



2019 Planning Team (l to r): Tim and Amy Fischer; Deborah St. Lawrence Thompson and Craig Thompson; Michelle and Jon Hernandez

## Welcome to Asheville!

Greetings! We are returning to The Omni Grove Park Inn for our 2019 Annual Meeting, and we are so excited to be back. The Omni Grove Park Inn in Asheville, North Carolina has celebrated more than 100 years of excellence – something we will get to say ourselves next year during our Centennial Celebration – which makes this property so special and full of a lot of rich history. Asheville itself is nestled in the Blue Ridge Mountains and is known for its vibrant downtown – restaurants, coffeehouses, microbreweries, museums, galleries, bookstores, antique shops, and boutiques. This will be a perfect city for our group to explore and experience.

Our General Convention Chairs, Michelle and Jon Hernandez, along with the planning team, staff, and our various CLE Committees have been working hard to put together a program centered around this year's theme: *One World. One Mission. One IADC.* The CLE Steering Committee, led by Alba Arriaga Romano, has put together educational sessions that really highlight hot topics and follow up on significant and recent developments which are important to our profession.

*IADC Talks* returns this meeting! Our Open Forum program “IADC Talks: Humanity United” will kick off our meeting on Monday, July 8 where some of our members will share personal stories of struggle, sadness, joy, and success to remind us all that our journeys and life experiences connect us. Our continuing education programs offered throughout the week will feature topics that are relevant to you and your practice. Some of the topics that we will dive into include how to celebrate diversity without increasing division; what issues face the international insurance market; the importance of managing attention despite constant daily distractions; and real experiences with pro bono issues. These are programs you won't want to miss.

We have so many great activities and events planned, so be ready to have some fun. We are honoring the spirit of my hometown of Baltimore for our theme party and channeling the Great Gatsby for our final nights Gala. We've got an adult and a kids book review planned, so be sure to get reading! We have lots of other receptions, solo activities, tours, fun for the family, and gatherings planned, so make sure to check out all the details in the following pages of the brochure.

We look forward to seeing you in Asheville!

Craig Thompson and Deborah St. Lawrence Thompson