of Hospitality
KSL Capital Partners**

Gregory P. Kennealey serves as a principal and head of hospitality at KSL Capital Partners, where he oversees the firm's investments in complex hospitality turnarounds. KSL is an \$8.3 billion private fund that invests in the hotel, travel, and leisure industries. Prior to joining KSL Capital in 2011, Kennealey spent five years serving as vice president of asset management for Strategic Hotels & Resorts, where he was responsible for a collection of luxury hotels located in major markets across the United States and Europe. From 2003 until 2006, he was an asset manager at LaSalle Investment Management, overseeing a portfolio of value-add investments in the office, industrial, multifamily, and parking sectors. Prior to LaSalle, Kennealey held leadership positions at IBM Global Services' strategy consulting group and at Forrester Research.

Kennealey is a member of the Hotel Asset Managers Association (HAMA) Board of Directors and of the Resort Development Council of the Urban Land Institute. He holds a BA from the University of Notre Dame and an MBA from the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University.

Douglas Kessler**President and Chief Executive Officer
Ashford Hospitality Trust**

Douglas Kessler is the president and chief executive officer of Ashford Hospitality Trust (AHT) and the senior managing director of Ashford. He previously served as the president of Braemar Hotels & Resorts (BHR) and Ashford. Kessler has been with AHT since its formation, having led its IPO, and has served in various other capacities including as chief operating officer. He has spearheaded virtually all of Ashford's key initiatives.

Kessler has an extensive background with more than 30 years of diverse experience across many real estate sectors and operating companies in terms of acquisitions, development, dispositions, finance, asset management, and capital markets. Over those years, Kessler has served on several corporate boards or executive committees, including both the AHT and BHR boards of directors. Previously, Kessler spent 10 years with Goldman Sachs' Whitehall Funds and five years with Trammell Crow.

Kessler earned an MBA and a BA in economics from Stanford University.

Nina Kleiman**Executive Vice President
hotelAVE**

Nina Kleiman, executive vice president at hotelAVE, leverages her 25-plus years of experience in lodging asset management, operations, acquisitions, and consulting to develop and execute strategies to maximize owners' investment objectives. Kleiman leads and supports hotelAVE teams to deploy industry-leading asset management practices focused on revenue management and profit opportunities, as well as real estate, capital, and contract optimization, with a wide array of hotels from luxury to midscale in the United States, the Caribbean, and Mexico.

She has prior experience at LaSalle Hotel Properties, Westmont, and IHG, where she headed the company's investment analysis team. At Lehman, she was a lodging and gaming equity research analyst, and at PwC, she performed acquisition analyses, feasibility studies, and appraisals. Kleiman began her career in hotel operations at The Westin St. Francis in San Francisco.

Kleiman holds a degree in hotel administration from Cornell University and an MBA from the University of California, Berkeley.

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Mario Kontomerkos**Chief Executive Officer
Mohegan Gaming & Entertainment**

Mario Kontomerkos joined the Mohegan Gaming & Entertainment in September 2011 as chief financial officer. As CFO, he oversaw all of the finance matters for the company's growing businesses. In October 2017, he was elevated to chief executive officer to focus on corporate diversification. His career path evolved through various key financial, research, and analytical roles with companies like Penn National Gaming, Magnetar Capital, J.P. Morgan Securities, Lehman Brothers, and PricewaterhouseCoopers. Kontomerkos' experience also includes service as a consultant for TPG Capital on the acquisition of Harrah's Entertainment, the largest leveraged buyout in the history of the gaming industry. Kontomerkos is a Cornell University graduate with a bachelor of science in operations research and industrial engineering.

Dan Kornick**Chief Information Officer
Loews Hotels & Co**

Dan Kornick is the chief information officer at Loews Hotels & Co in New York City, where he is responsible for all aspects of information technology, including strategy, systems development, infrastructure, IT operations, and internal customer support, while working across the organization on the evolution of IT. He is a global digital and global technology leader with vast experience in multiple industries, including hospitality and travel, telecom, and financial services.

Prior to Loews, Kornick held CIO roles with TracFone Wireless, Wyndham Hotel Group, and Cendant's Vacation Rental Group in Europe. He successfully has led multiple business, technology, and digital transformations that focus on the customer and team experience, while leveraging the investment in technology to achieve the overall objectives for the organizations.

A graduate of Pennsylvania State University with a bachelor of science in computer science and mathematics, Kornick previously served on the Hotel Technology Next Generation (HTNG) Board of Governors, and he currently sits on the New Jersey Youth Chorus Board of Trustees.

Chris Kramer**Managing Director
Newmark Knight Frank**

Chris Kramer is a managing director in the Debt & Structured Finance team at Newmark Knight Frank (NKF) in New York. While at NKF, Kramer has co-led the execution on a team that completed \$15 billion in financings over the past 12 months. Prior to NKF, Kramer was a vice president with Societe Generale's New York-based US commercial mortgage-backed securities (CMBS) team. Kramer focused on origination during his three years with the team, which Societe Generale had reconstituted in 2015 after an eight-year absence from the US CMBS market. Kramer was one of the French bank's 11 hires from the Royal Bank of Scotland, where he had worked in a similar capacity for four years.

Kramer is a graduate of the New York University Leonard N. Stern School of Business, where he earned a master of business administration with a specialization in real estate. He earned a bachelor's degree from Villanova University.

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James O. Lang**Shareholder
Greenberg Traurig**

James O. Lang, shareholder at Greenberg Traurig, focuses his tax and corporate project finance practice on tax incentive programs, Qualified Opportunity Zone and Qualified Opportunity Fund financing, tax credits, and related state and federal incentive programs. Lang is closing more than \$4 billion of Qualified Opportunity Funds and ancillary Qualified Opportunity Zone deployment of funds, and he has closed or is structuring several billion dollars in tax credit incentivized transactions. Lang represents funds, investors, lenders, community development entities, and for-profit and not-for-profit project sponsors in complex transactions where capital stacks require enhancement through incentive financing, including Qualified Opportunity Zone incentives, state and federal new markets tax credits, affordable housing and low-income housing tax credits, historic rehabilitation tax credits, and renewable energy tax credits. He works with funds, investors, lenders, project sponsors, and qualifying businesses to structure these tax incentive programs, along with ancillary governmental and nongovernmental financing programs, including inbound immigration and visa investment programs, grants, and taxable and tax-exempt bonds. Lang works with clients on developing creative structures designed to increase benefits and ameliorate risks.

Mark Lanspa**Executive Vice President
Wells Fargo**

Mark Lanspa is an executive vice president with Wells Fargo Bank's Commercial Real Estate Hospitality Finance Group, where he is responsible for clients based in New York City, New England, and the United Kingdom. As one of the nation's leaders in the real estate industry, Wells Fargo provides a comprehensive platform of financial products and services to regional and national owners, operators and developers, real estate funds, and real estate investment trusts. The Hospitality Finance Group provides debt products and financial services to leading public and private hotel companies and owners throughout the United States, the United Kingdom, and Canada.

Lanspa has more than 25 years of real estate finance experience and joined Wells Fargo in 2012. Previously, he was a managing director at Credit Suisse and a principal at Oasis Real Estate Partners, a real estate debt advisory firm. He also held positions at Goldman Sachs and GE Capital. Lanspa is active in numerous professional and community organizations, such as the Urban Land Institute and Student Sponsor Partners. He currently serves on the boards of the Real Estate Lenders Association, where he is a past president; God's Love We Deliver, a New York City-based agency with a mission to improve the health and well-being of people living with serious illnesses by alleviating hunger and malnutrition; and Mount Michael Benedictine School in Elkhorn, Nebraska.

Lanspa earned a BS in accounting from Georgetown University and an MBA from Columbia University.



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Camille Lee

**Senior Director, Leadership Consulting
Ferguson Partners**

Camille Lee is a senior director for Ferguson Partners in the Leadership Consulting group. Prior to joining Ferguson Partners, she worked at a Chicago leadership consulting firm where she specialized in individual assessment for selection and development, 360-degree feedback, succession planning, and high-performing team effectiveness across a variety of industries.

An industrial/organizational (I/O) psychologist by training, Lee has expertise in creating leadership development programs for high-potential emerging leaders, coaching executives through critical transitions, supporting leaders in family-owned companies, fostering team effectiveness, and conducting succession planning and personnel selection.

With 10 years of experience in psychological research methodology and analysis, Lee specializes in interpersonal perception, characteristics that impact judgments and hiring recommendations, workers' navigation between work and life domains, and motivation.

Lee completed a master's degree and PhD in I/O psychology at Northern Illinois University. She holds a bachelor's degree in psychology from North Central College.

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Daniel H. Lesser**President and Chief Executive Officer
LW Hospitality Advisors**

Daniel H. Lesser, president and chief executive officer of LW Hospitality Advisors, has for more than 40 years specialized in real estate appraisals, economic feasibility evaluations, investment counseling, asset management, and transactional services of hotels, resorts, conference centers, casinos, mixed-use facilities, spa and wellness, and timeshare/fractional ownership properties on a worldwide basis. Lesser provides services to corporate, institutional, municipalities, and individual clients on all facets of hospitality real estate, including litigation support and expert testimony; site evaluation; highest and best use analysis; appraisals for mortgage, acquisition, and portfolio management; workout strategies; operational analysis; property tax assessment appeal evaluations; economic impact studies; market and feasibility analysis; asset management; strategic planning; management company selection and contract negotiation; franchise company selection and license agreement negotiation; deal structuring; and fairness opinions. As a leading international authority with iron-clad credibility on the topic of hotel feasibility and property valuation, Lesser has testified as an expert witness in US federal and state courts and arbitrations in connection with a wide variety of matters. Lesser has balanced his practice with service as neutral panelist in commercial arbitration disputes.

Prior to his hospitality advisory experience, Lesser held operational and administrative positions with Hilton Hotels Corporation and Eurotel-Switzerland. He is highly sought after to speak at lodging and real estate events and to lecture at prestigious institutions of higher education. Lesser is widely published and quoted in major newspaper, Internet, business, real estate, and hospitality industry publications. He has served as a quarterly columnist for HotelNewsNow.com and HotelBusiness.com, and he currently is the quarterly lodging columnist for GlobeSt.com and a bimonthly blogger for Hotelmag.com.

Lesser earned a bachelor of science in hotel administration from Cornell University and also attended the Ecole hôtelière de Lausanne and Baruch College. Lesser holds the following professional designations: MAI (member of the Appraisal Institute), FRICS (fellow of The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors), CRE (counselor of real estate), and CHA (certified hotel administrator).

Lesser is a member of and has served on numerous committees for the Counselors of Real Estate, the Appraisal Institute, the American Hotel & Lodging Association, and the board of directors of the New York City Chapter of the Cornell Hotel Society. He is a former advisory board member and member of the fundraising subcommittee for the NYU School of Professional Studies Preston Robert Tisch Center for Hospitality, Tourism, and Sports Management. Lesser is a member of the Penn State School of Hospitality Management Industry Advisory Board and served as the school's Fall 2015 Walter J. Conti Visiting Professor. He is a founding member of the Lodging Industry Investment Council (LIIC), the hotel industry "think tank." Lesser is a member of the American Arbitration Association (AAA) Panel of Neutrals. He is an advisory board member of the annual Radical Innovation Award. Lesser served as an Honorary Committee Member of the annual UJA-Federation New York Hotel & Hospitality Division Dinner and was a founding member of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) Real Estate Division. Lesser serves as a senior adviser to the founder and president of Our Soldiers Speak, a US-based nonprofit nongovernmental organization.

Bradley Levy**Partner
DLA Piper**

Bradley Levy is a partner in the Real Estate group of DLA Piper (US). Levy has extensive experience representing private equity funds and other institutional investors in the acquisition, disposition, and financing of a broad range of hospitality assets throughout the United States and the Caribbean, including full-service hotels and resorts, select-service hotels, and boutique properties. Levy regularly advises clients on the negotiation of hotel management and franchise agreements with all of the major US hotel brands, as well as independent managers. He also counsels clients on all aspects of hotel operations, coordinating with colleagues across the hospitality sector to advise on labor and employment, ERISA, and REIT structuring matters.

**NYU**SCHOOL OF
PROFESSIONAL STUDIE

41ST ANNUAL NYU

INTERNATIONAL HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY INVESTMENT CONFERENCE

Steven L. Lichtenfeld**Partner
Proskauer**

Steven L. Lichtenfeld is a partner in the global law firm of Proskauer Rose, where he co-chairs both the Real Estate Capital Markets and Real Estate Finance Groups. Lichtenfeld regularly advises real estate private equity funds, investment banking firms, financial institutions, institutional lenders, specialty lenders, hedge funds, REITs, and pension advisers regarding public offerings and private placements of debt and equity securities; mergers and acquisitions; senior and mezzanine financings; and other corporate, partnership, and limited liability company matters.

Lichtenfeld has been widely recognized as a driving force in the real estate capital markets and finance space during his more than 35-year career. He has garnered several prestigious accolades in this area, including receiving a coveted second-tier ranking from *Chambers USA*, which has described him as “highly analytical and highly strategic” and “encyclopedic in terms of his knowledge” in handling a broad spectrum of public and private debt offerings, M&A, joint venture, and other corporate real estate matters.

Anne R. Lloyd-Jones**Senior Managing Director and Director of Consulting and Valuation
HVS**

Anne R. Lloyd-Jones, MAI, CRE, is senior managing director and director of consulting and valuation of HVS, a premier global hospitality consulting firm.

