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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.

**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.

**Paul M. Schmidt**, formerly a legislation counsel to the U.S. Congress Joint Committee on Taxation, is the lead tax partner for Baker Hostetler's hospitality practice and international tax practice and is Group Chair of the firm's tax practice. His practice focuses on tax-efficient structuring of international projects. Paul serves as national tax counsel to ARDA and is a frequent speaker on domestic and international tax laws. He has served as Chair of the International Technical Resource Panel of the AICPA and an adjunct Professor of Law, teaching international tax at Georgetown University.

**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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