

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK**

STARWOOD HOTELS & RESORTS  
WORLDWIDE, INC.,

Plaintiff,

- against -

HILTON HOTELS CORPORATION, ROSS  
KLEIN AND AMAR LALVANI,

Defendants.

No.

**09 CIV. 3862**

**JUDGE ROBINSON  
COMPLAINT**

Plaintiff, Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide, Inc. ("Starwood" or "Plaintiff"), by its undersigned counsel, as and for its Complaint against Defendants Hilton Hotels Corporation ("Hilton"), Ross Klein ("Klein") and Amar Lalvani ("Lalvani"), alleges as follows:

**NATURE OF LAWSUIT**

1. Starwood and Hilton are direct, head-to-head competitors. In 2007, the Blackstone Group, a private equity firm, acquired Hilton for over \$20 billion in a top-of-the-market, highly leveraged buyout. As reported in the press: "With Blackstone having paid a super-premium price for Hilton, [CEO Christopher Nassetta] will be under intense pressure to deliver immediate results." This case involves the ransacking and theft of more than 100,000 electronic and hard copy files containing Starwood's most competitively sensitive information, and the improper use by Hilton of that information in the development of Hilton's new Denizen hotel brand and in unfair competition with Starwood. The large volume of confidential information taken is extraordinary. This is the clearest imaginable case of corporate espionage, theft of trade secrets, unfair competition and computer fraud.

2. Defendants Klein and Lalvani were President and Senior Vice President, respectively, of Starwood's Luxury Brands Group. Both were intimately involved in and aware

of the strategy and planned future development of Starwood's lifestyle and luxury hotel brands: the St. Regis, W Hotels and The Luxury Collection. Both Klein and Lalvani had access to the forward-looking strategic development plans approved at Starwood's highest level for the marketing, growth and development, worldwide, of Starwood's lifestyle and luxury hotel brands. In addition to their duties of loyalty, both Klein and Lalvani had written agreements with Starwood requiring them to protect the confidentiality of the Starwood information to which they had access.

3. Unbeknownst to Starwood, in February 2008 Christopher Nassetta, Hilton's President & Chief Executive Officer, began recruiting Klein to join Hilton. Klein immediately misused his position as President of Starwood's Luxury Brands Group to request large volumes of confidential information from Starwood employees, which he took home, had loaded on a personal laptop computer and/or forwarded to a personal e-mail account, and which he then took to and used at and for Hilton. Klein lied to Starwood, stole confidential information, and, through fraud and deceit, extracted a severance payment of more than \$600,000.

4. Unbeknownst to Starwood, in March 2008 Steven Goldman, Hilton's President of Global Development & Real Estate, began recruiting Lalvani to join Hilton. Goldman told Lalvani that Hilton was a "clean slate" and "you're the first guy on my list." Lalvani responded: "Other idea is bring over the core W team which has created an enormous amount of value and is very loyal to me to build a new brand for you guys. Not sure your appetite but I know I could make that happen as well." Before joining Goldman at Hilton, Lalvani, too, misused his position at Starwood and secretly downloaded large quantities of confidential Starwood documents, which he brought with him to and used at Hilton.

5. In June 2008, Klein and Lalvani began work at Hilton as Hilton's Global Head of Luxury & Lifestyle Brands and Global Head of Luxury & Lifestyle Brand Development, respectively. Hilton announced their appointments, stating:

"These new hires will help advance Hilton's strategic goal of further developing its presence in the luxury and lifestyle sectors. . . . At Hilton, Mr. Klein will oversee the company's global luxury and lifestyle brand portfolio, including Waldorf-Astoria, the Waldorf-Astoria Collection and Conrad, and will spearhead the company's entry into the lifestyle segment. Mr. Lalvani will lead the global development of Hilton's luxury and lifestyle segments."

6. This is not a case where an employee took with him or her to a new job a few confidential mementos of a prior career. This case involves corporate espionage and the looting through computer fraud of a mountain of information. Unbeknownst to Starwood at the time, and in contravention of their fiduciary duties, Starwood policy and the express terms of their written agreements with Starwood, Klein and Lalvani took and encouraged other Starwood employees to take with them to Hilton over 100,000 electronic and hard copy files, many containing highly confidential and proprietary Starwood information and trade secrets. The sheer volume of theft is extraordinary, and may be unprecedented. The materials taken to Hilton by Klein and Lalvani are among Starwood's most competitively sensitive information and included:

- **Starwood's Forward-Looking Strategic Development Plans**, containing Starwood's highly confidential and proprietary current and prospective strategies for the development of its W, St. Regis and The Luxury Collection brands, including the W Hotels Worldwide Strategic Brand Plans for 2007-2009 and 2008-2010; the St. Regis Strategic Brand Plan for 2008-2010; and The Luxury Collection Strategic Brand Plan for 2008-2010.
- **Starwood's Principal Term Prioritization Worksheets**, containing Starwood's highly confidential and proprietary current and prospective negotiation strategies with owners ranked by importance to Starwood for numerous deal terms, including performance tests, termination on sale provisions, residential fees, technical services fees, financing-related provisions, investment requirements, legal issues and many other terms.
- **Starwood's Property Improvement Plan** templates for how to create "the Ultimate W Experience" in conversion properties, providing step-by-step details for how to convert a hotel property to a W branded hotel.

- **Starwood's confidential computer files** containing the names, addresses and other non-public information for its Luxury Brands Group owners, developers and designers compiled by Starwood.
- **Recent presentations to Starwood's executive leadership team** containing current and prospective financial, branding and marketing information for Starwood's lifestyle and luxury brands.
- **Starwood's site-specific Project Approval Requests**, which set out in detail the costs, fee structures, termination provisions and other highly sensitive and competitively useful information for Starwood properties and targeted properties around the world.
- **Confidential and proprietary marketing and demographic studies**, confidential to Starwood and used by Starwood in its global marketing and development plans, for which Starwood paid third parties over \$1,000,000.
- **Starwood's W Residential Guidelines 2008**, containing Starwood's strategies and proprietary toolkits for residential development in or at W hotels.
- **Starwood's W Hotels "Brand in a Box" modules and training materials**, containing Starwood's proprietary training, operational materials and procedures for opening a new lifestyle hotel, as well as materials for promotional strategies and detailed guidelines on how to launch a new brand.
- **Starwood's W Advisory Board Presentation**, containing the strategic thinking and considerations of the Advisory Board for Starwood's W brand.
- **Starwood's Luxury Brands Group "Brand Bibles," brand handbooks, brand immersion materials, and brand marketing plans**, containing detailed plans for current and prospective branding, marketing, development and expansion of Starwood's leading lifestyle and luxury brands, including the complete set of proprietary design genres and signature elements for W and St. Regis.