Since joining HVS in 1982, Lloyd-Jones has provided consulting and appraisal services to more than 6,000 hotels. She is responsible for the sale, supervision, and administration of more than 200 appraisal and consulting assignments annually. Her particular areas of expertise include market studies, feasibility analysis, and appraisals. She also is an expert in the valuation of management companies, franchise companies, and brands. She has appeared as an expert witness on numerous occasions, providing testimony and litigation support on matters involving bankruptcy proceedings, civil litigation, and arbitration.

Lloyd-Jones holds the MAI designation from the Appraisal Institute and the CRE designation from the Counselors of Real Estate. She serves on the Dean’s Advisory Board of the School of Hospitality Administration at Boston University, and she previously served as a member of the Swarthmore College Board of Managers and the Pelham Public Library Board of Trustees. She earned a bachelor of arts from Swarthmore College and a master of professional studies from the Cornell University School of Hotel Administration.

Joseph D. Long**Managing Partner
KHP Capital Partners**

Joseph D. Long is a managing partner of KHP Capital Partners with direct responsibility for acquisitions, property development and redevelopment, and raising capital. Long served as executive vice president and chief investment officer of Kimpton Hotels & Restaurants from 2003 until January 2015. In this role, he held leadership responsibility for all acquisitions and development activities, including acquisitions for the Kimpton discretionary fund, management contracts, joint ventures, and design and construction projects. From 1996 to 2003, Long was senior vice president of acquisitions and development for Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide, where he was responsible for all acquisitions and management contract development in North America for all brands. Prior to that, he was with LaSalle Partners from 1993 to 1996 and was part of the team that started the LaSalle Hotel Group, which ultimately became the publicly traded REIT LaSalle Hotel Properties. Before LaSalle, he spent eight years with Metric Realty, a large institutional owner of hotels in the 1980s and early 1990s, as vice president, asset management, and as an acquisitions investment analyst. He began his career with Laventhol & Horwath in Philadelphia. Long holds a BS from the Cornell University School of Hotel Administration, and he is a member of the AHLA Hospitality Investment Roundtable.

**NYU**SCHOOL OF
PROFESSIONAL STUDIE

41ST ANNUAL NYU

INTERNATIONAL HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY INVESTMENT CONFERENCE

Mark Lunt**Principal
EY**

Mark Lunt, principal, brings more than 20 years of experience in the hospitality industry to EY and is an active adviser to developers, owners, operators, private equity funds, lenders, and governments in all aspects of the hospitality, leisure, and tourism industries. This experience includes market and financial analysis, operator selection, valuation, operational diagnostics, strategic planning, and transaction due diligence.

Lunt leads EY's efforts in providing hospitality and real estate advisory services for the US Southeast, Caribbean, and Latin America regions. Major recent engagements include a detailed restructure analysis of regional demand characteristics to advise the lender on go-forward alternatives on major components of a large mixed-use resort, due diligence, and strategic planning for large mixed-use developments in Miami, Brazil, and Puerto Rico; strategic tourism advisory services for a Caribbean destination in modernizing and optimizing its tourism platform; and market and financial due diligence for an acquisition of a large portfolio of hotels throughout Latin America. Lunt has led advisory projects involving all types of hospitality assets, including hotels, vacation ownership, mixed-use development, condominium-hotels, golf courses, marinas, convention facilities, and tourist attractions. He has focused his activities on transaction due diligence and strategic development consulting.

Lunt is the author of many articles, is often quoted in industry and trade publications, and is an experienced speaker and lecturer on real estate and hospitality issues. He serves on several industry organizations and is considered an expert in operations, marketing, and development of hotels, resorts, and other recreational real estate. He is the chair of Urban Land Institute's Recreational Development Council. Lunt is a graduate of Cornell University.

**NYU**SCHOOL OF
PROFESSIONAL STUDIE

41ST ANNUAL NYU

INTERNATIONAL HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY INVESTMENT CONFERENCE

M

Elie Maalouf

Chief Executive Officer, Americas
IHG

Elie Maalouf was appointed chief executive officer, Americas, at IHG in February 2015, with nearly 15 years of experience working in a major global franchise business. He joined the IHG having spent six years as president and chief executive officer of HMSHost Corporation, a global travel and leisure company, where he also was a member of the board of directors. Maalouf brings broad experience that spans hotel development, branding, finance, real estate, and operations management, as well as food and beverage expertise. Prior to joining IHG, Maalouf was a senior adviser with McKinsey & Company from 2012 to 2014.

Maalouf is active in organizations that support and promote the travel and hospitality industries, including as a member of the American Hotel & Lodging Association Executive Committee and the US Travel Association CEO Roundtable. He was appointed to the Investment Advisory Council of the US Department of Commerce. In addition, Maalouf serves as a member of the University of Virginia Darden School of Business Dean's Global Advisory Council and as a board member of the Atlanta Committee for Progress.

Maalouf holds an MBA from the University of Virginia Darden School of Business and a bachelor's degree in engineering from Virginia Tech.

David Marriott

President, US Full Service MxM
Marriott International

David Marriott is president, US Full Service MxM at Marriott International. He is responsible for more than 330 hotels and 14 brands in 34 states and French Polynesia. He oversees hotel operations, human resources, sales and marketing, finance, market strategy, information resources, and the development and feasibility areas through key executives on his team. Marriott is based in Bethesda, Maryland and reports directly to Group President David Grissen.

Marriott most recently held the position of chief operations officer, The Americas Eastern Region, from 2010 to 2018. He was responsible for hotel operations in 23 states and 30 brands. During this time, he also oversaw the US integration efforts of Marriott's acquisition of Starwood Hotels & Resorts.

Prior positions included regional vice president, market management, where he was responsible for hotel operations in New York, New Jersey, Philadelphia, and Baltimore. In addition, Marriott was senior vice president of global sales, where he was responsible for leading Marriott's sales effort and further developing key customer relationships worldwide. While in this role, he helped lead a comprehensive transformation of Marriott's US sales organization. Marriott's early career included sales roles in Boston and Arlington, Virginia, as well as assistant sous chef at the Salt Lake City Marriott Downtown.

Marriott attended St. Albans School in Washington, DC and graduated from the University of Utah with a major in finance. He currently serves on the St. Albans School Board of Directors.

**NYU**SCHOOL OF
PROFESSIONAL STUDIE

41ST ANNUAL NYU

INTERNATIONAL HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY INVESTMENT CONFERENCE

Jim Marthinsen**Vice President of Development, Capital Expenditures
Host Hotels & Resorts**

Jim Marthinsen serves as vice president of development, capital expenditures at Host Hotels & Resorts. Host is the nation's largest lodging real estate investment trust and one of the largest owners of luxury and upper-upscale hotels in the United States. With more than 25 years of design and construction experience, Marthinsen is responsible for the planning and execution of capital projects, from inception, estimating, scheduling, and procurement through construction completion, throughout Host's portfolio. His portfolio comprises development, hotel conversions, acquisitions and dispositions, and renovations.

Prior to joining Host in 2003, Marthinsen worked in Marriott International's Architecture and Construction Estimating group and in the private contracting industry. He holds a bachelor of science in building construction and a bachelor of architecture from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. He is a licensed architect and LEED certified.

Michael Mathis**President and Chief Operating Officer
MGM Springfield**

Michael Mathis is the president and chief operating officer of MGM Springfield, responsible for the implementation, development, and operation of the resort. Mathis is a 20-year veteran of the gaming industry, most recently serving as senior vice president of global gaming operations for MGM Resorts International. He joined MGM Resorts International in 2011 as vice president of global gaming for MGM Hospitality, where he was responsible for identifying and evaluating potential gaming development opportunities in both domestic and international strategic markets. Mathis has a law degree from Georgetown University, and he earned his undergraduate degree in economics and Asian studies from Dartmouth College. He has been admitted to the state bars of Nevada, New York, and New Jersey, and he has served as a member of the International Association of Gaming Advisors.

Nobuyuki Matsuhisa**Chef and Owner
Nobu**

Nobuyuki Matsuhisa—known to the world simply as “Nobu”—is the acclaimed and highly influential chef proprietor of Nobu and Matsuhisa restaurants located across five continents.

Born and raised in Saitama, Japan, Matsuhisa served a rigorous apprenticeship at a respected sushi bar in Tokyo. It was not long before his dreams of seeing the world moved him to open a sushi bar in Peru. A classically trained sushi-chef, Matsuhisa was challenged by the new culture and regional ingredients, which kindled his inventive style, known today as “Nobu Style.”

After three years in Peru, Matsuhisa moved to Argentina, then home to Japan, then on to Alaska, before finally settling in Los Angeles. He opened his first restaurant in the United States, Matsuhisa in Beverly Hills, in January 1987. An instant success, it was here that his relationships with Robert De Niro and Meir Teper began, leading the trio to open their first Nobu restaurant together in 1994.

Corey McCarthy**Vice President, Marketing
Beekeeper**

Corey McCarthy is an entrepreneur, marketer, and speaker with 20 years of experience in the hospitality industry. As Beekeeper's head of global marketing, she dances the fine line between art and science to share Beekeeper's mission of connecting the world's two billion non-desk workers. In her former life, McCarthy ran the media assets for Lodging Hospitality, part of a \$1.56 billion publishing company, and she has extensive insights into all facets of hotel, retail, and real estate businesses.

**NYU**SCHOOL OF
PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

41ST ANNUAL NYU

INTERNATIONAL HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY INVESTMENT CONFERENCE

Thomas McConnell**Executive Managing Director and Head of Global Hospitality
Cushman & Wakefield**

At Cushman & Wakefield (C&W), Thomas McConnell is the head of the Global Hospitality Group, domiciled within the Equity, Debt and Structured Finance division of C&W Capital Markets. His primary responsibilities include hotel real estate transaction advisory, brokerage, investment advisory, and other related services.

McConnell joined Cushman & Wakefield in 2005. His experience in the hospitality industry spans three decades, and throughout his career, he has focused specifically on hotel real estate and finance, including single property sales, portfolio transactions, project development, structured debt and equity, valuation, and corporate mergers and acquisitions.

While advising a wide array of clients, McConnell has been deeply involved in numerous hotel transaction and consulting engagements related to investment advisory and brokerage throughout North America and internationally. He has worked with virtually all of the major international hotel companies, including Four Seasons Hotels and Resorts, InterContinental Hotels Group, and Marriott International. He also counts a broad collection of public and private firms as clients, including the Blackstone Group, Verizon, Fortress Investment Group, Hudson Yards Development Corporation, Apollo Global Management, GE Capital, Centerbridge Partners, Hershah Hospitality Trust, KSL Capital Partners, and Clearview Hotel Capital.

Before joining C&W, McConnell worked with Insignia/ESG in New York. Prior to that, he worked with Arthur Anderson as director of Hospitality Consulting Services in the firm's New York City office. Previously, he held senior positions with Kenneth Leventhal & Company and with Laventhol & Horwath. He is a frequent speaker at industry conferences and is often quoted in various national publications on hospitality-related issues.

McConnell earned an undergraduate degree from Brown University and a graduate degree from the Cornell University School of Hotel Administration.

Robert McDowell**Chief Commercial Officer
Choice Hotels International**

Robert McDowell is chief commercial officer for Choice Hotels International, one of the world's leading hotel companies. In this role, he is responsible for developing and leading Choice's marketing, sales, digital commerce, loyalty, revenue management, and customer care.

McDowell joined Choice Hotels in May 2011 as senior vice president of marketing and distribution, and he was appointed to his current leadership position in 2016. During his tenure, he successfully developed and executed the company's customer acquisition strategy through an integrated digital advertising campaign; built an industry-leading revenue management platform; relaunched Choice Privileges, the now top-rated and fastest-growing loyalty program in the industry; and continued to evolve Choice's digital platform.

Prior to joining Choice Hotels, McDowell spent nearly 15 years with United Airlines, where he served as managing director of distribution and e-commerce. While at United, he led efforts in international route planning, revenue management, e-commerce, and global distribution. Previously, McDowell served as chief operating officer for C&H International, a \$600 million international travel agency.

McDowell has a proven track record of building high-performing teams that are focused on customer engagement rooted in technology innovation, market research, and data to continually drive bottom-line performance for the enterprise. McDowell earned a bachelor's degree from the New York Institute of Technology and a master of business administration from the University of Notre Dame.

**NYU**SCHOOL OF
PROFESSIONAL STUDIE

41ST ANNUAL NYU

INTERNATIONAL HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY INVESTMENT CONFERENCE

Michael G. Medzigian**Managing Partner
Watermark Capital Partners**

Michael G. Medzigian is the chairman and managing partner of Watermark Capital Partners, a real estate investment management firm. He also is president, chief executive officer, and a director of Carey Watermark Investors and Carey Watermark Investors 2, publicly registered real estate investment trusts. He has led some of the world's largest real estate private equity funds and has overseen more than \$15 billion of investments. Previously, he was president and chief executive officer of Lazard Frères Real Estate Investors and, before that, a founding partner of Olympus Real Estate Corporation, the real estate fund management affiliate of Hicks, Muse, Tate & Furst. Earlier in his career, Medzigian was president of Cohen Realty Services, was founder and national director of the Hospitality Consulting Practice at Deloitte & Touche, and held various management positions with Marriott Corporation. He has served on numerous public and private boards and is a graduate of Cornell University.

John Melicharek**Partner
Baker & Hostetler**

John Melicharek is a partner at Baker & Hostetler. With more than 30 years of experience advising clients on business and transactional matters, Melicharek focuses his practice primarily on transactions within the hospitality industry. He counsels clients on real estate, finance, management, branding, and similar transactional needs, and he provides invaluable guidance on hotel acquisitions, dispositions, and joint ventures. When clients are involved in complex negotiations, structuring complex mixed-use projects, or facing difficult legal decisions, Melicharek often is brought in to analyze their situations and develop creative strategies to meet their business objectives.

