2026

Dallas Hotel Conference



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AGENDA

3:00 p.m.	**WELCOME** Dan Bachrach, *Partner, Hospitality & Leisure Team*, Foley & Lardner LLP
3:05 p.m.	**MARKET UPDATE: KEY INDICATORS SHAPING THE U.S. AND DALLAS HOSPITALITY LANDSCAPE** Daniel Lesser, *Co-Founder, President & CEO*, LW Hospitality Advisors
3:25 p.m.	**FIRESIDE CHAT** **Moderator:** Cliff Risman, *Partner*, *Co-Chair*, *Hospitality & Leisure Team*, Foley & Lardner LLP **Guest:** Horst Schulze, *Co-Founder*, The Ritz-Carlton Hotel Company
4:05 p.m.	**LEGISLATIVE UPDATE** Matt Carrier, *Senior Vice President,* American Hotel & Lodging Association
4:25 p.m.	**LEADERS PANEL** **Moderator:** Andrea Belfanti, *CEO*, International Society of Hospitality Consultants (ISHC) **Panelists:** Glenn Alba, *Co-Founder & Managing Partner,* Montford Group Paul Coury, *Founder & CEO*, Coury Hospitality Warren Fields, *President & CEO,* Pyramid Global Hospitality Noah J. Silverman, *Global Development Officer, US & Canada*, Marriott International
5:05 p.m.	**DALLAS–FORT WORTH 2026 HOTEL TRANSACTION-OF-THE-YEAR AWARD** Lena Combs, *Partner and Team Leader, Hospitality Services Team,* Withum
5:15 p.m.	**ADJOURN** Dan Bachrach, *Partner, Hospitality & Leisure Team*, Foley & Lardner LLP

Please join us for a lively cocktail networking reception immediately following the conference.

MODERATORS & PANELISTS



Glenn Alba

Co-Founder & Managing Partner
Montford Group

Glenn Alba is Co-Founder and Managing Partner of Montford Group, an established real estate and hotel investor with more than 25 years of institutional investing experience across all types of commercial real estate in the United States, Canada, the Caribbean, and Western Europe. He brings significant expertise in financing, asset management, valuations and dispositions of real estate, having personally handled more than $4 billion of hotel asset sales.

Alba's exceptional career includes a 20-year tenure with Blackstone Real Estate, one of the largest buyers, sellers and managers of commercial real estate in the world with Real Estate Assets Under Management of $111.3 billion at the time of his departure. During his tenure, Alba served as Head of Global Portfolio Management and led the Asset Management of Blackstone Real Estate hotel investments in the United States.

Prior to co-founding Montford Group, Alba founded and served as CEO of Opterra Capital, a real estate investment sponsor and operating partner, capital markets advisor and asset management firm.

Alba is an accomplished industry executive and currently serves on the Board of Managers at Aimbridge Hospitality, Inc. and chairs the Growth Committee. He previously served as a Board Member for CorePoint Lodging Inc. (NYSE: CPLG), and La Quinta Holdings, Inc. (NYSE: LQ).

MODERATORS & PANELISTS



Dan Bachrach

Partner, Hospitality & Leisure Team
Foley & Lardner LLP

Dan Bachrach focuses his practice on the condominium, hotel, resort, and hospitality industry, including residential, commercial, and mixed-use condominiums, timeshare, condominium hotels (condotels), private residence clubs, fractional projects, restaurants, and travel clubs. He is a partner in the firm's Real Estate Practice and the Hospitality & Leisure Industry Team and is board-certified in Condominium and Planned Land Development Law by the Florida Bar Board of Legal Specialization and Education.



Andrea Belfanti

Chief Executive Officer
International Society of Hospitality Consultants (ISHC)

Andrea Belfanti is the CEO for the International Society of Hospitality Consultants (ISHC), The Leading Source for Global Hospitality Expertise, represented by the industry's most respected hospitality professionals worldwide. Andrea has been with ISHC since 2009 and has over 25 years of experience in the hospitality industry with previously held positions in a variety of hospitality sectors. She is a regular speaker and presenter at industry events and currently serves on the planning committees for numerous hospitality investment conferences. Andrea sits on the Advisory Board for the University of South Carolina's School of Hotel, Restaurant & Tourism Management, where she earned her bachelor's degree.

ISHC is a professional society with over 200 members with work experience in over 60 countries. Membership is by invitation only and members are owners, principals, directors, and/or officers in their firms and are leaders in the industry in their respective areas of expertise.

MODERATORS & PANELISTS



Matt Carrier

Senior Vice President, Federal Government Affairs
American Hotel & Lodging Association (AHLA)

Matt Carrier serves as the Senior Vice President, Federal Government Affairs for AHLA. In this role, Matt leads the industry's engagement with Congress and the Federal Government and oversees AHLA's Federal Government Affairs team.

Prior to AHLA, Matt spent nearly a decade across the hotel distribution and technology space, most recently at Marriott International. Prior to joining Marriott, Matt worked at Kalibri Labs, where he managed hotel industry client relationships and educational efforts. With family roots in the hotel and lodging industry, Carrier is committed to advancing the hotel industry. He is a graduate of Cornell University, where he studied hotel administration.