7. Hilton, Klein and Lalvani did not stop at the theft of large volumes of Starwood's confidential and proprietary information. Hilton and Blackstone, in many instances through Klein or Lalvani, also recruited additional Starwood employees to join Klein and Lalvani at Hilton and to bring with them to Hilton additional confidential, competitively sensitive Starwood information in violation of their fiduciary duties and the express terms of their obligations to and employment agreements with Starwood. These included:

<u>Individual</u>	<u>Former Starwood Position</u>	<u>Current Hilton Position</u>
Christopher Kochuba	Vice President, Development Planning & Design Management, Luxury Brands Group	Vice President, Planning and Programming, Global Luxury and Lifestyle Brands
Erin Shaffer	Senior Manager, Brand Marketing, Luxury Brands Group	Senior Director, Communications and Partnerships
Jeff Darnell	General Manager W Hotel Los Angeles	Vice President Brand Operations
Stephanie Heer	Marketing Manager, W Hotel Los Angeles	Brand Marketing Manager, Conrad Hotels
Erin Green	Director, W Development, Europe, Africa and Middle East	Senior Development Director, Luxury and Lifestyle (Europe and Africa)
Elie Younes	Senior Director, Acquisitions & Development, Europe, Africa and Middle East	Vice President, Development (Middle East)
Leah Corradino	Marketing Manager, W Hotel San Diego	Brand Marketing Manager, Waldorf Astoria & Waldorf Astoria Collection
Susan Manrao	Senior Manager, Interior Style & Design Standards	Senior Director of Design and Brand Experience

8. In light of the continued solicitation of Starwood employees, in November 2008, Starwood commenced an arbitration against Klein based on violation of the non-solicitation provisions of his employment contract and his separation agreement with Starwood.

9. At the time, Starwood had no idea that Klein, Lalvani and others working in concert with them and with Hilton had looted Starwood's computer and paper files and had purloined Starwood's most confidential and competitively sensitive information for use by Hilton.

10. The unauthorized accessing of Starwood's computer systems and files and the theft of Starwood's highly confidential and competitively sensitive business plans and other confidential and proprietary information was unknown to Starwood until February 2009, when,

three months after Starwood requested that Hilton preserve all information relevant to the arbitration with Klein, Hilton delivered to Starwood eight large boxes of computer hard drives, zip drives, thumb drives and paper records containing massive quantities of highly confidential and proprietary Starwood files. On the computer drives returned by Hilton are over 100,000 files downloaded from Starwood's computers systems and files.

11. In delivering this mountain of confidential material to Starwood, Hilton informed Starwood that Defendant Klein and "other Hilton employees who formerly worked for Starwood" had "brought to Hilton documents or materials that they developed or acquired while they worked for Starwood." Hilton further informed Starwood that former Starwood employees now at Hilton had additional Starwood materials "at home." Despite knowing that Klein and Lalvani have stolen a huge amount of confidential information from Starwood, Hilton continues to employ them, Hilton continues hold them out to the public as Hilton's brand leaders, and Hilton continues to present them as Hilton representatives in meetings with owners and developers that are in contract relationships with Starwood where they are using Starwood's playbook. Hilton has embraced and is continuing to seek to benefit from the wrongdoing of Klein and Lalvani.

12. The eight boxes delivered to Starwood by Hilton (and the electronic media contained therein) contained more than 100,000 files, including highly confidential and proprietary Starwood information and trade secrets, only a small portion of which is outlined in paragraph 6 above (collectively, the "Starwood Confidential Information"). Virtually every category of documents and information defined as Confidential Information in Klein's and Lalvani's employment agreements with Starwood is contained in the materials found at Hilton and in the homes of former Starwood employees now working for Hilton. Among other things, the Starwood Confidential Information provides a step-by-step guide to developing and launching a new

hotel brand from conception to opening, to strengthening and repositioning existing luxury brands, and to competing unfairly with Starwood. Quite literally, the materials include Starwood's blueprints for building a "Brand in a Box," creating a lifestyle brand, negotiating with owners and developers, implementing the related development strategy, marketing a brand program, and putting it all to work on the ground, including operating materials and proprietary brand-centric training manuals.

13. The Starwood Confidential Information is a veritable mother lode of computer and hard copy information that has been created or commissioned by Starwood (at great expense) in connection with the further development and promotion of its lifestyle and luxury hotel brands, including St. Regis, W and The Luxury Collection. The material contains current and prospective information, and consists of highly confidential and proprietary site-specific materials, cost and fee structures, and other trade secrets. It includes detailed costs, fee structures and other highly sensitive and competitively useful information for Starwood properties and targeted properties around the world that can be used by Hilton to undercut or outperform Starwood in competitive markets. This brand-in-a-box information provides Hilton with the means to bring a competitive hotel chain to market expeditiously and without expending tens of millions of dollars and many years on development, thereby avoiding the inevitable and costly trial and error along the way. Instead, Hilton has been able to exploit the time and tens of millions of dollars that was invested by Starwood to create these materials.

14. Hilton's wrongful exploitation of the stolen Starwood Confidential Information is obvious. On February 9, 2009, virtually the same day that eight boxes of Starwood information arrived back at Starwood from Hilton, Hilton announced that it would be launching a new brand (then code-named "Project Global21"). On March 10, 2009, just nine months after

Klein and Lalvani left Starwood for Hilton, Hilton launched its new brand under the name "Denizen." Klein has represented to the hospitality press that the process to develop Denizen started in "June 2008, started June 10." Klein has stated that the development of Denizen was done in "a compressed time frame."

15. Klein and Hilton have trumpeted the name Denizen, which has a familiar ring within Starwood. Contained within the boxes of Starwood Confidential Information wrongfully taken to Hilton are confidential references to a W Hotel concept christened a "zen den." Klein and Hilton have publicly stated that Hilton's new brand will employ a "restro-lounge" concept in the "living room" area. That concept is also familiar to Starwood. Contained among the boxes of Starwood Confidential Information wrongfully taken to Hilton are confidential plans concerning the launch of a W dining concept referred to internally as a "restro-lounge," specifically designed to optimize food and beverage services in the lobby-bar area in all W hotels (coined by Starwood as the "Living Room").