Melicharek leads BakerHostetler's Hospitality Industry practice. He has been ranked in *Chambers USA: America's Leading Lawyers for Business* since 2008 in the area of leisure and hospitality and is listed in *The Best Lawyers in America* in real estate law. He is a frequent lecturer at hospitality industry conferences, offering commentary and opinions on industry issues, trends, challenges, and concerns.

Suzanne Mellen**Senior Managing Director—Practice Leader
HVS**

Suzanne Mellen is a senior managing director—practice leader at HVS. Having appraised thousands of hotels, gaming assets, and related real estate throughout the world over the past 40 years, she specializes in complex hotel and casino feasibility issues and is nationally recognized for her industry expertise. Mellen opened the second office of HVS in 1985 in San Francisco and led the expansion of HVS to Las Vegas (2009) and Los Angeles (2013). She has developed innovative appraisal methodologies, such as a mortgage-equity income capitalization formula for variable-income properties and a refinancing model for hotel investments. Mellen has authored numerous articles on the topic of hotel valuation and has spoken at numerous industry events, including annual appearances at JMBM's Meet the Money. Mellen holds the following designations: MAI (Appraisal Institute), CRE (counselor of real estate), FRICS (fellow of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors), and ISHC (International Society of Hospitality Consultants).

**NYU**SCHOOL OF
PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

41ST ANNUAL NYU

INTERNATIONAL HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY INVESTMENT CONFERENCE

Lance Miceli**Executive Vice President, Chief Revenue Officer
G6 Hospitality**

Lance Miceli has served as executive vice president, chief revenue officer for G6 Hospitality since April 2011. He maintains full responsibility for all aspects of topline and brand performance, leading distribution, e-commerce, franchise operations, marketing, public relations, revenue management, and sales for Motel 6 and Studio 6 in the United States and Canada and for Hotel 6/Estudio 6 internationally.

Since joining the enterprise, Miceli reengineered and realigned all marketing functions—architecting an enhanced in-line revenue management system, responsive web and digital platform, expanded online and channel distribution, and ongoing improvements in business-to-business and group sales.

Miceli has led the development and execution of award-winning integrated marketing programs for an array of brands, including Atlantis Paradise Island, Harrah's Casinos, Aria Resort & Casino, Arby's Restaurants, and various national packaged goods brands. He also served in the new product development and retail consumer business at telecommunications giant MCI. Miceli graduated from Loyola University with a degree in marketing and communications.

Jonathan "Jay" Morrow**Director
Hodges Ward Elliott**

Jonathan "Jay" Morrow is the leader of Hodges Ward Elliott's New York hotel investment sales team. Since joining the firm in 2008, he has sold more than \$10 billion worth of real estate, ranging from select-service to ultra-luxury hotels across the United States. Recent transactions include the \$610 million sale of 1 Hotel South Beach; the recapitalization of the \$196 million Taj Boston; the \$110 million sale of The Madison Washington, DC; and the \$149 million portfolio sale of the Marriott Philadelphia and Boston Marriott Quincy.

Morrow holds a bachelor of business administration from Kennesaw State University, where he was a four-year letterman and two-year captain of the men's baseball team.

R. Tyler Morse**Chief Executive Officer and Managing Partner
MCR**

R. Tyler Morse is chief executive officer and managing partner of MCR. Since co-founding MCR in 2006, Morse has led the company to its position as the sixth largest hotel owner/operator in the United States. With \$2 billion of assets under management, MCR owns and operates 94 hotels (11,264 rooms) located across 67 cities and 24 states.

Prior to founding MCR, Morse served as assistant to the chairman and CEO of Starwood Hotels & Resorts (Barry Sternlicht) and contributed to Starwood's overall corporate investment and development initiatives. Morse also was president of Bliss, the upscale spa and beauty products company based in New York City. Previously, Morse worked as an investment banker at Morgan Stanley in its Financial Sponsors and Mergers and Acquisitions Group. He started his career at Ernst & Young, where he earned his CPA designation. Morse also has worked as a ski instructor at Squaw Valley and at Termas de Chillán in Chile, on ski patrol at Mammoth Mountain, and as a baggage handler at LAX for Delta Air Lines.

Morse serves on the board of directors of NYC & Company, the convention and visitor arm of New York City. He is a member of the Marriott International Courtyard by Marriott Advisory Board and the Hilton Worldwide Distribution Advisory Committee. He serves on the Policy Advisory Board for the Fisher Center for Real Estate & Urban Economics at the University of California, Berkeley, Haas School of Business. Morse is an active member of IREFAC, PREA, and NAREIT. He serves as a trustee on the board of Prep for Prep.

Morse earned an MBA from Harvard Business School and a BS in business administration from the University of California, Berkeley.

**NYU**SCHOOL OF
PROFESSIONAL STUDIE

41ST ANNUAL NYU

INTERNATIONAL HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY INVESTMENT CONFERENCE

Greg Mount**President and Chief Executive Officer
RLH Corporation**

Greg Mount joined RLH Corporation (RLHC) as president and chief executive officer in January 2014, bringing more than 25 years of experience to the company. Since Mount joined RLHC, the company has grown from 55 regional hotels to more than 1,100 nationally. Prior to joining RLHC, Mount served as president of Richfield Hospitality, Sceptre Hospitality, and Richfield Hospitality China, where he executed a number of strategic deals, including the acquisition and merger of Whiteboards Labs into Sceptre Hospitality. Previously, he held senior roles at Sage Hospitality, as well as at Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide, where he led the full-service division responsible for developing franchises and management contracts for the Westin, Sheraton, Four Points by Sheraton, Le Méridien, and Luxury Collection brands in the United States, Canada, and the Caribbean. Before joining Starwood, Mount held senior operating positions at Interstate Hotels Corporation and Marriott International, working his way up through a number of hotel and regional management positions before moving into development.

Laura B. Mutterperl**Executive Vice President and General Counsel
Dream Hotel Group**

Laura B. Mutterperl is executive vice president and general counsel of Dream Hotel Group. She is responsible for overseeing all aspects of the global legal function for the company and its hotel, restaurant, and nightlife brands and operations. Mutterperl joined Dream Hotel Group in 2017 after nearly 10 years with Starwood Hotels and Resorts. At Starwood, she was vice president, associate general counsel, and a point person across strategic planning and implementation in business operations and hotel development. Mutterperl regularly advises senior executives on complex legal and business issues relating to mergers, acquisitions and dispositions, federal and state regulation, corporate governance, litigation management, and intellectual property and employment matters. Mutterperl joined Starwood from Kirkland & Ellis, where she advised clients across private equity and public company M&A, financings, and securities matters. Mutterperl graduated from Harvard College with honors and earned a JD from Harvard Law School.

**NYU**SCHOOL OF
PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

41ST ANNUAL NYU

INTERNATIONAL HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY INVESTMENT CONFERENCE

N

Stacey Nadolny

Managing Director and Senior Partner
HVS

As managing director and senior partner for HVS Chicago, Stacey Nadolny has completed hundreds of assignments for hotels and resorts in the Great Lakes region. Years of repeated visits to hotel markets in and around Chicago and throughout Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, and Ohio—along with the relationships formed with local hotel owners, operators, and city officials—give Nadolny a deep and enduring perspective on how these hotel markets grow and change. She has written articles on major regional markets, including Columbus, Cincinnati, Cleveland, and Detroit. Nadolny earned a bachelor's degree from the Cornell University School of Hotel Administration and gained frontline hotel experience at The Statler Hotel in Ithaca, New York. She is an allied member of the Ohio Hotel & Lodging Association (OH&LA), a member of the Real Estate Finance Forum (REFF), and a designated member of the Appraisal Institute (MAI).

Sid Narang

Chief Development Officer
sbe Lifestyle Hospitality

Sid Narang, who has more than 20 years of experience as a senior business executive in hospitality real estate and brand development, is currently the global chief development officer (CDO) for sbe. sbe is a prominent player within the luxury and lifestyle segment of the business, with more than 42 brands in 170 locations around the world (SLS, Delano, Mondrian, Katsuya, to name a few).

As CDO, Narang plays a strategic role driving sbe's global development pipeline, real estate investment, feasibility, brand ROI, and asset management for sbe's lifestyle hotels, residential properties, restaurants, and nightclubs.

Before sbe, Narang was managing principal at Crescent Capital Ventures and vice president at Starwood Hotels and Resorts. At Starwood, Narang was a key architect of growth and was responsible for acquisitions and development for Starwood's corporate managed brands in North America and the South Pacific.

Francis (Frank) J. Nardozza

Chairman and Chief Executive Officer
REH Capital Partners

Francis (Frank) J. Nardozza is chairman and chief executive officer of REH Capital Partners, a national real estate and hospitality investment and advisory services firm headquartered in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Nardozza has more than 40 years of diversified experience in real estate and hospitality investment, finance, and consulting. He is recognized nationally and internationally for his work with mergers and acquisitions, investment, development planning, and strategic advisory services in the fields of real estate and hospitality. He has advised on more than \$15 billion in real estate and hospitality transactions throughout his professional career.

Prior to launching REH in 2001, Nardozza was a partner and served as the national and global real estate and hospitality consulting practice leader for KPMG and KPMG Consulting, two entities comprising one of the world's largest professional services firms. His tenure with KPMG spanned more than 25 years.

Nardozza is the founding chairperson of the Lodging Industry Investment Council, and he currently serves on the executive planning committee of the NYU International Hospitality Industry Investment Conference. He also is active with many other industry programs and forums, including the Urban Land Institute, the American Hotel & Lodging Association, and the American Resort Development Association.

Nardozza is a member of the executive advisory board of the real estate program at Florida State University, where he has established and endowed the Nardozza Real Estate Scholars Program. Nardozza serves as a trustee of the Florida State University Foundation, and in April 2013, he was inducted into the Florida State University College of Business Alumni Hall of Fame.



NYU

SCHOOL OF
PROFESSIONAL STUDIE

41ST ANNUAL NYU

INTERNATIONAL HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY INVESTMENT CONFERENCE

Christopher J. Nassetta

**President and Chief Executive Officer
Hilton**

Christopher J. Nassetta is president and chief executive officer for Hilton. He joined the company in 2007. Previously, Nassetta was president and CEO of Host Hotels & Resorts, a position he held since 2000. He joined Host in 1995 as executive vice president and was elected chief operating officer in 1997.

Before joining Host, Nassetta co-founded Bailey Capital Corporation in 1991, where he was responsible for the operations of the real estate investment and advisory firm. Prior to founding Bailey Capital Corporation, he spent seven years at The Oliver Carr Company, ultimately serving as chief development officer. In this role, he was responsible for all development and related activities for one of the largest commercial real estate companies in the mid-Atlantic region.

Nassetta graduated from the University of Virginia McIntire School of Commerce with a degree in finance. He currently serves on McIntire's Advisory Board.

**NYU**SCHOOL OF
PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

41ST ANNUAL NYU

INTERNATIONAL HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY INVESTMENT CONFERENCE

**Leeny Kelly Oberg****Chief Financial Officer
Marriott**

Leeny Kelly Oberg was appointed as Marriott's chief financial officer, effective January 1, 2016. Most recently, she was the chief financial officer for The Ritz-Carlton Hotel Company beginning in 2013, where she contributed significantly to the brand's performance, growth, and organizational effectiveness. From 2008 to 2013, she was the company's senior vice president, corporate and development finance, where she led a team that valued new hotel development projects and merger and acquisition opportunities, prepared the company's long-range plans and annual budgets, and made recommendations for the company's financial and capital allocation strategy. From 2006 to 2008, Oberg served in London as senior vice president, international project finance and asset management for Europe and the Middle East and Africa. Oberg first joined Marriott as part of its Investor Relations group in 1999. She earned a BS in commerce from UVA and an MBA from the Stanford University Graduate School of Business.

Niamh O'Connell**Group Vice President, Guest Experience and Wellness
Rosewood Hotel Group**

Niamh O'Connell, group vice president of guest experience and wellness of Rosewood Hotel Group, leads the strategic global development of guest experience, wellness, and recreation for the group. One of her key roles is to innovate unique concepts across each of the group's brands, focusing on creating best-in-class guest experience within each concept and establishing key differentiators. Prior to joining Rosewood Hotel Group, O'Connell held various senior positions at Hyatt International Hotels & Resorts, including vice president of spa.

Stefani C. O'Connor**Editor in Chief of *Hotel Management/Questex* Hospitality Group
Questex**

Award-winning journalist Stefani C. O'Connor is editor in chief of *Hotel Management/Questex* Hospitality Group, a division of Questex, which is a leading global business information and event company. She leads the editorial strategy—both in print and online—including the brand's suite of online newsletters, digital editions, e-books, special reports, surveys, roundtables, and "top lists."

O'Connor has more than 20 years of experience covering the hospitality industry and its adjunct disciplines. Most recently, she served as executive news editor at *Hotel Business* magazine, as well as managing editor of its National Executive Roundtable Series. Prior to that, O'Connor was senior editor at *Business Travel News* and, previous to that, was editor in chief of *Hotel & Resort Industry* magazine. She also has brought her expertise to numerous venues, serving as a panelist and moderator across a range of national conferences.

A hard-news reporter and editor for several New York City newspapers prior to focusing on hospitality and finance, O'Connor has interviewed a range of people, from gang members to fashion designers, politicians to religious leaders, government officials to CEOs, and as she says, "all the ordinary people in between who have extraordinary stories to tell."

