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Baker & Hostetler LLP—with offices in Los Angeles and Costa Mesa, CA; Denver, CO; Washington, DC; Orlando, FL; Atlanta, GA; Chicago, IL; New York, NY; Cincinnati, Cleveland and Columbus, OH; Philadelphia, PA; Houston, TX; and Seattle, WA—is one of the oldest and largest law firms in the country.

Having celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2016, the firm has extensive experience in timeshare resort structures and product design, development and management of resorts, franchising, financing, state registrations and intellectual-property protection. Its lawyers are experienced in handling matters ranging from simple acquisitions to sophisticated transactions that include complex financing, multiuse projects, developments of regional impact, land-use planning and permitting, construction, licensing, financing and ultimate disposition.

BakerHostetler attorneys have many years of experience in the vacation, travel and leisure industries. The Hospitality Industry Team is composed of attorneys from each of the firm's four practice groups—business, litigation, tax and personal planning, and employment law and benefits—with experience in their respective fields pertaining to product design, land acquisition and development, timeshare and condominium documentation, state registration, developer and manager operations, owners associations, financing structures, franchising, management, international transactions and marketing/sales issues. Since 1983, BakerHostetler lawyers have participated in the creation and revision of the laws and regulations affecting the timeshare industry in Florida, across the United States, and in Puerto Rico, Jamaica and the Bahamas. BakerHostetler also serves ARDA as national tax counsel, as national human resources counsel, as federal and state legislative and regulatory lobbyists, and as counsel to ARDA-Florida.

Kurt P. Gruber has been focusing his practice on matters of importance to BakerHostetler's hospitality clients for over 30 years. The knowledge and experience he garnered during his 8-year

tenure as General Counsel and Senior Vice President of Planning and Development for a timeshare development and management company also allows him to provide practical and in-depth advice. Kurt has served in many roles for ARDA, including as chair of the General Counsels' Council and as chair of ARDA's Resale Taskforce, and he currently serves as ARDA-Florida's general counsel and is a member of the Meetings Committee, Federal Issues Committee and State Legislative Committee.

John R. Lehrer is the lead tax partner for BakerHostetler's hospitality practice and is the Tax Group Coordinator for the firm's Washington, DC office. John maintains a strong M&A tax practice and is the "go to" tax counsel for diverse entities in the vacation ownership industry. John frequently lectures on various tax topics at seminars and conferences around the country, including at ARDA events. Prior to joining BakerHostetler, John worked in the national office of a global accounting firm and also served as Vice President and Deputy General Counsel of an international company.

John Melicharek is the team leader of the BakerHostetler Hospitality Industry Team, advising clients for over 30 years on transactional matters. He maintains a diverse real estate, business and finance practice with a strong emphasis on resorts, hotels and the travel and leisure industry. He is a member of the American, Florida and New Jersey Bar Associations and serves on the ARDA Finance Committee, and the Urban Land Institute Recreational Development Council.

Robert J. Webb has practiced law since 1980 and has been Board Certified in Real Estate Law by the Florida Bar since 1987. He currently serves as treasurer of ARDA, on the ARDA Executive Committee, on the ARDA board of directors, on the board of trustees of the ARDA International Foundation, and as chair of the ARDA Legislative Council. During a leave of absence from the firm in 2000, Rob served as president of firm client and multisite timeshare developer, Island One, Inc.

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