16. The similarities of the ostensibly Klein-developed Denizen concept to Starwood brands did not go unnoticed. The hospitality press in attendance at Hilton's March 10 launch of Denizen reported that Denizen is "cut from the same cloth as W in many respects" and that in terms of "'brand DNA', you can't help but think of W Hotels."

17. Generally, even for the most experienced hotel operators and developers, it takes years to develop a new luxury or lifestyle brand. As Klein has stated: "Part of the cost is also speed to market." The theft of Starwood Confidential Information by Klein and Lalvani, and others working with them, and its wrongful use by Hilton in, among other uses, developing and launching a new upscale hotel brand in record time (months not years), is the clearest imag-



inable case of corporate espionage, theft of trade secrets and unfair competition perpetrated by, among other means, computer fraud.

18. Starwood is in active negotiation with third parties regarding the expansion of its luxury and lifestyle brands. There is no doubt that Hilton has used and intends to further wrongfully use the Starwood Confidential Information misappropriated by Klein and Lalvani and the others working in concert with them to Hilton's own competitive advantage. In addition to Hilton's stealing W's brand DNA to launch Denizen, former Starwood employees now at Hilton are stating in press interviews that although Denizen was just launched, Hilton is already in negotiation with 20 developers. In fact, representatives of Hilton — including Nassetta, Goldman, Klein and Lalvani — already have been approaching owners and franchisees of properties under contract with Starwood and are using Starwood's playbook in competing for those properties. Klein has stated that "[w]e haven't announced any, but we have signed some and I think they will be announced within 30 days." The press is also currently reporting that Hilton is in "[a]ctive development negotiations . . . for resorts and destinations in key cities throughout the globe" with developers regarding the expansion of its luxury lifestyle brands (sometimes referred to as Hilton's "Luxury & Lifestyle portfolio" or the "Prestige Portfolio").

19. Starwood is entitled to preliminary and permanent injunctive relief and to substantial money damages from Hilton, Klein and Lalvani. The Starwood Confidential Information found within Hilton offices and in the homes of Hilton management level employees unjustly provides Hilton with an unfair competitive advantage gained at Starwood's expense. As a result, Hilton, Klein and Lalvani, and all those in active concert or participation with them, should be, at a minimum:

- (i) preliminarily and permanently enjoined from using or benefiting, directly or indirectly, from the use of Starwood's highly confidential, proprietary and trade secret information, including without limitation the Starwood Confidential Information;
- (ii) ordered immediately to return all Starwood Confidential Information in their possession, custody or control;
- (iii) ordered immediately to destroy and to certify under oath the destruction of all materials derived in any way directly or indirectly in whole or in part from any Starwood Confidential Information;
- (iv) ordered immediately to destroy and to certify under oath the destruction of all documents and information relating to the promotion and roll-out of Hilton's Denizen brand — thus requiring Hilton to start over without the benefit of its theft of Starwood Confidential Information;
- (v) ordered to impose a constructive trust on and provide a detailed accounting of all revenues derived and expenses saved by Hilton from the use of the Starwood Confidential Information;
- (vi) enjoined for a reasonable time from pursuing any hotel owners for hotel properties in the locations identified in the Starwood Confidential Information as targeted for Starwood Luxury Brand Group properties;
- (vii) enjoined for a reasonable time from negotiating with any investors with whom Starwood has current management contracts;
- (viii) ordered to disgorge all unjust enrichment as a result of their taking and use of Starwood Confidential Information;
- (ix) ordered, jointly and severally, to pay Starwood compensatory damages in an amount to be proven at trial; and
- (x) ordered to pay Starwood punitive damages in amounts to be proven at trial.

#### **SUBJECT MATTER JURISDICTION**

20. Subject matter jurisdiction in this Court exists under 28 U.S.C. § 1332. Plaintiff Starwood is a citizen of Maryland and New York. Defendant Hilton is a citizen of Delaware and California, and defendants Klein and Lalvani are citizens of California. There is complete diversity of citizenship between Plaintiff and all Defendants, and the amount in controversy far exceeds \$75,000, exclusive of interest and costs.

21. Subject matter jurisdiction in this Court also exists under 28 U.S.C. § 1331 as the Eleventh Claim For Relief arises under the Computer Fraud and Abuse Act, 18 U.S.C. § 1030. Subject matter jurisdiction over the First through Tenth Claims For Relief also exists

pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1367 because those claims for relief are so related to the Eleventh Claim For Relief as to form part of the same case or controversy.

### **PERSONAL JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

22. Personal jurisdiction over all Defendants is appropriate under New York's long arm statute, C.P.L.R. § 302.

23. In addition, Defendants Klein and Lalvani each are subject to a "NON-SOLICITATION, CONFIDENTIALITY AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AGREEMENT" with Starwood in which Defendants Klein and Lalvani each irrevocably and unconditionally submits to the exclusive jurisdiction of this Court.

24. Venue in this Court is appropriate under 28 U.S.C. § 1391(a)(2).

25. In addition, Defendants Klein and Lalvani each are subject to a "NON-SOLICITATION, CONFIDENTIALITY AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AGREEMENT" with Starwood in which Defendants Klein and Lalvani each irrevocably waives any objection to the laying of venue in this Court, including any objection that suit in this Court is inconvenient. Their employment agreements with Starwood are expressly governed by the laws of New York, without regard to the principles of conflicts of laws, and provide that any action seeking equitable relief for violation of the confidentiality provisions thereof may be commenced in this Court.

### **THE PARTIES**

26. Plaintiff Starwood is organized under the laws of the State of Maryland and has its principal place of business at 1111 Westchester Avenue, White Plains, New York 10604. Starwood is one of the world's largest hotel and leisure companies. Starwood conducts its hotel and leisure business both directly and through subsidiaries. Starwood's brand names

include: St. Regis, The Luxury Collection, W, Westin, Le Méridien, Sheraton, Four Points, Aloft and Element.