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Chip Ohlsson

**Executive Vice President and Chief Development Officer, North America
Wyndham Hotels & Resorts**

Chip Ohlsson is executive vice president and chief development officer, North America, for Wyndham Hotels & Resorts. In this role, he is responsible for the development strategy for Wyndham's 20 brands across North America, identifying and building strategic partnerships to position Wyndham Hotels & Resorts in new markets and to optimize its presence in existing markets. Ohlsson also is responsible for strengthening and expanding relationships with owners and key ownership groups, including real estate investment trusts, developers, and financial institutions with hospitality portfolios.

A 25-year veteran of the hospitality industry, Ohlsson brings with him hotel financing and portfolio management experience, as well as many established industry relationships. Most recently, Ohlsson served as vice president of North American development at Starwood Hotels & Resorts, where he was responsible for the development and pipeline expansion for the company's renowned hotel brands.

Prior to this, Ohlsson held several leadership positions across the industry, including senior vice president, vice president, and franchise sales director with Cendant/Wyndham. During this time, he oversaw sales, business development, and financial management initiatives and was consistently a top sales producer, earning accolades including Vice President of the Year, among several other notable awards.

Greg O'Stean

**Chief Development Officer, North America
Interstate Hotels & Resorts**

Greg O'Stean is the chief development officer, North America, for Interstate Hotels & Resorts. He is responsible for driving overall business growth across North America. Prior to joining Interstate, O'Stean held executive roles with Loews Hotels, Carlson Rezidor Hotel Group, Piper Jaffray, GE Capital, and Starwood Hotels and Resorts. He is a proven hotel industry leader, with a rich history of delivering exceptional results and leading teams to achieve extraordinary growth.

Mark Owens

**Executive Vice President and Head of Hospitality Capital Markets
CBRE**

Mark Owens is an executive vice president and the head of Hospitality Capital Markets for CBRE Hotels. He is responsible for the development of the CBRE Hotels Debt & Structured Finance practice and oversees the origination and placement of hospitality-related transactions, including debt, equity, joint venture equity, and transaction sales. Since joining CBRE, Owens has been an integral part in building the team's production, which exceeded \$1.6 billion in 2018. Prior to joining CBRE, Owens ran the hospitality practice at Ackman-Ziff Real Estate Group, building the team's production to more than \$1 billion in annual transaction volume. He also was a vice president at Sonnenblick Goldman, where he closed \$3 billion in transactions representing a variety of institutional and opportunistic investors, as well as ownership/management companies. He also worked at HVS International in its New York office. Owens is a graduate of the Cornell University School of Hotel Administration.

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Patrick Pacious

**President and Chief Executive Officer
Choice Hotels International**

Patrick Pacious is president and chief executive officer of Choice Hotels International, one of the world's largest hotel companies. Pacious has been with Choice since 2005 and has created significant value for shareholders and franchisees. Under his direction, Choice built industry-leading global technology platforms that resulted in improved profitability and efficiencies for the company's franchised hotel owners. He also spearheaded the company's significant growth in the upscale segment with both Cambria Hotels and the Ascend Hotel Collection, as well as the successful transformation of the Comfort brand.

Before becoming CEO, Pacious was the company's president and chief operating officer. He has led strategy and growth initiatives within the areas of technology, innovation, distribution, brand, marketing, franchise services, and performance analytics. Under his leadership, Choice Hotels improved profitability, increased global growth, and propelled the company to the forefront of hospitality technology.

Prior to joining Choice, Pacious spent more than nine years with Arthur Andersen Business Consulting and BearingPoint, working with executive management and boards of directors at clients, including Choice Hotels and other major hospitality companies. Pacious also served as a US Navy officer in surface warfare and strategic planning from 1987 to 1993.

Pacious earned a bachelor's degree in political science and Latin American studies from Duke University and a master of business administration from the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University. Currently, he is a member of the Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts Board of Directors.

Jagruti Panwala

**Chairwoman 2019-2020
AAHOA**

Jagruti Panwala serves as the chairwoman of the Asian American Hotel Owners Association (AAHOA), the voice of America's hotel owners, and is the first female officer in the association's 29-year history. Prior to becoming an officer, Panwala served as a female director at large, a position she held for six years.

Panwala helps to lead AAHOA's advocacy efforts aimed at protecting the interests of hotel owners. Her advocacy work on behalf of AAHOA includes testifying before the House Committee on Education and the Workforce Subcommittee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions in 2014 about the harmful impact of overregulation on small businesses. She also testified before the House Committee on Small Business Subcommittee on Economic Growth, Tax, and Capital Access in 2018 about the impact of the travel and tourism industry on the American economy. She serves on the American Hotel & Lodging Association (AHLA) Board of Directors and on the Department of Energy Better Buildings Summit Steering Committee.

Born in Surat, India, Panwala immigrated to the United States in 1991. She earned undergraduate degrees in both finance and economics from East Stroudsburg University. In 1999, she founded Wealth Protection Strategies, an investment management company specializing in succession planning, where she currently serves as president and CEO.

Panwala is a second-generation hotelier. She and her husband, Ahmed, own and operate multiple hotels throughout the Northeastern United States.

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Richard (Rick) E. Pastorino**Chief Executive Officer and Principal
REVPAR International**

Richard (Rick) E. Pastorino, ISHC, is the chief executive officer and principal of REVPAR International. He has 30-plus years of industry experience in development, acquisition, capital expenditure (CapEx) analyses and ROI, economic valuation, workouts, branding, deal structuring, financial and operational analyses, market and financial due diligence, and asset management. He has worked on behalf of institutional and private equity groups as an adviser, asset manager, and owner's representative on new and existing hospitality-related projects. He began his career as a teenager, working in all aspects of hotel operations with several national hotel chains, prior to starting REVPAR International 27 years ago.

Pastorino is a member of the International Society of Hospitality Consultants (ISHC), the Hospitality Asset Managers Association (HAMA), and the Urban Land Institute (ULI). He has authored industry-related research on a variety of topics, including several of the CapEx studies published by ISHC and HAMA, as well as "Planning and Managing Capital Expenditures" in *Hotel Asset Management Principles & Practices* published by the American Hotel & Lodging Educational Institute (AHLEI) in conjunction with HAMA. He is a frequent speaker and guest lecturer on a variety of topics at industry conferences and universities. Pastorino holds an MBA in finance from Virginia Tech and a BSBA from the University of Denver.

Keith M. Pattiz**Partner
McDermott Will & Emery**

Keith M. Pattiz is a partner in the law firm of McDermott Will & Emery. He has extensive experience in the areas of commercial leasing, financing, sales and acquisitions, hotel transactions, joint ventures, and real estate workout matters. He has provided legal representation to a wide variety of clients, including major residential, office, hotel, and shopping center developers; hotel operators; lending institutions; and US and non-US investors. Pattiz is head of the firm's Real Estate Group.

Pattiz has extensive experience in the hospitality sector. He represents numerous owners, operators, and developers in their acquisition development activity, financing management agreements, retail leasing, and dispute resolution matters. For more than 10 years, he has been a moderator and panelist at the NYU International Hospitality Industry Investment Conference.

Daniel C. Peek**Senior Managing Director
HFF**

Daniel C. Peek is senior managing director and head of the hospitality practice group for HFF. He is responsible for institutional-grade hotel and resort property transactions throughout the Americas and Europe. During his career, he has completed nearly \$30 billion in investment sale, debt, and structured finance transactions.

Peek joined the firm in October 2007. Prior to HFF, he was a co-founder of Regent Street, an affiliate of The Plasencia Group (TPG), a boutique firm specializing in sale, financing, and advisory services for distinctive hotels and resorts throughout the Americas. He also served as senior vice president at TPG.

Peek is a member of the Urban Land Institute and its Hotel Development Council, the AHLA Hospitality Investment Roundtable, the University of Florida Bergstrom Real Estate Center Advisory Board, the Cornell University Center for Real Estate and Finance Advisory Board, and the Cornell Hotel Society.

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41ST ANNUAL NYU

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Gilda Perez-Alvarado**Deputy Chief Executive Officer
JLL Hotels & Hospitality, Americas**

Gilda Perez-Alvarado is deputy chief executive officer, JLL Hotels & Hospitality, Americas, where she is responsible for investment sales, debt and equity placement, strategic advisory, and asset management. Additionally, she leads the group's Global Hotel Desk, a specialized team of cross-border investment sales professionals based in the Middle East, Asia Pacific, the Americas, and Europe. Previously, she served as a managing director, focused on full-service investment sales throughout the United States and globally.

In the past 24 months, Perez-Alvarado has utilized her global experience to coordinate the sale of The Plaza in New York, Fairmont Copley Plaza in Boston, The St. Regis San Francisco, InterContinental Porto, Waldorf Astoria Edinburgh, Four Seasons Toronto, and the SilverBirch hotel portfolio in Canada, among others. In January 2016, she was honored with the Jack A. Shaffer Financial Advisor of the Year Award.

Ed Pitoniak**Chief Executive Officer
VICI**

Ed Pitoniak is VICI's chief executive officer. Prior to this, Pitoniak served as vice chairman of Realterm, a private equity real estate manager, and as an independent director on the board of directors of Ritchie Brothers Auctioneers. In April 2014, Pitoniak became managing director of InnVest, a publicly listed REIT, responsible for recapitalizing the REIT and transitioning its management function from an external, third-party management model to an internal management model. He then served as chairman from June 2015 to August 2016, when the REIT was sold and taken private. He also served as a director of Regal Lifestyle Communities, a Canadian seniors housing real estate owner and operator, from 2012 until its sale in 2015. Pitoniak retired in 2009 from the position of president and chief executive officer and director of bcIMC Hospitality Group, a hotel property and brand ownership entity, formerly a public income trust called Canadian Hotel Income Properties Real Estate Investment Trust (CHIP), where he was employed from 2004 to 2009. As CEO of CHIP, he led the company to four consecutive years of total return leadership among Canadian hotel REITs, and then to a sale in 2007. Pitoniak also was a member of CHIP's Board of Trustees before it went private. Prior to joining CHIP, Pitoniak was a senior vice president at Intrawest Corporation, a ski and golf resort operator and developer, for nearly eight years. Before Intrawest, Pitoniak spent nine years with Times Mirror Magazines, where he served as editor in chief and associate publisher of *Ski* magazine. Pitoniak has a bachelor of arts from Amherst College.

Stephen Plavin**Chief Executive Officer
Blackstone Mortgage Trust**

Stephen Plavin is a senior managing director of The Blackstone Real Estate Debt Strategies Group and the chief executive officer of Blackstone Mortgage Trust. Before joining Blackstone, Plavin was chief executive officer of Capital Trust (predecessor to Blackstone Mortgage Trust) and CT Investment Management Co., a commercial real estate debt investment manager and rated special servicer that was wholly owned by Capital Trust and acquired by Blackstone in December 2012. Prior to joining Capital Trust in 1998, Plavin was co-head of global real estate for The Chase Manhattan Bank and Chase Securities. Plavin earned a BA from Tufts University and an MBA from the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University. He is a board member of Omega Healthcare Investors.



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Ron Pohl

**Senior Vice President and Chief Operations Officer
Best Western Hotels & Resorts**

Ron Pohl is senior vice president and chief operations officer for Best Western Hotels & Resorts. He joined the brand in 2007, and he currently serves on the company's executive committee and leads the brand's operations and development efforts for North America and Asia. Pohl is responsible for key departments within the hotel company, including development efforts for Best Western and SureStay brands, revenue management, education and training, design, supply, and global quality assurance. He was instrumental in repositioning the three core brands—Best Western, Best Western Plus, and Best Western Premier—as well as expanding the company's offerings to 13 brands, including the company's newly launched franchise model SureStay Hotel Group. He also has contributed to Best Western's sixth place ranking on *Fast Company's* "Most Innovative Companies" list. Pohl is the recipient of the Arthur Landstreet Award from the American Hotel & Lodging Educational Institute and a Best in Biz Award.

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41ST ANNUAL NYU

INTERNATIONAL HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY INVESTMENT CONFERENCE

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Cyril Ranque**President of Lodging Partner Services**
Expedia

Cyril Ranque serves as the president of Lodging Partner Services for the Expedia Group. In this role, Ranque is responsible for overseeing Expedia's lodging supply relationships and operations globally. He joined the Expedia Group in 2006 and successively managed its hotel chain partnerships in EMEA and APAC and then the lodging and transport supply business in Asia Pacific, before heading the lodging Global Market Management group prior to his current role.

Before joining the Expedia Group, Ranque was vice president of marketing and distribution for Louvre Hotels, after having advised the Taittinger Group on the creation of the company in early 2004. Previously, Ranque was head of the French CRM practice for AT Kearney, and he also has served as a CRM consultant at Accenture, an investment banker at Morgan Stanley in London, and a financial analyst with LVMH in Tokyo.

Ranque holds a master's degree from the ESSEC Graduate School of Business in Paris, with a specialization in finance and strategy.

Allison Reid**Chief Development Officer**
Kimpton Hotels & Restaurants

As the chief development officer for Kimpton Hotels & Restaurants, Allison Reid is responsible for driving the overall development strategy for Kimpton, including determining and implementing strategic growth initiatives, signing new management contracts, and serving a key member of the brand's executive leadership team.

Prior to Kimpton, Reid worked for Starwood Hotels & Resorts, where she held various leadership positions, including senior vice president of development and acquisitions for North America, the Caribbean, and French Polynesia. During her tenure, she was instrumental in launching three new brands at Starwood and signing more than 600 new hotel deals.

