



HOTELS • PLAZAS • RESORTS & VILLAS • SUITES

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To Whom It May Concern:

By way of introduction and to establish my credentials for the reader, I am a career hotelier. I owned and operated one of the nation's largest hotel management companies and was President and CEO of the Ramada chain for over a decade. I am currently President/CEO of Hospitality Solutions, as well as President/CEO and Partner of the Lexington Hotel Collection. All this background is to say that I know hotels, and the people that design, build and run them.

I have had the distinct pleasure of knowing and working with Robert H. Leslie for 12 years. He is a visionary who has enjoyed great success as an entrepreneur, developer and builder. At the helm of Lexstar Development & Construction, Bob has had extensive experience in designing, building and renovating hotels. One of the best examples of his experience is the Ramada Plaza Suites in Fargo. This hotel, which was designed and built by Lexstar, is a world-class example of majestic design and quality construction. He also has build or renovated hotels in several other Midwest cities.

In addition to designing and building the Ramada, no one, and I mean no one, ran a better operation or had higher standards. Year after year, Bob Leslie ran the number one ranked Ramada in the country. He has a way of infusing his entire staff with loyalty and a commitment to providing excellent customer service.

Bob is clearly the most memorable person in my professional past. I have never met a person with such a passion and commitment to exceptional customer service and product quality.

Respectfully,

Steven J. Belmonte, CHA
President & CEO, Lexington Hotels
President & CEO, Hospitality Solutions, L.L.C.
President & CEO Ramada Hotels (1991-2002)
Chairman American Hotel & Lodging Foundation (1995-2001)