27. Defendant Hilton is organized under the laws of the State of Delaware and has its principal place of business at 9336 Civic Center Drive, Beverly Hills, California 90210. Hilton owns, operates and franchises hotels, resorts and spas throughout the United States and throughout the world. Hilton's brand names include: Waldorf Astoria, The Waldorf Astoria Collection, The Prestige Collection, Denizen, Conrad and Hilton.

28. Defendant Klein is a citizen of the State of California, with his principal residence in Los Angeles, California. Until June 2008, Klein was President of Starwood's Luxury Brands Group, and was responsible not only for the W Hotel group, but also for the St. Regis and The Luxury Collection brands of Starwood Hotels. On or about May 16, 2008, Klein signed an employment agreement with Defendant Hilton as Global Head of Hilton's Luxury & Lifestyle Brands, a position he commenced on or about June 2, 2008.

29. Defendant Lalvani is a citizen of the State of California, with his principal residence in Pacific Palisades, California. Until June 2008, Lalvani was Senior Vice President of Starwood's Luxury Brands Group, and was responsible for the development of Starwood's lifestyle and luxury brands, including W Hotels, St. Regis and The Luxury Collection brands. Since on or about June 14, 2008, Lalvani has been employed by Defendant Hilton as Global Head of Hilton's Luxury & Lifestyle Brand Development.

#### **ADDITIONAL INTERESTED PERSONS**

30. Christopher Kochuba ("Kochuba") is a citizen of the State of California, with his principal residence in San Francisco, California. Until May 2008, Kochuba was Vice President, Development Planning & Design Management for Starwood's Luxury Brands Group.

Upon information and belief, Kochuba has been employed by Defendant Hilton as Vice President, Planning and Programming, Global Luxury and Lifestyle Brands, since approximately June 2008.

31. Erin Shaffer ("Shaffer") is a citizen of the State of California, with her principal residence in Los Angeles, California. Until August 2008, Shaffer was Senior Manager, Brand Marketing for Starwood's Luxury Brands Group. Upon information and belief, Shaffer has been employed by Defendant Hilton as Senior Director, Communications and Partnerships since approximately August 2008.

32. Jeff Darnell ("Darnell") is a citizen of the State of California, with his principal residence in Westlake Village, California. Until October 2008, Darnell was the General Manager of the W Los Angeles Hotel. Upon information and belief, Darnell has been employed by Defendant Hilton as Vice President, Brand Operations since approximately October 2008.

33. Stephanie Heer ("Heer") is a citizen of the State of California, with her principal residence in Los Angeles, California. Until November 2008, Heer was the Marketing Manager of the W Los Angeles Hotel. Upon information and belief, Heer has been employed by Defendant Hilton as Brand Marketing Manager, Conrad Hotels since approximately November 2008.

34. Erin Green ("Green") is a citizen of the State of California. Until December 2008, Green was Director of W Development for the Europe, Africa and Middle East (EAME) region of Starwood. Green is currently employed by Defendant Hilton as Senior Development Director, Luxury and Lifestyle for Europe and Africa.

35. Elie Younes ("Younes") is a citizen of the State of California. Until December 2008, Younes was Senior Director of Acquisitions & Development for the Europe, Africa and Middle East (EAME) region of Starwood. Younes is currently employed by Defendant Hilton as Vice President of Development for the Middle East.

36. Leah Corradino ("Corradino") is a citizen of the State of California, with her principal residence in Beverly Hills, California. Until November 2008, Corradino was the Marketing Manager of the W San Diego Hotel. Upon information and belief, Corradino has been employed by Defendant Hilton as Brand Marketing Manager, Waldorf Astoria & Waldorf Astoria Collection since approximately November 2008.

37. Susan Manrao ("Manrao") is a citizen of the State of California, with her principal residence in Los Altos, California. Until August 2008, Manrao was Senior Manager, Interior Style & Design Standards for Starwood's Luxury Brands Group. Upon information and belief, Manrao has been employed by Defendant Hilton as Senior Director of Design since approximately September 2008.

### **THE FACTS**

#### **The Development and Protection of Starwood's W and Luxury Brands**

38. Starwood has assumed a leadership position in markets worldwide based on its superior global distribution, coupled with strong brands and brand recognition. Starwood's lifestyle and luxury brands continue to capture market share from its competitors by aggressively cultivating new customers while maintaining loyalty among the world's most active travelers. The strength of Starwood's brands is evidenced, in part, by the superior ratings received from its hotel guests and from industry publications.

39. The hotel industry is highly competitive. Competition, both for hotel guests and for owners, is generally based on quality and consistency of rooms, restaurant and meeting facilities and services, attractiveness of locations, availability of a global distribution system, price, the ability to earn and redeem loyalty program points and other factors. History shows that Starwood competes favorably in these areas.

40. Starwood and Hilton are direct, head-to-head competitors in the hotel and resort industry. Because both Starwood and Hilton also serve as hotel operators and franchisors — that is, they manage and franchise hotels for hotel owners, through management or license agreements — their competitive position is enhanced by their ability to control costs and increase revenues, including the fees and other terms negotiated with hotel property owners. Starwood competes favorably in these areas as well, maintaining its competitive edge in this area by protecting the confidentiality of the terms of its deals with hotel property owners.

41. In the mid-1990s, Starwood's then-CEO Barry Sternlicht conceived of a new brand for Starwood, a brand that came to be known as W Hotels. In December 1998, the first W Hotel opened in New York City. Over the next five years, more than a dozen additional W Hotels opened throughout the country. Through substantial investments of time and money, the W brand grew stronger and more defined, including through the development of proprietary training methods and materials designed to support and strengthen the brand and to give it a competitive advantage. The W brand represents a unique, upscale hotel targeted to patrons interested in a hip, edgy and trend-conscious destination. It is a model that many hotel competitors have sought to emulate, but that none have been able successfully to employ, let alone scale globally. The failure of competitors to match Starwood's success in this area is attributable to

the unique means by which Starwood builds, maintains, operates and grows its brands, and to the steps Starwood takes to protect its methods.

42. Recently, Starwood has also spent considerable resources repositioning and strengthening two other luxury brands, St. Regis and The Luxury Collection. As a result of Starwood's continuing efforts in growing its lifestyle and luxury brands and bridging the gaps between them in order to better capture the lifestyle and luxury travel market, W Hotels, St. Regis and The Luxury Collection together have become a model for branding and developing lifestyle and luxury hotels.