Other career highlights include leading the real estate investment team responsible for the repositioning and/or sale of a \$3.5 billion global joint venture and leasehold portfolio; serving as W Hotels' chief financial officer, where she was responsible for driving strategic operating and brand growth initiatives; and holding leadership roles in investor relations, owner services, workouts, finance, and operations.

Stephanie M. Ricca**Editor in Chief**
Hotel News Now

Stephanie M. Ricca is editor in chief of *Hotel News Now (HNN)*, where she manages the content vision and day-to-day operations for the group's award-winning daily newsletter, as well as other initiatives. She has a decade's worth of experience in hotel trade journalism, most recently serving as editor in chief of *Hotel Management* magazine before joining *HNN* in January 2015. She is a graduate of Wittenberg University and holds a master's degree in journalism from the Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern University.

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INTERNATIONAL HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY INVESTMENT CONFERENCE

Jordan Roeschlaub**Vice Chairman and Co-Head, Capital Markets—Debt and Structured Finance
Newmark Knight Frank**

Jordan Roeschlaub serves as a vice chairman and co-head of the Debt and Structured Finance Group at Newmark Knight Frank (NKF), in New York. Roeschlaub specializes in raising debt and equity capital for a wide client base, having executed transactions on behalf of domestic and offshore institutional and private owners, US REITs, fund managers, and global investment banks.

Roeschlaub has more than 14 years of real estate investment banking experience and has executed on more than \$55 billion of capital markets transactions. Since joining the firm, Roeschlaub has been the top-producing capital markets, debt, and equity finance professional for NKF (2016, 2017, and 2018).

Roeschlaub holds a bachelor of arts from the College of Wooster. He also attended the London School of Economics.

William “Chip” Rogers**President and Chief Executive Officer
American Hotel & Lodging Association**

William “Chip” Rogers joined the American Hotel & Lodging Association (AHLA) as president and chief executive officer in January 2019. Rogers comes to AHLA with more than 20 years of experience and a proven track record of success. Previously, he served as the president and CEO of the Asian American Hotel Owners Association (AAHOA), the largest US hotel owners association, beginning 2014. Under his leadership, the AAHOA grew its membership by 30 percent and its revenue by 62 percent.

Prior to joining AAHOA, Rogers had a long career as a public servant. He was elected to the Georgia General Assembly six times and was unanimously elected to serve two terms as the Georgia Senate majority leader. He was elected the first national chairman of the Majority Leaders Conference and served on the national board of directors of the State Legislative Leaders Foundation.

Rogers earned his undergraduate degree from Georgia Tech and an MBA from Georgia State.

Scott P. Rosenberg**President
Jonathan Nehmer + Associates**

Scott P. Rosenberg is president of Jonathan Nehmer + Associates (JN+A), an international architecture, interior design, and project management firm specializing in the hospitality industry. He also is a principal with HVS Design. As president, he oversees the day-to-day operations of the firms. He has more than 30 years of experience in architecture and real estate development-related fields and is a licensed architect in 25 states and the District of Columbia. His design experience includes hotels, restaurants, office buildings, and mixed-use retail centers. He takes a unique, holistic approach to real estate strategy and master planning to create practical solutions that add value to hospitality assets.

Prior to joining JN+A in 2007, Rosenberg was president of Rosenberg A+I, a full-service architecture, planning, and interiors firm founded in 1996. He holds a bachelor of design from the University of Florida, a master of architecture from the University of Maryland, and a master of science in real estate development from Johns Hopkins University. He was an adjunct professor at Johns Hopkins, teaching in the MS in real estate program.

Zach Rosenblum**Senior Account Manager
Hello Alfred**

Zach Rosenblum is a hospitality specialist with extensive experience in restaurant management, concierge operations, and multifamily real estate. Currently a senior account manager at Hello Alfred, Rosenblum oversees the company's strategic real estate relationships and portfolio expansion. He holds an MS from NYU and a BS from Syracuse University, both in hospitality management.

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41ST ANNUAL NYU

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Rick Ross**Co-Chair, Global Hotels and Leisure
Dentons**

Rick Ross is the co-chair of Dentons' global hotels and leisure practice. Widely regarded as an industry expert, he advises clients globally on complex hospitality and leisure matters, including acquisitions and dispositions (single assets, portfolios), corporate M&A matters, joint ventures, development, and operations. Ross counsels clients around the world about creating and implementing strategies regarding all aspects of hotel and resort investments, management, and operations. Additionally, he negotiates and documents hotel management and license agreements and counsels clients on structuring and documenting global, complex mixed-use projects featuring hotels and resorts with residential and other commercial components.

Ross has been ranked "Band 1" nationally by *Chambers USA* in the leisure and hospitality sector every year since 2007 (the first year of ranking this sector). Under his leadership, Dentons has been one of only two law firms ranked "Band 1" nationally in the hotels and leisure sector (again, every year since 2007), and it is regarded as one of the top few in the world. *Law360* named Ross an "MVP in Hospitality" in 2014 and Dentons "Practice Group of the Year" in 2014 and 2017.

Vail Ross**Senior Vice President of Global Business Development and Marketing
STR**

Vail Ross is senior vice president of global business development and marketing for STR. STR provides clients from multiple market sectors with premium global data benchmarking, analytics, and marketplace insights. Founded in 1985, STR maintains a presence in 15 countries around the world, with corporate North American headquarters in Hendersonville, Tennessee, and international headquarters in London.

Ross is responsible for the overall coordination, functional management, and leadership of the business development and marketing strategies for STR. Along with hotel-specific sales and marketing, Ross's efforts are directed toward expanding relationships with third-party vendors by promoting new products and services. She often is featured as a guest speaker at international, national, regional, and state conferences. Ross is the past chair of both the American Hotel & Lodging Association (AHLA) Women in Lodging (WIL) Executive Council and the HSMAI Foundation Board of Directors. Ross is a member of the following: the Destinations International Foundation Board of Directors, the HSMAI Americas Board of Directors, the HSMAI Las Vegas Advisory Board, the Greater Nashville Hospitality Association Board of Directors, and the Women's Political Collaborative of Tennessee. She is the recipient of the 2013 AHLA John Whitaker Award.

Prior to joining STR, Ross was the director of membership development for the Tennessee Hotel & Lodging Association (now the Tennessee Hospitality Association) and the Greater Nashville Hotel & Lodging Association. Ross holds a bachelor of science from Western Kentucky University in political science and environmental studies.

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41ST ANNUAL NYU

INTERNATIONAL HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY INVESTMENT CONFERENCE

Karen E. Rubin

Principal

Karen Rubin Hotels

Karen E. Rubin is founder and principal of Karen Rubin Hotels, a hotel industry consultancy with focused activities in development and feasibility consulting, litigation support, case review, and expert witness services, as well as education-oriented activities within the hospitality industry.

Previously, Rubin was senior vice president of global development, feasibility, and development policy in the Real Estate Group at Starwood Hotels and Resorts Worldwide, having joined Starwood in 2000. In this position, Rubin managed the creation and implementation of deal policy globally and was responsible for managing the Global Development Committee. She also was responsible for underwriting new deals, including acquisitions, joint ventures, management contracts, mezzanine loans, franchises, and new development for Starwood's St. Regis, Sheraton, Westin, Luxury Collection, Four Points by Sheraton, and W brands, as well as underwriting related to Starwood's extensive portfolio of owned and joint-ventured assets. In addition, she worked closely with Starwood's divisional development, finance, legal, franchise operations, and global brand teams to bring to fruition development deals on a global basis.

Prior to joining Starwood, Rubin spent more than 18 years at HVS International, having been first retained as a consulting and valuation analyst and subsequently promoted to senior vice president. During her tenure at HVS International, Rubin worked with clients that encompassed virtually every aspect of the lodging and real estate industries, including foreign and domestic commercial banks such as Chase Manhattan and the Industrial Bank of Japan; investment banks such as DLJ and BT Securities; hotel companies such as Host Marriott and Omni Hotels; accounting firms such as Arthur Andersen; institutional investors and acquisition funds such as Apollo Real Estate Advisors and Samoth USA; construction firms such as Hospitality Worldwide Investors and Taisei America; real estate companies such as the Irvine Company and the J.W. Colachis Companies; municipalities and governmental entities such as the New York City Department of Economic Development and the County of Fairfax, Virginia; law firms such as Luce Forward and Dorsey & Whitney; and a broad range individual, family, and smaller corporate owners, managers, developers, and investors.

Rubin was granted the American Hotel & Lodging Association's certified hotel administrator (CHA) designation in 1991 and the American Society of Real Estate Counselors' counselor of real estate (CRE) designation in 1992. She also holds the MAI designation from the Appraisal Institute and the FRICS designation from the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors. She is a certified general real estate appraiser in the states of Connecticut and New York. Rubin's published writings have appeared in a wide variety of periodicals, and she has been frequently quoted in newspapers, periodicals, and trade publications nationwide. She is an avid educator within her industry and has presented seminars and lectured on hospitality-related topics at numerous educational institutions. Rubin has been qualified as an expert witness and has provided expert testimony relating to hospitality property valuations and other financially related issues in courtrooms and administrative arenas throughout the United States, including Federal Bankruptcy Court.

She graduated with distinction from the Cornell University School of Hotel Administration. Rubin also pursued undergraduate study at the New School for Social Research in New York City and at Brandeis University. She had seven years of full- and part-time hands-on experience in the hospitality industry prior to and during her tenure at Cornell.

Stephen Rushmore, Jr.

President and Chief Executive Officer

HVS

As president and chief executive officer of HVS, a leading hospitality consulting and services organization with more than 35 offices around the globe, Stephen Rushmore, Jr. directs the worldwide operation of the firm and is responsible for overseeing the long-term strategy. Founded in 1980, HVS has provided consulting services and solutions for thousands of clients in all 50 states and more than 70 foreign countries for hotels, restaurants, mixed-use, shared ownership, and leisure assets. Rushmore is a state-certified appraiser and frequently lectures at major hotel schools around the world. He is a member of the Young Presidents' Organization (YPO) and is on the board of the Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC), the nation's oldest outdoor recreation and conservation organization. He earned a bachelor of science from the Cornell University School of Hotel Administration.

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41ST ANNUAL NYU

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Michelle S. Russo**Founder and Chief Executive Officer
Hotel Asset Value Enhancement (hotelAVE)**

Michelle S. Russo, CHAM, MAI, CHA, has more than 30 years of practical, hands-on experience with hotels, restaurants, resorts, convention centers, real estate, and finance. She has worked on thousands of hotel assets across the United States, and in 2003, she founded Hotel Asset Value Enhancement (hotelAVE). While overseeing the practice, she is very involved in strategic asset positioning, management contract negotiations, and interaction with senior-level brand and management executives on behalf of the portfolio. Russo was named one of “30 Influential Women in Hospitality” by *Hotel Management* magazine (October 2017) and one of “20 Leading Women in Lodging” by *Lodging* magazine (September 2015).

Prior to founding hotelAVE, Russo was vice president, senior leisure analyst for Deutsche Banc Alex Brown, where she also garnered capital markets experience. Her experience on Wall Street forced her to be very forward-focused. Russo also managed a \$500 million portfolio for John Hancock Mutual Life Insurance Company, where she improved the portfolio and achieved 20 percent cash-on-cash returns. She is well known for initiating the legal action taken in the 2660 Woodley Road case in which Hancock was originally awarded \$52 million. In addition, Russo was responsible for changing the property’s management and overseeing a \$100 million repositioning renovation of the 1,500-room convention hotel.

Russo is a regular guest lecturer at Cornell University and has appeared on CNBC and CNN to provide commentary on the hospitality and leisure industry. She was recently published in both *Hotel News Now* and *Hotel Business* and has been invited as a speaker at numerous industry conferences. Russo serves on the Cornell University School of Hotel Administration Dean’s Advisory Board. She also is a member of the Urban Land Institute’s Hotel Development Council, Marriott’s Distribution Strategy Advisory Committee, and the AHLA Financial Management Committee. Formerly, she was a member of on the Morgans Hotel Group Board of Directors and the Pillsbury Institute for Hospitality Entrepreneurship Advisory Board at Cornell University.

Russo earned a bachelor of science from the Cornell University School of Hotel Administration.

Tim Ryan**Senior Vice President, Acquisitions
AJ Capital Partners and Graduate Hotels**

As senior vice president of acquisitions, Tim Ryan is focused on growing the Graduate Hotels portfolio through the identification, negotiation, and acquisition of existing hotels, land sites, and historic properties that present unique opportunities for adaptive reuse. Since joining AJ Capital Partners in 2017, Ryan has led the acquisition and development effort for 16 Graduate hotels, with total project capitalization exceeding \$800 million. Prior to joining AJ Capital Partners, Ryan worked with Transwestern Development Company in Austin, Texas, where he was integral to the development of several multifamily, office, and mixed-use projects in the Southwest US markets of Austin, San Antonio, Denver, Phoenix, and San Diego. Ryan graduated from the University of San Diego and holds an MBA from the McCombs School of Business at The University of Texas.

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Terry Sanders

**Chief Development Officer, Americas
Radisson Hotel Group**

Terry Sanders serves as chief development officer, Americas, of Radisson Hotel Group (formerly Carlson Rezidor Hotel Group). Sanders leads, builds, and delivers the development and growth strategies across the company's core brands in the Americas, including Radisson Blu, Radisson, Radisson RED, Park Plaza, Park Inn by Radisson, and Country Inn & Suites by Radisson. He also manages strategic investments for the portfolio and spearheads merger and acquisition activity related to portfolio growth. Sanders reports to Ken Greene, president, Americas.