Lena Combs

CPA, CGMA, Partner and Team Leader, Hospitality Services Team
Withum

Lena Combs is a partner and Team Leader for the Withum Hospitality Services Team, specializing in accounting and audit services for clients in the hotel and lodging industry. She also works with clients in the not-for-profit, education and professional services industries. With over 30 years of experience, Lena has a proven track record of enhancing guest experiences, optimizing operations, and driving revenue growth for some of the most prestigious hotel and resort brands in the world. Her deep understanding of industry trends and innovative approach make her a sought-after consultant and advisor.

Lena's commitment to excellence and her passion for the industry are evident in every project she undertakes, ensuring that her clients achieve outstanding results and maintain a competitive edge in the market. Her service areas of expertise include agreed-upon procedures, business analysis, client-outsourced services, compliance and performance audits, internal control evaluation and operational and financial consulting.

MODERATORS & PANELISTS



Paul Coury

Founder & CEO
Coury Hospitality

Paul Coury is the Founder and CEO of Coury Hospitality, a visionary leader in the lifestyle hotel industry. His strategic leadership has shaped a multi-award-winning portfolio, renowned for immersive design, exceptional service, and distinctive guest experiences. Since transforming The Ambassador Hotel Tulsa in 1999, Paul has led Coury Hospitality's expansion, with properties that authentically capture local culture and cuisine at the highest caliber.

Paul began his career in banking before launching Coury Properties in 1985, developing offices, retail, golf courses, and land. Managing a collection of golf resorts and hotels ignited his passion for hospitality, inspiring him to shift his focus entirely to the industry. Today, Paul remains intimately involved in every facet of Coury Hospitality, from development to operations and design.

An industry trailblazer, Paul serves as the President of the Autograph Collection and Tribute Portfolio Advisory Boards and is actively involved in philanthropy and community leadership.

MODERATORS & PANELISTS



Warren Fields

President & Chief Executive Officer
Pyramid Hotel Group

Warren Fields leads Pyramid Global Hospitality as its Chief Executive Officer, and founding partner, focusing his time on strategic growth, planning, and development of the organization. Pyramid Global Hospitality was formed by the 2021 merger of three hotel and resort management companies, creating the most owner-focused, experiential company in the industry and its best workplace. The organization's global portfolio spans more than 220 properties in the U.S., Caribbean and Europe. It maintains offices in Boston; The Woodlands, Texas; Cincinnati; and London. Warren oversaw the growth of Pyramid and previous to his responsibilities as CEO, was the company's Chief Investment Officer responsible for business development, via acquisitions, third-party management and asset management contracts, fundraising, development, and new investment opportunities, including mergers & acquisitions.

Warren possesses over three decades of experience in all facets of hospitality acquisitions, development, finance, and operations. He is the former Vice President of Development & Operations for Promus Hotel Corporation, which was sold to Hilton Hotel Corporation in 1999. At Promus he developed and implemented a strategy for creating a new hotel brand, eventually growing the portfolio from 0 to 30 properties. Following the sale of Promus, he returned to Boston in 1999 to form Pyramid Hotel Group. Warren began his career with Beacon Hotel Corporation, a predecessor company to Promus, where he served as Vice President of Development for Guest Quarters Hotels, and later DoubleTree. In 2019, Warren was named to the Board of Directors of Massachusetts Port Authority by the Governor. He is a graduate of the Cornell University School of Hotel Administration and a member of its Advisory Board.

MODERATORS & PANELISTS



Daniel Lesser

Co-Founder, President & Chief Executive Officer
LW Hospitality Advisors LLC

Daniel H. Lesser, Co-Founder, President, & CEO of LW Hospitality Advisors has more than forty years of specialized experience in hospitality related: real estate appraisals, economic feasibility evaluations, investment counseling, asset management, receivership, and transactional services of hotels, resorts, conference centers, casinos, mixed use facilities, spa & wellness properties, and timeshare/fractional ownership properties.

An international authority and thought leader with iron clad credibility, Mr. Lesser offers a 360-degree, cross-functional and multi-disciplinary lodging industry perspective. Proffering innovation and strategy Mr. Lesser serves as a third-party advisor and independent expert witness, neutral arbitrator, business model canvasser, asset manager, property/business receiver, and as a principal investor, borrower, guarantor, franchisee. Mr. Lesser provides services to corporate, institutional, municipalities, and individual clients on all facets of hospitality real estate. Mr. Lesser has served as a Court Appointed Receiver in connection with dozens of hotels throughout the U.S.

MODERATORS & PANELISTS



Cliff Risman

Partner, Co-Chair, Hospitality & Leisure Team
Foley & Lardner LLP

Cliff Risman is a veteran real estate lawyer who represents companies that develop, own, operate, and finance hotels and resorts around the world. As co-chair of the firm's Hospitality & Leisure Industry Team and a member of the Real Estate Practice, Cliff is described by clients in Chambers USA as "very practical and always accessible." Clients choose Cliff over competitors because he speaks the language and fully understands every aspect of their business — from securing capital, structuring deals, and negotiating management contracts, to guiding clients through labor, tax, food and beverage, and operational matters and disputes.