43. Although the results of Starwood's efforts may be superficially visible, the failure of competitors to replicate the Starwood experience or success in their own properties is attributable to Starwood's proprietary methods of brand development, marketing and training, which methods Starwood has always maintained in strict confidence.

44. In February 2003, Starwood hired Defendant Klein to be Vice President, Chief Marketing Officer for W Hotels. At the time of Klein's hiring, the W brand had already become the most successful and iconic new hotel and lifestyle brand in history, with some 20 hotels open or under construction. In May 2005, Klein was promoted by Starwood to the position of President, W Hotels Worldwide, in connection with which Klein signed a new set of employment agreements, including a "NON-SOLICITATION, CONFIDENTIALITY AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AGREEMENT." True and complete copies of Klein's May 2005 employment agreements with Starwood are attached hereto as Exhibit 1. Over time, Klein was further promoted by Starwood to the position of President, Luxury Brands Group. As President of Starwood's Luxury Brands Group, Klein was responsible not only for the W Hotel group,



but also for Starwood's St. Regis and The Luxury Collection groups, and had access to the most confidential and competitively sensitive Starwood lifestyle and luxury brands information.

45. Defendant Lalvani began work at Starwood in September 2004 as Vice President for W Development. In this role, he was expected to lead the expansion of W Hotels globally, launching the W Hotels brand in Europe, Africa and the Middle East. In October 2006, Lalvani was promoted to the position of Senior Vice President, W Development - Global, and subsequently was further promoted to Senior Vice President responsible for the development of all of Starwood's lifestyle and luxury brands, including W, St. Regis and The Luxury Collection. In October 2006, Lalvani signed a new set of employment agreements, including a "NON-SOLICITATION, CONFIDENTIALITY AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AGREEMENT." True and complete copies of Lalvani's October 2006 employment agreements with Starwood are attached hereto as Exhibit 2. As Senior Vice President of Development for Starwood's Luxury Brands Group, Lalvani had access to the most confidential and competitively sensitive Starwood lifestyle and luxury brands information.

46. Each of the additional interested persons identified in paragraphs 7 and 30-37 above is subject to similar confidentiality agreements in connection with their roles working within the Luxury Brands Group at Starwood, which provided that, upon termination of their employment with Starwood, they would return all Starwood confidential information and would not make or keep any copies, and that they would not disclose any Starwood confidential information to anyone. The agreements explicitly provide that each employee:

"acknowledges that during the course of his/her employment with [Starwood], Employee will receive, and will have access to, 'Confidential Information' . . . of [Starwood] and that such information is a special, valuable and unique asset belonging to [Starwood] . . . All [Documents (broadly defined)] which from time to time may be in Employee's possession . . . relating, directly or indirectly, to the business of [Starwood] shall be and remain the property of [Starwood] and shall be delivered by Employee to [Starwood] immediately upon request, and in any event promptly upon termination of Employee's employment, and **Employee**

***shall not make or keep any copies or extracts of the Documents . . . Employee shall not disclose to any third person any information concerning the business of [Starwood],*** including, without limitation, any trade secrets, customer lists and details of contracts with or requirements of customers, the identity of any owner of a managed hotel, information relating to any current, past or prospective management agreement or joint venture, information pertaining to business methods, sales plans, design plans and strategies, management organization, computer systems and software, operating policies or manuals . . . financial records or other financial, commercial, business or technical information relating to the company . . . ." (Emphasis added.)

47. In addition, each such agreement (and every Starwood employee, including Defendants Klein and Lalvani) was explicitly subject to "all Starwood policies, procedures and directives as they currently exist or as they may be adopted or changed from time to time," which included Starwood's Code of Business Conduct. Among other things, Starwood's Code of Business Conduct provides — under the heading "Protect Confidential Information" — that each employee:

"must protect and keep confidential all non-public information belonging to, in the possession of, or about our property owners, our property franchisees, our customers and us. . . . You must not share confidential information with friends, relatives or non-associates or discuss confidential matters in public places, such as elevators, airplanes or restaurants. . . . These obligations continue even after you leave the Company."

48. Every Starwood employee is required to certify compliance with the Code of Business Conduct annually. In doing so, Defendants Klein and Lalvani, and each of the additional interested persons identified above, also agreed not to:

"(a) take for yourself personally any opportunity that belongs to us or is discovered through the use of our property or information or your position; (b) use our property, information or position for personal gain; or (c) compete with us."

49. Furthermore, Defendants Klein and Lalvani, and each of the additional interested persons identified above, also acknowledged that "[a]nything you create or conceive as a Company employee or contractor are works made for hire . . . ."

50. The confidentiality provisions with which Starwood requires all employees — including Defendants Klein and Lalvani, and each of the additional interested persons

identified above — to comply are essential to maintaining Starwood's distinctive and competitive position in the hotel industry.

51. The explicit confidentiality provisions reflected in the individual employment agreements and in Starwood's Code of Business Conduct are bolstered by other precautions taken within Starwood to protect its confidential and proprietary information. Data and other materials are maintained on secure servers and hard drives, for which access is limited to particular groups of employees within the company. Remote access is permitted only upon proper certification of an employee's Starwood-issued computer through a password-protected remote access system. Employees may not access Starwood's systems through computers that are not properly certificated by Starwood's information technology staff. Nor are employees permitted to forward confidential materials to outside systems, including their own homes or personal e-mail accounts. In this way, Starwood seeks to protect the propriety of its confidential information and to ensure that its secrets remain secret.

52. Defendants Klein and Lalvani, however, flaunted not only their fiduciary and contractual obligations to Starwood, but Starwood company policy and good faith, by organizing and effecting a wholesale download of Starwood Confidential Information for use by their new employer, Defendant Hilton. They did this in concert with others surreptitiously while under contract to Starwood without Starwood's knowledge or consent.

**Klein's Recruitment by Hilton & Breach  
of His Obligations to Starwood**

53. In 2007, the Blackstone private equity group acquired Hilton for over \$20 billion in a top-of-the-market, highly leveraged transaction. As reported in the hospitality press, "With Blackstone having paid a super-premium price for Hilton, [CEO Christopher Nassetta] will be under intense pressure to deliver immediate results." Hilton began actively to seek ways

to expand and refocus its luxury brands, and to compete more directly with W and Starwood's luxury brands. Because of its highly leveraged financial condition, as financial markets deteriorated, time was of the essence to Hilton to enter the lifestyle brand segment and to refocus, launch and expand its luxury brands. As reported in the hospitality press, Christopher Nassetta, Hilton's President and Chief Executive Officer, "was very committed to the horizon line" and Hilton's brand development team worked in "a compressed time frame."

