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Ladies and Gentlemen,

Welcome to the 13th Annual Hotel & Lodging Legal Summit at Georgetown University Law Center. I am grateful to the 92 professionals, including Advisory Board and Planning Committee members, speakers, Student Contributors and the team at Georgetown Law's Lifetime Learning department, who have contributed to the success of this year's conference. I am also grateful to the 23 law firms and hotel companies that are sponsoring the conference.

This year's conference brings together over 250 professionals from throughout North America to network and discuss the most important legal issues challenging the hotel and lodging industry. This year, allow me to extend an especially warm welcome to our attendees from Canada and Mexico.

Today, we begin with the third in a series of pre-conference primers on transactions fundamental to hotel developments. This year's primer focuses on loan transactions and is hosted by Troutman Pepper Locke (401 9th Street, N.W., Suite 1000). (Next year's primer will be on franchise agreements, and we will hopefully repeat the cycle beginning in 2027.) Whether or not you attend the primer today, I encourage you to attend tonight's welcoming reception hosted by Womble Bond Dickinson (2001 K Street, N.W., Suite 400 South).

Tomorrow, we will return to the Hart Auditorium of McDonough Hall on Georgetown's Capitol Campus for the first time since 2019. The auditorium has been thoroughly renovated and I look forward to using its new audio-visual technology. Tomorrow night's reception will be held on the top floor of new McCourt Building, across the quadrangle from McDonough Hall. The space has an outdoor area and a stunning view of the U.S. Capitol Building. I encourage you to check it out.

We will reconvene in the Hart Auditorium Friday morning for plenary sessions, with breakout sessions there and on the Second Floor of McDonough Hall Friday afternoon.

This is the third year during which we have involved Student Contributors in planning the conference. If you know any law students (at any law school, having completed the 1L year) who are interested in the hotel and lodging industry, I encourage you to inform them of this opportunity for future conferences.

I look forward to catching up with old friends and meeting new ones at this year's event. Please let me know if you have any questions or if I may be of assistance during or after the conference.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bob Lannan', written over a horizontal line.

Bob Lannan
Conference Co-Chair
Georgetown University C '92, L '95