



2018 Planning Team (left to right): Tom Patriarca and Donna Lamontagne; Andy and Lynn Kopon; Deborah and Craig Thompson

## WELCOME TO LA QUINTA

Welcome to La Quinta! We look forward to sharing the history and beauty of this Palm Springs destination with you this February for the 2018 Midyear Meeting. The La Quinta Resort & Club is in the Coachella Valley, sheltered on all sides by mountains. This location is known as a secret getaway for the Hollywood Stars. Before the Stars, the Cahuilla people lived in the area for hundreds of years. This location is nicknamed the “gem of the desert” – and for good reason. La Quinta Resort & Club has championship golf courses, tennis, biking, hiking, swimming, and horseback riding. Our General Convention Chairs, Donna Lamontagne and Tom Patriarca, the planning team, staff, and CLE Committees have been hard at work putting together an outstanding program for all of us. This year’s Midyear Meeting programming revolves around the Rule of Law. The CLE Steering Committee, led by Bob Redmond, has carefully selected timely topics and speakers that will be interesting and relevant.

Foundation Forum speaker Immaculée Ilibagiza, survivor of the 1994 Rwandan genocide and author of *Left to Tell*, kicks off our meeting on Sunday, February 11. Our timely General Interest Speaker, Bill Browder, CEO and co-founder of the Hermitage Fund, will join us live via video conference on Tuesday, February 13, where he will talk about his much discussed book, *Red Notice: A True Story of High Finance, Murder, and One Man’s Fight for Justice*, and the current developments related to this story. The other continuing education programs offered throughout the week will feature topics that are applicable to you and your practice. The CLE programs will address important issues such as a panel presentation on corporate responsibility and human trafficking led by The Honorable Virginia M. Kendall from the Northern District Court of Illinois. Other topics on the major CLE program include: inside counsel perspectives, ageism and sexism in court, professional responsibility, and much, much more.

Socially, get ready for some fun. Enjoy the desert setting of La Quinta, the *Palm Springs Celebrity Theme Party*, and on our final evening together – the *Old La Quinta Cena y Baile*. We have lots of other receptions and tours and activities planned that you will surely enjoy.

Thank you to everyone who has worked hard to ensure that the 2018 Midyear Meeting will be memorable.

We are looking forward to our time together in La Quinta; we have a lot to discuss and we hope to see you there.

- Andy and Lynn Kopon