Sanders is a 20-year veteran of the hotel industry. Most recently, he was a senior broker at Avison Young in Dallas. Prior to that, he held various positions at Wyndham Hotel Group for almost 15 years, such as senior vice president of development for franchised and managed hotels in the United States and Western Canada. Before Wyndham, Sanders was a partner at DDS Capital Group. He began his hotel career in 1997 as a franchise sales director with HFS, which later became Cendant.

Dan Schneider

**Chief Executive Officer
SIB Fixed Cost Reduction**

Dan Schneider founded SIB Fixed Cost Reduction in 2008 and has been chief executive officer since its inception. SIB Fixed Cost Reduction specializes in reducing monthly expenses for companies. SIB only shares in the savings it finds, and clients are not billed until savings are realized. SIB has analyzed more than \$3 billion in spend across more than 50,000 locations nationwide. Schneider has grown the SIB family of companies to include SIB Legal Bill Review, SIB Lighting, and mövi healthcare.

Prior to founding SIB, Schneider enjoyed a successful entrepreneurial career in the wireless industry. At age 18, Schneider founded Main Street Cellular, a retail wireless company that eventually expanded to 12 store locations in the greater Philadelphia region. Schneider later formed Main Street Assets, an international wholesaler. After two years, the new venture grossed more than \$35 million in revenue.

Mark Schoenholtz

**Vice Chairman, Co-Head of Lodging
Newmark Knight Frank**

Mark Schoenholtz joined Newmark Knight Frank in 2018 at its New York headquarters, where he serves as a vice chairman and co-head of the Lodging Capital Markets Group. Schoenholtz previously co-headed the lodging investment banking and brokerage group at Eastdil Secured. Under Schoenholtz's leadership, Eastdil Secured consistently ranked as the nation's most active hotel broker. During his more than 25 years with that firm, Schoenholtz was recognized as one of the industry's most active and respected advisers.

Since the start of his career, Schoenholtz has successfully completed transactions with an aggregate value of more than \$225 billion. He has represented a broad cross-section of clients, including REITs, C corporations, private equity firms, high-net-worth investors, and sovereign wealth funds. Some of the more noteworthy recent transactions include the sales of Boston Park Plaza, the Grand Hyatt San Francisco, the Hyatt Grand Cypress, the Hyatt Portfolio - Andaz Wailea, the Hyatt Regency Coconut Point, and the Waldorf Astoria New York.

Schoenholtz is a frequent speaker at industry events, including the NYU International Hospitality Industry Investment Conference. Schoenholtz earned a master's degree from New York University and a bachelor of arts from Franklin & Marshall College.

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Atish Shah**Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer
Xenia Hotels & Resorts**

Atish Shah is executive vice president and chief financial officer of Xenia Hotels & Resorts, and he serves as the company's treasurer. He has held these positions since April 2016. Shah previously served as senior vice president, strategy, financial planning and analysis, and investor relations at Hyatt Hotels Corporation. He also served as Hyatt's interim chief financial officer from April 2015 until March 2016.

Prior to joining Hyatt in 2009, Shah served as senior vice president, portfolio management, at Lowe Enterprises, a private real estate company with nearly \$6 billion in assets under management. From 1998 to 2007, Shah worked for Hilton Hotels Corporation in a variety of finance roles. He earned an MBA from The Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania, as well as a master of management in hospitality and a BS with honors, both from Cornell University.

Mit Shah**Senior Managing Principal and Chief Executive Officer
Noble Investment Group**

As founder and chief executive officer of Noble Investment Group, Mit Shah provides overall strategic guidance for the Noble organization and heads its investment committee. A regular speaker at private equity real estate, lodging, and investment conferences, Shah is a frequent commentator on business strategy and trends in publications including *The Wall Street Journal*, *The New York Times*, and *USA Today*, as well as for a variety of news agencies that cover the real estate and lodging industries.

Shah presently serves as non-executive chairman of the board for CorePoint Lodging. He also is a member of the Industry Real Estate Financing Advisory Council (IREFAC) of the American Hotel & Lodging Association, and he serves on owner advisory boards of Marriott International and Hyatt Hotels Corporation.

Shah is an active supporter of educational objectives and is currently serving his third term as a member of the Board of Trustees for his alma mater, Wake Forest University.

Neil H. Shah**President and Chief Operating Officer
Hersha Hotels & Resorts**

Neil H. Shah is president and chief operating officer of Hersha Hotels & Resorts. Over the last 17 years, Shah has been instrumental in the acquisition and development of more than \$3 billion of hotel real estate in gateway markets. Shah also is a partner and director at HHM, one of the leading independent hotel operators in the United States. Prior to Hersha, Shah served as a director and consultant with The Advisory Board Company and the Corporate Executive Board, both strategy research firms based in Washington, DC.

Shah is past chairman of the Industry Real Estate Financing Advisory Council (IREFAC) of the American Hotel & Lodging Association. In 2016, he was presented with the prestigious IREFAC C. Everett Johnson Award at the NYU International Hospitality Industry Investment Conference. Shah serves on the National Constitution Center Board of Trustees and investment committee and on the United Way of Miami-Dade Board of Trustees. Shah is a research sponsor at the Wharton Real Estate Center and is on the advisory board of the University of Miami real estate programs. Shah earned a bachelor of arts in political science and a bachelor of science in management, both with honors, from the University of Pennsylvania, the latter from The Wharton School. He earned an MBA from Harvard Business School.

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Stacy Silver

President
Silver Hospitality Group

Stacy Silver, ISHC, is president of Silver Hospitality Group, a boutique consulting firm specializing in building revenues and profitability for hospitality companies through targeted industry relations outreach, creative marketing solutions, and special events.

A hospitality veteran with 25-plus years of experience, Silver has a long track record of assisting companies with brand strategic direction and launches, key partner relationships, marketing collateral and events such as roundtables, specialty corporate conferences, and focus groups for the hospitality industry. Since founding Silver Hospitality Group seven years ago, Silver has been recognized as an industry leader, most recently as one of *Hotel Management* magazine's "30 Influential Women in Hospitality." She also has founded timely and innovative hospitality events, such as the Distressed Hotel Summit and the Revenue Strategy Summit, now in its sixth year.

Prior to launching Silver Hospitality Group, Silver served as executive director, business development and sales, for Questex Media Group. Throughout her career, Silver has held increasingly influential positions with two of the industry's leading media companies, serving in such capacities as vice president, publisher, executive director events, and executive director digital media for *Hotel Business* (ICD Publications) and *Hotel Management* (Questex Media Group). Silver is a frequent speaker at major industry events. She holds a bachelor's degree from SUNY Oneonta.

Noah J. Silverman

Chief Development Officer, North America Full Service Hotels
Marriott International

Noah J. Silverman is chief development officer, North America full service hotels for Marriott International. He is responsible for overseeing all aspects of the development process in the United States and Canada for the Marriott, JW Marriott, Westin, Renaissance, Le Méridien, Sheraton, Delta, Gaylord, Ritz-Carlton, St. Regis, EDITION, W, and Bvlgari brands, as well as The Luxury Collection, Autograph Collection, and Tribute Portfolio.

Prior to his current role, Silverman served as senior vice president, global asset management, where he led Marriott's asset management efforts on a worldwide basis. Before that, he was senior vice president, development asset management, providing overall global leadership in managing hotel deals from the time a transaction is signed through opening. Previous to that, Silverman was senior vice president, project finance, where he led a variety of complex transactions, including seeking outside investors for Marriott's company-owned hotels subject to long-term management agreements. Silverman joined Marriott in July 1997 in the company's law department. In June 2002, he became vice president, global asset management, where he negotiated a number of transactions to preserve and enhance the stability and value of Marriott's long-term management and franchise agreements.

Prior to joining Marriott, Silverman was an associate with the law firm of Covington & Burling in Washington, DC. He holds an AB from Princeton University and a JD from the University of Pennsylvania Law School.

Chad F. Sorensen

Managing Director and Executive Vice President
CHMWarnick

Chad F. Sorensen is managing director and executive vice president with CHMWarnick, the leading provider of hotel asset management and owner advisory services. He is a senior member of the asset management team, which is comprised of 40 hospitality professionals operating across nine offices nationwide. As a group, they are responsible for asset managing a client portfolio of more than 70 hotels and 29,000 guestrooms, collectively valued in excess of \$15 billion.

Sorensen is chair emeritus of the International Society of Hospitality Consultants (ISHC), an invitation-only society comprised of prominent hospitality consultants from around the world. He serves as co-chair of the Hospitality Asset Managers Association (HAMA) Marketing and Communications Committee and is a designated certified hotel asset manager (CHAM). He sits on the Michigan State University Real Estate Investment Management Advisory Council and is a frequent guest lecturer and speaker at leading industry conferences. Sorensen holds a master of business administration, with a dual emphasis in finance and management, from the University of Illinois.

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Arne M. Sorenson

**President and Chief Executive Officer
Marriott International**

Arne M. Sorenson is president and chief executive officer of Marriott International. In his role, he presides over one of the world's largest hospitality companies and some of the most iconic brands in travel.

Sorenson led the acquisition of Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide in 2016, resulting in a dramatic expansion of Marriott's ability to provide unparalleled guest experiences around the world. The company now has more than 6,900 properties across 130 countries and territories and 30 brands. The merger also created the industry's largest loyalty program, Marriott Bonvoy, with 120 million members.

Sorenson is a member of the boards of directors of Microsoft Corporation and Business Roundtable. He serves on The Brookings Institution Board of Trustees, the Warrior-Scholar Project, and the Luther College Board of Regents.

Andrew Ross Sorkin

Columnist, *The New York Times*, and Co-Author, *Squawk Box*, CNBC

Andrew Ross Sorkin is a columnist for *The New York Times* and a co-anchor of *Squawk Box*, CNBC's signature morning program. He also is the founder and editor at large of "DealBook," an online daily financial report published by *The Times* that he started in 2001.

Sorkin is the author of *Too Big to Fail: How Wall Street and Washington Fought to Save the Financial System—and Themselves* (Viking, 2009), which chronicled the events of the 2008 financial crisis. The book won the 2010 Gerald Loeb Award for Best Business Book and was shortlisted for the 2010 Samuel Johnson Prize and the 2010 *Financial Times* Business Book of the Year Award. The book spent more than six months on *The New York Times* bestseller list in hardcover and paperback. The book was adapted as a movie by HBO Films in 2011. Sorkin was a co-producer of the film, which was nominated for 11 Emmy Awards. Sorkin also is co-creator of the drama series *Billions* on Showtime starring Paul Giamatti and Damian Lewis.

Over the years, Sorkin has broken news of many major mergers and acquisitions in the pages of *The Times* and has been at the forefront of Wall Street news. He reported extensively on the financial crisis of 2008, its aftermath on Wall Street, and the government bailout of major investment banks, with coverage including the collapse of Bear Stearns and Lehman Brothers and the AIG bailout. He has broken news of deals, including Chase's acquisition of J.P. Morgan and Hewlett-Packard's acquisition of Compaq. He also led *The Times's* coverage of Vodafone's \$183 billion hostile bid for Mannesmann, resulting in the world's largest takeover.

As a leading voice about Wall Street and corporate America, Sorkin is a frequent guest on national television and radio programs, as well as a lecturer at universities across the country. He has appeared on NBC's *Today Show*, PBS's *NewsHour*, HBO's *Real Time with Bill Maher*, NPR's *Talk of the Nation*, and many others. He won a Gerald Loeb Award in 2004 for breaking the news of IBM's historic sale of its PC business to Lenovo, and he was a finalist in the commentary category for his "DealBook" column. He also won a Society of American Business Editors and Writers Award for breaking news in 2005 and again in 2006. In 2007, the World Economic Forum named him a "Young Global Leader."

Sorkin is co-chair of The New York Public Library's Business Leadership Council and a member of the Council on Foreign Relations.

Sorkin began writing for *The Times* in 1995 under unusual circumstances: he hadn't yet graduated from high school. Sorkin is a graduate of Cornell University.

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Hannes Spanring**Chief Executive Officer
MEININGER Hotels**

Hannes Spanring, chief executive officer of MEININGER Hotels, is an accomplished executive with verifiable success in creating and delivering positive business results through strategic business alliances. Spanring joined MEININGER in 2013 as managing director and head of projects, responsible for transition for growth, property improvement programs, and new hotel opportunities. In 2016, he was promoted to CEO, and since then under his leadership, MEININGER Hotels has grown from 16 to 26 hotels with 14,000 beds, and 25 percent year-on-year growth.

Before joining MEININGER, Spanring was appointed as executive director for Realty Global Project Consulting, working in cooperation with Asian investment groups on commercial and residential real estate projects in Europe and Asia. He also spent several years working with the United Nations and the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) in various senior roles, serving in Syria, Israel, the Netherlands, Iraq, and Kuwait.

Spanring grew up in Austria where he graduated from Military Academy.

Matthew A. Sparks**Executive Vice President and Chief Investment Officer
Park Hotels & Resorts**

Matthew A. Sparks serves as executive vice president and chief investment officer of Park Hotels & Resorts. Prior to joining Park, he served as the senior vice president of acquisitions and development of Hilton from 2011 until Park's January 2017 spin-off from Hilton.

During his tenure at Hilton, Sparks led the company's full-service, corporate, and luxury/lifestyle brand growth and development in North America. A seasoned hospitality executive, Sparks has held executive positions with some of the leading hospitality companies in the world in both the Americas and Asia Pacific, having lived in Singapore in a previous career.

Sparks has been active in all aspects of hospitality real estate and brand development, including acquisitions, joint venture structuring, repositioning, and new construction. Sparks has a strong familiarity with global lodging markets and hotels.

