



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

WELCOME TO SANTA BARBARA

Greetings! We are so excited to bring you with us to Santa Barbara, California in February for the 2019 Midyear Meeting. *America's Riviera* boasts everything from sparkling seas to lush gardens to cascading hills – the perfect retreat to learn, network, and connect with our community. The Ritz-Carlton Bacara overlooks the Pacific and embodies the charm, beauty, and energy of the Mediterranean in the heart of California. The Ritz-Carlton Bacara has an indulgent spa, dining that celebrates local ingredients, and is within reach of golf, tennis, beaches, and lots of outdoor adventures. Our General Convention Chairs, Michelle and Jon Hernandez, the planning team, IADC staff, and our various CLE Committees have been working hard to create a program fitting of this year's theme – One World. One Mission. One IADC. The CLE Steering Committee, led by Jim Rogers, has thoughtfully curated educational sessions that not only highlight current topics, but ones that are also really important to our profession.

Foundation Forum speaker Kimberley Motley, the first foreign litigator in Afghanistan, kicks off our meeting on Sunday, February 24. 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 why pro bono appeals are good for business; GDPR and its impact in the EU and in the US thus far; a mid-term review of the Trump Administration's Department of Justice and their priorities; and what kind of advice to give clients and law firms as we navigate our way through the current social media climate. These are programs you won't want to miss.

We have a lot of great evening events planned, so be ready for some fun too. We are embracing the Old Spanish Days Fiesta for our theme party, which is a tradition that has continued for nearly 90 years. It encourages community cooperation, celebration, and growth - perfect for our group! On our last evening together, we will celebrate the meeting with the *Essence of Santa Barbara* Dinner Dance – a great way to wrap up our meeting. We have lots of other receptions, solo activities, tours, and gatherings planned, so make sure to check out all the details in the brochure.

We look forward to our time together in Santa Barbara!

Craig Thompson and Deborah St. Lawrence Thompson