54. In February 2008, Nassetta began recruiting Defendant Klein to join Hilton.

55. Almost immediately after beginning discussions with Nassetta, Klein secretly misused his position as President of Starwood's Luxury Brands Group to request confidential Starwood information from Starwood employees, which Klein then forwarded to a personal e-mail account. In addition, Klein brought a personal laptop computer into Starwood's offices and had it loaded with confidential Starwood information. Upon information and belief, Klein took still more confidential materials home with him in the form of hard-copy documents.

56. The information taken by Klein prior to his departure for Hilton included, among other things, such information as the terms being offered to hotel owners on Starwood deals, detailed information relating to brand performance metrics, detailed information about deals in the Luxury Brands Group "pipeline", and detailed presentations outlining Starwood's branding strategy. Much of this information would have served no business purpose for any project Klein was then directly involved in at Starwood, but would be immensely useful to Hilton, or anyone else looking to build or strengthen brands capable of competing with Starwood's luxury and lifestyle brands. Much of this confidential information has not yet been returned to Starwood.

57. Such forwarding of confidential information to non-Starwood servers was forbidden by Starwood policies designed to preserve the confidentiality of its information. Starwood policy required that any access to Starwood materials from outside Starwood premises be accomplished through use of strictly controlled "virtual private network" (or "VPN") remote access procedures. Through use of this secure remote access procedure, Starwood employees are able to work remotely on any documents on the Starwood system that they are authorized and have a business need to access. Under no circumstances was Starwood's confidential information to be forwarded to employees' personal e-mail accounts, and the availability of Starwood's VPN obviated any legitimate need to do so.

58. In addition to forwarding Starwood Confidential Information to his personal e-mail account, or taking it with him on a personal laptop computer, while he was under agreement to join Hilton and before he left Starwood, Klein also asked his personal assistant and others who were unaware that Klein soon would be leaving Starwood to work for a competitor to undertake a massive (and expensive) project to digitally archive thousands of "tear sheet" images collected and compiled into meaningful collections over years. These compilations formed the basis for much of the branding and design work completed for the W and luxury brands, and were the property of Starwood. The "tear sheet" compilations were years in the making and were integral to enabling Klein and other Starwood employees to bring Starwood's lifestyle and luxury brands to life. After having the Starwood tear sheet compilations digitally imaged, Klein arranged for the images to be sent to his personal e-mail account, where he was able to include them among the materials he brought to Hilton to assist Hilton in developing new Hilton brand identities, leveraging the techniques and tools taken from Starwood.

59. On May 16, 2008, unbeknownst to Starwood, Klein signed an employment agreement with Hilton (Klein's "Hilton-Klein Employment Agreement"), and faxed it to Hilton from Starwood's New York City offices. Klein did not inform Starwood that he had signed an employment agreement with a direct competitor, Hilton

60. Three days after the date of his signature on his Hilton-Klein Employment Agreement, on May 19, 2008, Klein informed senior executives at Starwood that he was resigning from the Company. Klein still did not inform Starwood that he already had a signed employment agreement with one of Starwood's direct competitors, Hilton. Nor did Klein cease requesting Starwood Confidential Information from his staff, or forwarding such material to his personal e-mail account, in preparation for his departure to Hilton. Instead, Klein continued to purloin Starwood Confidential Information --- including updated designer lists, copies of Starwood's Global Architecture and Design Review Process, The Luxury Collection's "Brand Book", and other proprietary materials that were closely guarded by Starwood but that would be useful to Hilton in developing its new Denizen brand, revamping its existing luxury brands and competing with Starwood.

61. With the signed Hilton-Klein Employment Agreement in hand, and despite having already improperly ensured continuing access to Starwood Confidential Information, over the next ten days Klein (i) began shipping boxes to Hilton and (ii) negotiated the terms of a separation agreement with Starwood. At the same time, Klein continued to meet and communicate with representatives of Blackstone (including John Cerialo and Jonathan Gray) to discuss his move to Hilton.

62. On May 29, 2008, Klein shipped three boxes weighing 150 pounds directly to Hilton's executive offices in Beverly Hills, California.

63. Unaware that Klein had already signed an employment agreement with Hilton two weeks earlier, or that he was already taking a large amount of Starwood Confidential Information home and sending materials to Hilton, on May 30, 2008, Starwood agreed with Klein on the terms of a separation agreement. A true and complete copy of Klein's separation agreement is attached hereto as Exhibit 3. Klein's separation agreement did not contain a covenant against competition, and did not prohibit Klein from going to work for a competitor. It did, however, prohibit Klein from soliciting any Starwood management-level employees to join him, and explicitly prohibited Klein from using or disclosing any Starwood confidential information, including trade secret information, that he obtained during his employment with Starwood. In his separation agreement Klein "acknowledges that he has had access to [Starwood] Confidential Information" and he "agrees not to disclose, communicate or divulge to, or use for the direct or indirect benefit of, any person (including [Klein]), firm, association or other entity (other than [Starwood] or its affiliates) any Confidential Information."

64. For the purpose of fraudulently inducing Starwood to pay him a substantial severance (over \$600,000), Klein made a number of knowingly false representations to Starwood, among which were his representation that he had returned and was not retaining any Starwood confidential materials. In his separation agreement Klein falsely states:

"[Klein] hereby represents and agrees that on or before [May 30, 2008]: (i) [Klein] has returned or will return to [Starwood], and has not retained or will not retain originals or any copies of all documents, records or materials of any kind, whether written or electronically created or stored, which contain, relate to or refer to any Confidential Information ('Confidential Materials'); and (ii) [Klein] has not disclosed and will not disclose any Confidential Information or Confidential Materials to any person or entity without the express written authorization of an authorized officer of [Starwood]."

These representations by Klein were materially false and known by him to be materially false when made. Klein knowingly made these materially false statements to Starwood for the pur-

pose of defrauding Starwood into paying Klein a large severance payment to which Klein, as a result of his wrongful conduct, otherwise was not entitled.