A graduate of Michigan State University's School of Hospitality Business, Sparks currently serves on the Alumni Board of Directors and on the program's Real Estate Counsel. He has been a featured speaker at numerous industry events, including the NYU International Hospitality Industry Investment Conference, The Lodging Conference, and the Hotel Investment Conference Asia Pacific.

Bill Stadler**Chief Investment Officer
Aimbridge**

Bill Stadler has more than 35 years of experience in the hospitality industry. Given the depth of his experience and primary focus on real estate and finance, he was appointed chief investment officer of Aimbridge Hospitality in 2014. Prior to joining Aimbridge, Stadler spent 11 years as an investment sales specialist with HFF and Molinaro Koger, where he represented private equity firms, REITs, global hotel companies, and high-net-worth individuals, including such notable companies as Hilton, Hyatt, Marriott, Starwood, Blackstone, FelCor, RLJ, and Host. His transaction experience covered single assets and large portfolios across all chain scales, including Caribbean and Mexican resorts. Stadler was senior vice president and chief acquisitions officer of FelCor Lodging Trust, which he joined shortly after its IPO. At FelCor, he was responsible for the company's growth from nine hotels to a portfolio of more than 200 assets, with a market capitalization in excess of \$3 billion. His background further encompasses development and franchise sales positions with Marriott and Embassy Suites.

Stadler earned a master's degree from the Cornell University School of Hotel Administration and a BA from Denison University. He is an active member of the Urban Land Institute and holds a real estate license in Texas.

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JJ Steeley

**Executive Vice President, Customer Experience
Carbon Lighthouse**

JJ Steeley is executive vice president of client experience at Carbon Lighthouse, where she drives growth through brand building, demand creation, and client services. She leads a mission-driven team of storytellers and experience creators focused on stopping climate change by making it easy and profitable for building owners to reduce energy waste.

A veteran of the hospitality, media, and lifestyle industries, Steeley previously led marketing as a member of the turnaround team that built Commune Hotels & Resorts (now a part of Hyatt). There, she helped to reverse declines to consistently over-index on market share across a portfolio that included the Thompson, Joie de Vivre, Alila, and tommie brands. She also led customer-driven technology transformation initiatives to improve loyalty, and she drove the brand strategies for the landmark Chicago Athletic Association and The Beekman Hotel. Before that, as senior vice president, strategy, at Sterling Brands, Steeley developed repositioning strategies for the NBC News division, helping to reverse a long ratings decline for *The Today Show*, and provided strategic consulting to Google and beverages giant, Pernod Ricard.

Steeley graduated summa cum laude from the University of California, Berkeley, where she studied documentary photography and filmmaking.

Jay Stein

**Chief Executive Officer
Dream Hotel Group**

Jay Stein is chief executive officer of Dream Hotel Group, overseeing the evolution and expansion efforts of the company and its portfolio of brands: Dream Hotels, Time Hotels, The Chatwal, and Unscripted Hotels.

With more than three decades of experience in the hospitality business, Stein has served in a variety of property and corporate roles with renowned hotel brands Hilton Worldwide, Starwood Hotels & Resorts, and Doral Hotels. He began his career in 1983 with Hilton's Vista International Hotel in New York City. A veteran of food and beverage management, he turned his sights to general hotel operations in 1987 and quickly rose through the ranks to become managing director for three Doral hotels in New York City. After taking those properties through the transition to Starwood, he joined Dream Hotel Group as executive vice president of operations and was soon promoted to chief operating officer in 1997, overseeing hotel operations and playing a vital role in the company's expansion efforts. Stein was named CEO in 2015.

Richard Stockton

**Chief Executive Officer and President
Braemar Hotels & Resorts**

Richard Stockton is the chief executive officer and president of Braemar Hotels & Resorts (BHR). Braemar is an NYSE publicly listed REIT based in Dallas with more than \$1.5 billion invested in predominantly luxury and upper-upscale hotel assets across the United States and the Caribbean. He joined Braemar in 2016 and is ultimately responsible for all aspects of the business, including strategy, acquisitions, financing, and asset management. Separately, he serves as lead independent trustee on the board of Spirit MTA, a net lease REIT publicly listed on the NYSE.

Previously, Stockton worked as global chief operating officer for the \$1 billion real estate business of CarVal, the alternative asset management division of Cargill, based in greater Minneapolis. He also held the position of president and chief executive officer of the Americas division of OUE Limited, based in Los Angeles. OUE is a multibillion-dollar listed property company headquartered in Singapore. While at OUE, he led the acquisition and redevelopment of the US Bank Tower in downtown Los Angeles, including envisioning OUE Skyspace, one of the West Coast's highest observation decks. Prior to joining OUE, Stockton was a managing director at Morgan Stanley for almost 16 years, including serving as the head of Real Estate Banking for Morgan Stanley's investment banking advisory business in both Asia and the EMEA (Europe, Middle East, and Africa). While there, he worked in offices in New York, London, Singapore, and Hong Kong and was engaged in public and private equity and debt financings, M&A, and restructuring for real estate companies and investors.

Stockton is a frequent speaker and panelist at industry conferences and events. He earned a BS from the Cornell University School of Hotel Administration and an MBA from The Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania.



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Scott Strickland

**Executive Vice President and Chief Information Officer
Wyndham Hotels & Resorts**

Currently executive vice president and chief information officer of Wyndham Hotels & Resorts, Scott Strickland is responsible for all aspects of IT at one of the world's largest hospitality companies. His goal is to enable innovation and to transform experiences for all three customer groups: the guest, the franchisee, and the Wyndham associate. Supporting this, the team has delivered new digital consumer experiences, consolidated property management and central reservation systems globally, integrated two brands in two years, and built out self-service capabilities.

Prior to joining Wyndham, Strickland was global CIO at D+M Group (a portfolio company of Bain Capital), a business unit CIO at Black & Decker, and an associate partner at PricewaterhouseCoopers Consulting.

Strickland graduated from Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas, and from Saïd Business School at the University of Oxford.

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Meir Teper**Co-Owner
Nobu**

Hollywood film producer Meir Teper, in conjunction with Robert De Niro, convinced chef Nobu Matsuhisa to open the first Nobu restaurant and has been instrumental in the growth of Nobu on the world stage.

As a principal voice, Teper brings the unique vision and foresight of the Nobu brand into namesake hotels and living experiences. Never one to rest, Teper also has played an integral role in the development and funding of several other businesses, including Ted Lapidus, Häagen-Dazs USA, Tribeca Grill, Ago, and Rodeo Drive real estate.

Ralph Thiergart**Vice President and General Manager of Extended Stay Brands
Choice Hotels International**

Ralph Thiergart is a leading authority on the extended-stay lodging segment and has successfully aligned talent development support solutions to help drive franchisee profitability. He is vice president and general manager of extended-stay brands for Choice Hotels International, one of the world's largest lodging companies. The company currently franchises over 7,000 hotels and represents nearly 570,000 rooms in more than 40 countries and territories. Thiergart oversees extended-stay brand management operations for the nearly 400 hotels represented by its WoodSpring Suites, MainStay Suites, and Suburban Extended Stay brands. His prior experience includes senior leadership roles in franchise operations support, training, compliance, sales, and hotel management company operations.

Davin Thigpen**Managing Director
J.P. Morgan**

Davin Thigpen is a managing director in J.P. Morgan's real estate and lodging investment banking group. He is active in strategic advisory transactions and debt and equity capital raising activities for companies in the real estate, lodging, and timeshare industries. He has worked at J.P. Morgan (and its predecessor Bear, Stearns & Co.) since 2003. Prior to that, Thigpen worked in the management consulting division of PricewaterhouseCoopers. Thigpen earned a BBA from Southern Methodist University and an MBA from Columbia Business School.

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Jonathan M. Tisch

Chairman and CEO of Loews Hotels & Co and Co-Chairman of the Board and a Member of the Office of the President of Loews Corporation

Jonathan M. Tisch is chairman and CEO of Loews Hotels & Co and co-chairman of the board and a member of the Office of the President of Loews Corporation.

Tisch has led Loews' expansion and emergence as a leading hotel company with a widely praised culture that embraces the power of partnerships—with team members, guests, communities, and owners. He was voted "Hotelier of the World" by *HOTELS* magazine.

Recognized nationally as a leader of the multibillion-dollar travel and tourism industry, Tisch is chairman emeritus of the United States Travel Association, and he previously served as chairman of the Travel Business Roundtable and the American Hotel & Lodging Association. Committed to a vibrant tourism industry locally, Tisch served for nearly six years as chairman of NYC & Company, New York City's official tourism agency, and was chairman of New York Rising, which was established to bring back visitors and revive the economy after 9/11. *Crain's New York Business* named him one of the "Top 10 Most Influential Business Leaders" and inducted him into its Hall of Fame, which recognizes individuals who have transformed the City in both their professional work and in their civic and philanthropic activities.

Tisch is the author of three bestselling books: *The Power of We: Succeeding Through Partnerships*, *Chocolates on the Pillow Aren't Enough: Reinventing the Customer Experience*, and *Citizen You: Doing Your Part to Change the World*. He hosted the Emmy-nominated television series *Beyond the Boardroom*.

Tisch is a champion of corporate responsibility and active citizenship. More than 25 years ago, he initiated the Loews Hotels Good Neighbor Policy, a recipient of the US President's Service Award. He is vice chairman of the Board of Trustees of his alma mater, Tufts University, and is the naming benefactor of the Jonathan M. Tisch College of Civic Life at Tufts. In 2017, he was honored by the NYU School of Professional Studies with the naming of the Jonathan M. Tisch Center of Hospitality, of which he has been a driving force for years. He is a founding board member and vice chairman of The Shed, New York City's new arts center designed to commission, produce, and present all types of performing arts, visual arts, and popular culture.

A co-owner of the New York Giants, Tisch was instrumental in bringing the 2014 Super Bowl to the NYC metropolitan area and served as co-chair of the NY/NJ Super Bowl Host Committee.

Rob Torres

**Managing Director for Travel
Google**

With more than 20 years of travel industry experience, Rob Torres serves as Google's managing director of global sales for the travel sector. In this role, he is responsible for sales strategy and relationship management for Google's largest travel advertising clients. He oversees global deal activity with these partners and leads a team whose focus is to transform the way travel marketers connect with consumers using digital media and analytics.

Prior to joining Google, Torres was vice president of strategic partnerships at Expedia, the world's leading online travel company. During his seven-year career at Expedia, Torres managed a team that had global hotel responsibility, generating gross bookings in excess of \$2 billion.

Torres is active in the hospitality industry and community affairs. He currently serves as the chairman of the World Economic Forum Future of Mobility Council. In addition, he is on the boards of directors of the US Travel Association and the Adventure Travel Trade Association. He is on the advisory boards of Stop Poaching Now and Redeem. He also serves on the Innovation Council for One&Only Resorts. Twice, Torres has been listed among HSMIA's "Top 25 Extraordinary Minds in Sales and Marketing" and is a former chair of the association.

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Christina Trauthwein**Editor in Chief, Hospitality Group**
Hotel Business and InspireDesign

Christina Trauthwein is the editor in chief of *Hotel Business* and the newly launched *InspireDesign* media brands, overseeing all print, digital, and face-to-face products. Previously, she was editor in chief of professional publications in the architecture and interior design communities, both commercial and residential. Trauthwein's 20-plus years of brand leadership—in both print and digital media—have been focused on strategizing, writing, and editing features and stories about need-to-know industry topics, trends, industry leaders, and cutting-edge projects and products.

Scott Trebilco**Managing Director**
Blackstone

Scott Trebilco is a managing director in the Real Estate Group at Blackstone. He currently focuses on new investment opportunities in the hospitality sector. Since joining Blackstone in 2016, Trebilco has been involved in analyzing real estate investments in several property sectors and has led various transactions, including the following acquisitions: the Iconic Resorts hotel portfolio; Turtle Bay Resort; The Ritz-Carlton, Kapalua; JW Marriott San Antonio; and PSAV. Before joining Blackstone, Trebilco was a vice president in the Real Estate, Gaming, and Lodging investment banking group at Goldman, Sachs & Co. Trebilco earned degrees in finance and law from The University of Auckland, New Zealand, from which he graduated with honors.

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V

Homi Vazifdar**Managing Director
Canyon Equity**

Homi Vazifdar is the managing director of the Canyon Group. The Canyon Group owns and develops ultra-luxury resorts in exotic destinations around the world. The company currently owns assets in Europe, North America, Latin America, and the South Pacific. The Canyon Group's resorts are managed by marquee brands such as Aman Resorts and Four Seasons Hotels and Resorts.

Vazifdar is extremely passionate about the wonderful world of lodging. Over the years, he has touched almost every aspect of the industry and has worked with some of the stalwarts in the business. He is a frequent speaker at lodging and tourism conferences around the world and has more than 25 years of multifaceted lodging and hospitality experience, ranging from development and design to investment banking. Before founding Canyon Equity in 2005, he was the global head of lodging at Banc of America Securities in San Francisco, where he was involved in numerous high-profile transactions.

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41ST ANNUAL NYU

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Darrell Wade

**Co-Founder and Chairman
Intrepid Travel, Intrepid Group**

Darrell Wade is the co-founder of Intrepid Travel and chairman of Intrepid Group, the world's largest provider of adventure travel experiences. In 1989, Wade and co-founder Geoff Manchester created Intrepid Travel with a vision of a style of travel that would not only benefit travelers but also the places and people they visit. During the course of his career, Wade has been recognized as a leader in entrepreneurship and a passionate advocate for sustainable tourism. He spearheaded Intrepid's climate management program, with the company realizing its goal of becoming carbon neutral in 2010. Named Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year in 2002, Wade continues to drive a culture of innovation. In 2019, Intrepid Group was named one of the "World's Most Innovative Companies" in the travel sector by *Fast Company*. Wade is a member of the World Travel & Tourism Council Executive Committee.