Cliff represents luxury and boutique hotel and resort owners, developers, brands, operators and management companies, private equity firms, family offices, and other investors in their highest-profile projects around the world.

He understands how to best tackle the various agreements that arise in real estate law, he knows the hospitality industry and its unique business and economic issues, and he has guided clients through many complex development, acquisition, financing, and operating matters, receiverships, workouts, and dispute resolutions. Cliff ensures that clients are protected, focuses intently on their broader business goals, and knows how, where, and when to push to get the deal done as quickly as possible.

MODERATORS & PANELISTS



Horst Schulze

Co-Founder

The Ritz-Carlton Hotel Company

A legend and leader in the hotel world, Horst Schulze's teachings and vision have reshaped the concepts of service and hospitality across industries.

Mr. Schulze's professional life began more than 70 years ago as a server's assistant in a German resort town. Throughout the years he worked for both Hilton Hotels and Hyatt Hotels Corporation before becoming one of the founding members of The Ritz-Carlton Hotel Company in 1983. There Mr. Schulze created the operating and service standards that have become world famous.

During his tenure at The Ritz-Carlton, Mr. Schulze served as President and COO, responsible for the $2 billion operations worldwide. It was under his leadership that The Ritz-Carlton Hotel Company became the first service-based company to be awarded the prestigious Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award — twice.

In 1991, Mr. Schulze was recognized as ""corporate hotelier of the world"" by HOTELS magazine. In 1995, he was awarded the Ishikawa Medal for his personal contributions to the quality movement. In 1999, Johnson & Wales University gave him an honorary Doctor of Business Administration degree in Hospitality Management. More recently, Mr. Schulze was honored with the "Legacy of Innovation and Inspiration Award" by Historic Hotels of America.

After leaving The Ritz-Carlton Hotel Company, Mr. Schulze went on to found The Capella Hotel Group. This luxury hotel company managed some of the most elite properties worldwide, and gave Mr. Schulze the opportunity to further define the luxury hotel industry, receiving countless awards and recognitions.

In 2022, Auburn University announced its school of hospitality would forevermore be named The Horst Schulze School of Hospitality Management.

Today, Mr. Schulze serves on numerous boards and is a sought-after keynote speaker and consultant. His first book, titled "Excellence Wins," was published in 2019 and has sold over 100,000 copies.

MODERATORS & PANELISTS



Noah J. Silverman

Global Development Officer, U.S. & Canada
Marriott International

Noah Silverman is Global Development Officer, U.S. & Canada, for Marriott International, Inc., where he is responsible for the development of all Marriott brands in the United States and Canada.

Previously, Mr. Silverman served as Chief Development Officer, U.S. & Canada Full Service Hotels, overseeing all aspects of the development process in the United States and Canada for the company's luxury and premium brands. Before that appointment in May 2011, he held leadership roles in asset management and finance, including Senior Vice President, Global Asset Management; Senior Vice President, Development Asset Management; Senior Vice President, Project Finance; and Vice President, Global Asset Management.

Mr. Silverman joined Marriott in July 1997 as an attorney in the Marriott Law Department. Earlier, he was an associate with the law firm of Covington & Burling in Washington, D.C. He holds an A.B. from Princeton University and a J.D. from the University of Pennsylvania Law School.

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Foley & Lardner LLP is a preeminent law firm with a nationally recognized Hospitality & Leisure Team comprised of over 70 corporate, real estate, finance, tax, employment, and litigation attorneys. We apply a multidisciplinary approach to delivering industry-specific services related to golf courses, clubs, hotels and restaurants, resorts, condominiums, fractional ownership and timeshare properties, and we understand our clients' priorities to deliver top quality service and memorable experiences in this extremely competitive market.

The Foley Hospitality & Leisure Team combines powerful resources and award-winning client service to focus on the constantly evolving demands facing our clients and act as trusted business advisors to deliver creative, practical, and effective solutions. Clients know we will work side-by-side with them through the entire life cycle of their asset, negotiating a full range of agreements and helping them realize and protect the value of their assets and brands.

When cross-disciplinary issues and business disputes arise, clients benefit from our team of skilled labor and employment, intellectual property, privacy, consumer finance, environmental, food & beverage, real estate, corporate, tax, and litigation lawyers to provide strategic guidance and drive forward their interests and investments in hospitality and leisure.

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Coury Hospitality is a premier hotel and restaurant management company, delivering exceptional service and unmatched experiences at hotels.

NexPoint is an alternative investment firm operating across different industries and asset classes focusing on real estate, corporate credit and equities, and retirement solutions.

SILVER

Marriott International offers the most powerful portfolio in the industry, with more than 30 leading brands and over 10,000 properties in 146 countries and territories, giving people more ways to connect, experience and expand their world.

Withum is a forward-thinking, technology-driven advisory and accounting firm, helping clients to Be in a Position of Strength in today's complex business environment.