65. In consideration for his contractual undertakings in the separation agreement, including his separate agreement that he would not use or disclose any Starwood confidential information, Klein was paid a substantial severance that he obtained by intentionally misleading Starwood as to the nature of his commitment to a competitor and as to his intentions to comply with its non-disclosure provisions, and to which he was not therefore entitled. Klein improperly used the information that he stole from Starwood for the benefit of Hilton, and Hilton has been unjustly enriched thereby.

**Lalvani's Recruitment by Hilton & Breach of His Obligations to Starwood**

66. Parallel to Nassetta's recruitment of Klein, in March 2008 Steven Goldman, now President of Global Development & Real Estate at Hilton, began recruiting Lalvani to join Hilton. Goldman wrote Lalvani: "you're the first guy on my list." Goldman informed Lalvani: "Worst thing that happens is they find out you are talking to me and pay you a shit load of money to stay and you owe me drinks for life."

67. Lalvani pursued Goldman's overtures and, on or about March 9, 2008, in contravention of his fiduciary and contractual obligations to Starwood, Lalvani wrote to Goldman following up on their communications: "Other idea is bring over the core W team which has created an enormous amount of value and is very loyal to me to build a new brand for you guys. Not sure your appetite but I know I could make that happen as well."

68. As it turns out, Hilton had a big appetite for Starwood know-how. Much like Klein did following his conversations with Nassetta, following his discussions with Gold-



man and while he was still a Starwood employee, Lalvani began gathering up a large volume of confidential Starwood information, which he shipped from his office to his home.

69. On or about May 20, 2008, Christopher Kochuba, Vice President of Development Planning & Design management of Starwood's Luxury Brands Group announced his resignation from Starwood. In an e-mail the same day responding to an inquiry if he knew of Kochuba leaving, Klein stated: "of course we knew."

70. On May 29, 2008, Lalvani informed Starwood that he was resigning. On the morning of the same day, Lalvani and Kochuba exchanged e-mails in which Kochuba referred to the departures of Klein, Lalvani and himself to Hilton stating: "Like a triple play! Congratulations." and Lalvani responded "Absolutely . . . It's been quite a ride! See you on the West Coast."

71. Starwood had no idea that Lalvani had stolen its Confidential Information and was working in concert with others who were also looting Starwood's confidential files. Because Lalvani's notice of resignation was unexpected, Starwood asked Lalvani to work another two weeks, until June 14, so that there could be an orderly transition of his work to others. Starwood trusted Lalvani to be honest and to honor his employment commitments. Starwood's trust was misplaced as Lalvani used the additional time and continued access to further loot Starwood's confidential files for the benefit of Hilton.

72. On June 2, 2008, the first business day following Klein's resignation from Starwood and just two days after Lalvani gave notice of his resignation, Hilton announced that Klein and Lalvani would be joining Hilton, Klein as Hilton's Global Head of Luxury & Lifestyle Brands and Lalvani as Hilton's Global Head of Luxury & Lifestyle Brand Development.

73. On June 14, 2008, Lalvani's employment with Starwood ended. He immediately began work as Hilton's Global Head of Luxury & Lifestyle Brand Development.

74. Unbeknownst to Starwood and without Starwood's consent, but true to his promise to Hilton to help re-create Starwood's branding and development group at Hilton, between March 9, 2008 and June 14, 2008, Lalvani secretly downloaded dozens of files containing Starwood Confidential Information to a personal USB drive, and took the materials with him for use in developing and marketing both Hilton's new Denizen brand and its luxury brands. The materials stolen by Lalvani are of the most confidential and sensitive nature, and include detailed analyses of negotiating strategies developed through years of experience and in consultation with Starwood paid consultants, along with Project Approval Requests (or "PARs") setting forth in detail the actual terms of recently negotiated deals with key property owners, and proprietary and closely-held contact lists for property owners and franchisees. Lalvani's theft of these materials is in clear contravention of his fiduciary and contractual obligations to Starwood. Since joining Hilton, Lalvani has been held out by Hilton and Klein as the individual "who does development on the [Hilton] team." Klein has said that developing Denizen in "a compressed time frame" was a "Herculean" task. In fact, in the development of Denizen Lalvani improperly used the information that he stole from Starwood for the benefit of Hilton, and Hilton has been unjustly enriched thereby.

**Klein and Lalvani Take Starwood Employees  
and Confidential Materials to Hilton**

75. The eight additional interested persons identified in paragraphs 7 and 30-37 above were recruited by Hilton, Klein and/or Lalvani to leave Starwood to join Hilton.

76. Believing Klein to have breached the non-solicitation provisions of his contract with Starwood, but unaware of any other misconduct by Klein, Lalvani or other former

employees, in November 2008 Starwood initiated an arbitration against Klein. The only issue raised in the arbitration was whether Klein had violated his contract not to solicit Starwood management-level employees to join him at Hilton. An arbitrator has yet to be appointed and no proceedings have occurred in the arbitration.

77. In November 2008, still unaware of the wholesale theft of Starwood Confidential Information by Klein, Lalvani and others working in concert with them, Starwood sent letters to Klein and Hilton, requesting that they preserve all relevant documents in connection with the pending arbitration. True and complete copies of Starwood's non-spoliation letters are attached hereto as Exhibits 4 & 5.

78. Klein has never responded to Starwood's letter. It took Hilton almost three months to respond. Then, by letter dated February 5, 2009 from Richard M. Lucas, Hilton's Executive Vice President, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary, to Kenneth S. Siegel, Starwood's Chief Administrative Officer and General Counsel, Hilton delivered to Starwood eight large boxes containing among other things highly confidential Starwood computer and paper records. A true and complete copy of Hilton's letter is attached hereto as Exhibit 6.

79. Hilton's February 5, 2009 letter states in part:

"[Y]ou requested that Hilton Hotels Corp. preserve all potentially responsive documents and information in our possession, custody and control. In the process of implementing a litigation hold of such materials, we learned that Ross [Klein] had certain materials that he developed or obtained while working for Starwood. . . . Based on a cursory review of these documents by counsel, it appears that at least some of the materials might be the type that Ross's separation agreement with Starwood requires him to return to Starwood. With the concurrence of Ross and his attorneys, we are returning them to you."