Judd Wadholm

**Vice President, Owner Relations, Americas
Radisson Hotel Group**

Judd Wadholm serves as vice president, owner relations, Americas for Radisson Hotel Group. Wadholm is responsible for owner relations and portfolio management in the Americas. He is based in Minneapolis and reports to Aly El-Bassuni, senior vice president, franchise operations, Americas.

Wadholm joined Radisson Hotel Group in 2007 as a senior financial analyst and has held various roles throughout his tenure with the company. Most recently, he served as vice president, operations, midscale brands, Americas. In this role, he led a team of more than 30 professionals focused on driving hotel revenue, market share, and guest experience. He and his team delivered consulting strategies, training, and other brand-building activities to optimize performance for a portfolio of nearly 500 hotels.

Wadholm attended the University of North Dakota, where he graduated with a bachelor's degree in finance. He earned a master of business administration at St. Cloud State University.

Jeff Weinstein

**Editor in Chief
*HOTELS Magazine, HOTELS' Investment Outlook***

Jeff Weinstein has been editor in chief of *HOTELS* magazine since November 1994. In 1996, he created *HOTELS' Investment Outlook*, a quarterly publication for the hotel investment community. He also is responsible for developing the *HOTELS* website: hotelsmag.com. Starting in 1986, Weinstein was senior editor for *Restaurants & Institutions*, which covered all aspects of the foodservice industry in the United States. Weinstein, a five-time winner of the Jesse H. Neal Award presented by the American Business Press, is a journalism graduate of Drake University.

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Evan Weiss

**Chief Operating Officer, Principal
LW Hospitality Advisors**

Evan Weiss serves as chief operating officer, principal of LW Hospitality Advisors, the world's leading hospitality and gaming services firm, which specializes in a wide range of advisory, valuation, feasibility, investment counseling, asset management, property management, and transactional services that are focused on hotels, resorts, gaming properties, and conference center assets worldwide. As a co-founder of the firm, Weiss is responsible for client and vendor relationship management, business development, business strategy design and implementation, plans and procedures, establishment of policies that promote company culture and vision, oversight of daily company operations and the work of executives, and leadership that encourages employees' maximum performance and dedication.

Weiss previously worked in the Hospitality & Gaming Valuation Advisory Services Group at CBRE Hotels. He also held the position of director of operations for CARINO Hotels & Resorts, a sales and marketing firm. He gained operational experience while serving as general manager at City Food Bar, where he led corporate management and operations efforts.

Weiss holds a bachelor of science in hotel and tourism management from the NYU School of Professional Studies (NYUSPS) Jonathan M. Tisch Center of Hospitality. He served on the search committee for the associate dean of the NYUSPS Tisch Center, and he is an adjunct faculty member there. Following successful terms as board member, vice president, and president of the NYUSPS Tisch Center Alumni Society, Weiss served as a member of the NYUSPS Tisch Center Advisory Board, a role he recently has taken on once again. Weiss currently serves as an event chair for the UJA Hospitality Division, as well as a member of the Real Estate Executives (REX) Committee of the UJA-Federation of New York. He serves as the inaugural chair of the Hospitality Committee for AIAPC and is a member of the AIPAC Capitol Club and its Real Estate Committee. He serves on the NYU Hospitality Breakfast Advisory Committee and is a board member of the Real Estate Services Alliance (RESA). Weiss also is closely involved with Our Soldiers Speak, a 501(c)(3) based in Midtown Manhattan.

Adam F. Weissenberg

**Vice Chairman, Global Transportation, Hospitality & Services Leader and National Managing Partner, Audit & Assurance Clients and Industries
Deloitte**

Adam Weissenberg is the global leader of the Transportation, Hospitality & Services (THS) segment at Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu. In his global role, he is responsible for overseeing one of the largest global industry practices at Deloitte, which includes more than 1,500 professionals. He heads the strategic direction, operational execution, and overall leadership of the THS industry. He actively serves as a senior adviser to many of Deloitte's largest *Fortune* 500 hospitality, gaming, and food service clients. Weissenberg also was the lead client service partner to one of the firm's top 20 audit accounts, and he is an advisory partner for several hospitality accounts.

Based in New York, Weissenberg is a preeminent spokesperson and author on travel and hospitality trends. He is quoted regularly in national publications, including *The Wall Street Journal*, *The New York Times*, *USA Today*, *Forbes*, and *Travel + Leisure*. He also has been a guest on CNBC, Fox Business News, and Bloomberg.

With more than 25 years of experience in the THS marketplace, Weissenberg speaks frequently at national industry conferences and summits, including the World Travel & Tourism Council Summit and the New York University International Hospitality Industry Investment Conference, for which he serves on the steering committee. He also is a frequent speaker at the Cornell University School of Hotel Administration, where he serves on the Dean's Advisory Board. In 2012, Weissenberg was named one of "90 Influential Hoteliers" by Cornell University's *Hotelie* magazine.

Weissenberg earned a bachelor of science in hotel and restaurant administration from Cornell University and a master of business administration from Columbia University, where he majored in accounting and finance.

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Andrew Wharton**Managing Director
REH Capital Partners**

Andrew Wharton is a managing director of REH Capital Partners, based in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Wharton has more than 30 years of diversified operational, accounting, and finance experience in the real estate and hospitality industries, providing clients with owner's representation, operations performance improvement, litigation support, expert testimony, and transactional services.

Prior to joining REH, Wharton was managing director at KPMG, providing advisory services to a wide variety of hospitality and real estate clients. Prior to KPMG, Wharton was CFO of ResidenSea, where he provided overall leadership in the areas of finance and operations for this developer and operator of a first-of-its-kind luxury "resort at sea"—The World—which featured privately owned residential units, rental suites, and various amenities. Prior to ResidenSea, Wharton was a senior manager in KPMG's National Real Estate and Hospitality Practice, where he held various positions over his tenure with the firm.

Wharton is a certified public accountant. He earned a bachelor of science in accounting and finance from Florida State University.

Paul Whyte**Managing Director and Vice Chairman of Real Estate Investment Banking Capital Markets
Credit Suisse**

Paul Whyte is a managing director of Credit Suisse in the Investment Banking and Capital Markets division, based in New York City. He is the vice chairman of the Real Estate Investment Banking Group.

Whyte joined Credit Suisse in 2010 as the head of Real Estate Investment Banking in the United States. Prior to that, he was the co-head of Real Estate, Lodging, and Gaming in the United States at Deutsche Bank. His client focus includes both public and private real estate and lodging and gaming companies, for which he provides strategic advice and capital raising ideas. During his 25 years in investment banking, he has participated in more than \$80 billion of M&A transactions and has raised in excess of \$100 billion of capital for notable clients such as Blackstone, Harrah's, MGM Mirage, Starwood Hotels, and Wynn Resorts.

Whyte holds a BS from Purdue University and an MBA from the University of North Carolina.

James (Jim) Wiseman**President of Margaritaville Development
Margaritaville Holdings**

As president of Margaritaville Development, James (Jim) Wiseman oversees real estate development efforts for Margaritaville, the global brand inspired by the lifestyle and lyrics of singer, songwriter, and bestselling author Jimmy Buffett. Wiseman began his successful tenure at Margaritaville when he opened a top revenue-grossing Margaritaville restaurant at Broadway at the Beach festival retail center located in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. Under Wiseman's leadership, the brand's real estate collection now encompasses more than 65 restaurants, three casinos, and lodging that includes upscale timeshare properties and newly introduced resort communities.

A seasoned veteran in the development industry, Wiseman has held several executive positions throughout his career, including partner/developer of IMIC Hotel Group; partner/developer of Barefoot Landing festival retail center in Myrtle Beach; and developer of Grande Dunes, an award-winning 1,500-acre mixed-use project in Myrtle Beach with golf courses, a planned community, retail, a hotel, restaurants, and condominiums.

Prior to launching his thriving career in real estate development, design, and branding, Wiseman earned a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from the University of South Carolina and completed course work at Harvard University. He is a past board member of the University of South Carolina Foundation and is active in various charitable organizations.

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Nicole Wolf**Real Estate Manager
Sonder**

Nicole Wolf is a real estate manager for Sonder, where she is involved in prospecting, pitching, and closing real estate opportunities to expand the firm's presence in the New York metropolitan area. Prior to joining Sonder, Wolf was a director at MCR, where she was involved in the company's acquisition, development, and capital markets activities. She graduated from the NYUSPS Jonathan M. Tisch Center of Hospitality in 2016 with a BS in hospitality management and a concentration in hotel development.

Lawrence (Larry) B. Wolfe**Vice Chairman and Co-Head of Lodging
Newmark Knight Frank**

Lawrence (Larry) B. Wolfe is a vice chairman and co-head of the Lodging Capital Markets Group at Newmark Knight Frank (NKF). Prior to joining NKF in 2018, Wolfe was the founder and co-head of Eastdil Secured's lodging investment banking and brokerage group. During his career, Wolfe became one of the industry's most prolific advisers, completing more than \$200 billion of property sales, debt placements, and M&A advisory on behalf of REITs, C corporations, private equity firms, high-net-worth investors, and sovereign wealth funds. Wolfe also was a partner in Eastdil Realty, the predecessor of Eastdil Secured, and served on both firms' management committees.

Wolfe's notable recent transactions include the sale of the Waldorf Astoria New York on behalf of Hilton, the W New York on behalf of Host Hotels & Resorts, and the Parker Méridien New York.

In 2007, Wolfe was honored with the Jack A. Shaffer Financial Advisor of the Year Award. Wolfe is an active member of AHLA and the Urban Land Institute's Hotel Development Council, as well as various advisory boards at Johns Hopkins University and the University of Chicago. He is a frequent speaker and author on hotel capital markets activity.

Wolfe earned a master of business administration from the University of Chicago Booth School of Business, as well as a bachelor's degree in economics and a master's degree in engineering from Johns Hopkins University.

Len Wolman**Chairman and Chief Executive Officer
Waterford Hotel Group**

Len Wolman is the chairman and chief executive officer of Waterford Hotel Group. Under his leadership, Waterford has established itself as a leading company in the hospitality industry by developing and operating hotel, gaming, and venue properties totaling more than \$3 billion throughout the United States. Waterford has gained unparalleled experience in the hospitality industry through the development, ownership, and/or management of more than 100 hotels, 10,000 guest rooms, 700,000 square feet of convention and meeting space, and numerous dining establishments.

Wolman currently serves on the executive board of the Connecticut Science Center and is a member of the board of the University of Johannesburg's School of Tourism and Hospitality. He holds a national diploma in hotel management from the Hotel School of Technikon Witwatersrand in South Africa.

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Mark Woodworth**Senior Managing Director
CBRE Hotels Americas Research**

Mark Woodworth is senior managing director of CBRE Hotels Americas Research based in Atlanta. He has more than 35 years of hospitality industry advisory experience. Before joining CBRE, Woodworth was a partner and industry chairman of the Hospitality Industry Consulting practice for Coopers & Lybrand.

Woodworth has been quoted on hospitality issues in such noted publications as *The Wall Street Journal*, *The New York Times*, *The Los Angeles Times*, *The Washington Post*, *Barron's*, *USA Today*, and *Financial Times*, as well as in numerous industry publications. Woodworth is a frequent speaker at industry conferences and is a Dean's Distinguished Lecturer at Cornell University. He is a member of the Travel and Tourism Advisory Council for the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, the Conference of Business Economists, and the Hotel Development Council of the Urban Land Institute. He serves on the Atlanta Convention & Visitors Bureau Board of Directors, the finance committee of the United Way of Greater Atlanta, and the council at Henderson Mill Elementary School. He also advises the Georgia Hotel & Lodging Association. He completed a three-year term on the Center for Hospitality Research Board of Advisors at Cornell University.

Woodworth earned a BS and an MPS from the Cornell University School of Hotel Administration.

Larry Wright, Jr.**President and Chief Executive Officer
Wright Investments**

Larry Wright, Jr. worked at various positions in hotels owned by Wright Investments while pursuing his undergraduate degree. He began his corporate career as vice president of development for Wright, having worked previously at the property level. In his role as president/CEO, Wright is focused on forming strategy-driven and long-term relationships with partners, joint venture investors, lenders, hotel franchise companies, and other stakeholders to lead growth through acquisition, investment, and accretive deal structures. He has been a guest lecturer at New York University, Harvard University, and the University of Memphis, as well as at hotel and private equity conferences. He was founding member of the Urban Land Institute Memphis District Council and was the founder and chairman of the Young Leaders Group. Wright is a member of Young Presidents' Organization (YPO). He holds a master of science in real estate from New York University, and he graduated from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville with a BS in hotel and restaurant administration.



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Tony Zolla

**Senior Vice President of Global Digital Product and Technology
Hyatt Hotels Corporation**

Tony Zolla is senior vice president of global digital product and technology at Hyatt Hotels Corporation where he is responsible for all aspects of digital product development, including product strategy, user experience design, and systems engineering.

Prior to Hyatt, Zolla held a variety of digital leadership roles, including chief product officer at Cars.com, senior vice president of customer experience and product platforms at Redbox Automated Retail, and vice president of product and technology at Ticketmaster Entertainment. He has led multiple digital transformations, unlocking organizational agility to deliver compelling customer experiences and driving overall business growth. Zolla holds an MBA from Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management, a master's degree in computer science from DePaul University, and a bachelor's degree in information systems from Loyola University Chicago.