The letter went on to state:

"After learning about the materials that Ross [Klein] had, Hilton's Legal Department . . . also inquired whether other Hilton employees who formerly worked for Starwood had similar materials, and we determined that some of them also brought to Hilton documents or materials that they developed or acquired while they worked for Starwood."

The letter concluded by stating:

"Enclosed with this letter are the materials we have collected, along with some additional materials that certain of the former Starwood employees had at home."

80. The ongoing effort to determine just what had been downloaded from Starwood's computer systems has taken considerable time and resources; the full extent of how the information may have been used or manipulated by Hilton and the individual defendants is not yet fully known, but will become fully known through discovery in this action. What is already known is that on the computer drives returned to Starwood by Hilton are over 100,000 files downloaded from Starwood computers — a massive amount of information. Virtually every category of documents and information defined as Confidential Information in the Starwood employment agreements of Klein, Lalvani and the other Starwood employees recruited to join Hilton is contained in the materials found at Hilton and in the homes of former Starwood employees now working in management for Hilton.

81. Among the many materials taken to Hilton by Klein, Lalvani and the other interested persons recruited by them are:

- (a) Strategic Plans (or "Strat Plans"), setting forth in detail Starwood's forward-looking strategies and areas of strategic opportunities for the W, St. Regis and The Luxury Collection brands out through 2010, explicitly labeled "Strictly Confidential". Access to such strategic plans was limited to a select group of senior Starwood executives, and, if not kept confidential, would provide a competitor such as Hilton with the means to exploit Starwood's opportunities and competitive advantages.
- (b) Detailed "gap" analyses analyzing the market and other areas not being met by Starwood's luxury brands and ways in which Starwood would seek to fill those gaps and strengthen each of its luxury brands. Such analysis was maintained in strict confidence within a select group of Starwood executives, and would provide a competitor such as Hilton with valuable competitive advantages in developing and re-positioning its own luxury brands.
- (c) A "Development Toolkit" for residential developments (labeled, like many of the materials, "Proprietary & Confidential"), providing step-by-step instructions for launching a branded residential development.
- (d) "Brand in a Box" modules for the W brand, providing detailed, step-by-step operational instructions on how to take a brand from conception to hotel opening.

The information contained in the modules would help a competitor such as Hilton shave months, if not years, off of launching a new competitive hotel brand, or on instituting operational improvements for its existing brands.

- (e) Luxury Brands Group "Brand Bibles," providing a full and detailed guide to the brands that can serve as a short cut to developing a new brand. Such "Brand Bibles" were closely held, with access provided only to necessary employees and select owners or developers subject to a strict Non-Disclosure Agreement.
- (f) Detailed marketing plans specific to Starwood's brands plans setting forth specific marketing details.
- (g) Comprehensive brand immersion presentations and brand guidelines, both operational and design-oriented, including the complete set of proprietary design genres and signature elements for W and St. Regis hotels, that offer a map to recreating each of Starwood's luxury brands. Such materials would be particularly useful to a competitor such as Hilton that is not known as being a design-driven company or possessing lifestyle brands. As with other Starwood materials that were made available to assist owners in opening Starwood-branded properties, such materials were subject to strict Non-Disclosure Agreements.
- (h) Specific plans outlining Starwood's confidential plans to introduce a "restro-lounge" concept in its W Hotels. Such a plan had been in development at Starwood for some 18 months, and represented a unique solution to a common boutique hotel problem: how to incorporate dining into lobby bar spaces. The "restro-lounge" concept reflected in the Starwood Confidential Information — but kept confidential before stolen by the Defendants — has already been touted by Klein in his public statements describing Hilton's new Denizen brand.
- (i) Proprietary demographic, psychographic and other research commissioned by Starwood from third party professionals and used by Starwood to help develop branding, marketing, development and operational strategy.
- (j) Detailed, step-by-step proprietary personnel training materials developed and refined by Starwood over a number of years and at substantial cost. Starwood's proprietary training system for its W Hotels, the detailed methods of which were previously unknown outside of Starwood, was recognized in the industry as unique and based on its own internal research and development efforts. Access to these materials would permit competitors such as Hilton to substantially and quickly improve its training methods and compete within a key area of hotel guest concern at Starwood's expense.
- (k) Deal term negotiation worksheets and notes on "W Development strategy for 2007 and beyond", setting forth in detail Starwood's negotiation strategies with Owners ranked by "importance to Starwood" for numerous deal terms, including: Contract Terms, Placement Programs, Performance Tests, Termination on Sale, Residential Fees, Technical Services Fees, Financing Related Provisions, Investment Requirements, and Legal Issues. These materials were clearly viewed as having current competitive value to Lalvani and Hilton, and were downloaded by Lalvani to a USB drive and, upon information and belief, accessed by Lalvani and Hilton prior to their return to Starwood.
- (l) Site-specific "Project Approval Requests" ("PARs") and letters of intent, which set out in detail the actual costs, fee structures, termination provisions, radius re-

strictions and other highly sensitive and competitively useful information. The PARs stolen by Lalvani pertain to Starwood properties and targeted properties around the world, including many of the same markets for which Hilton has just recently announced an intention to open new properties.

- (m) "Property Improvement Plans" ("PIPs") for how to create "the Ultimate W Experience" in conversion properties, providing step-by-step details for how to convert a hotel property to a W branded hotel. As Klein and Lalvani would appreciate, the Property Improvement Plan would be immensely useful to a competitor such as Hilton that has stated its intention to launch its new Denizen brand through conversion of existing properties. Indeed, among the documents returned by Hilton is a draft "Property Improvement and Reprogramming Plan" proposing the conversion of a New Orleans property to a "New Hilton Lifestyle Brand." The Proposal, dated September 3, 2008, was authored by former Starwood employee Christopher Kochuba, and copies the format, text and content of the misappropriated Starwood Property Improvement Plans.
- (n) Complete contact lists for all Luxury Brands Group owners, developers and designers, maintained not by the individual defendants but confidentially by Starwood on a centralized basis. Lalvani requested electronic versions of these lists prior to his departure, and subsequently downloaded them, with other materials to a USB drive and took the Starwood-owned contacts with him to Hilton.

82. As Klein and Lalvani were well aware, the information in the highly-proprietary and confidential PARs, negotiation worksheets and in the closely-held contact lists could be used by Hilton to undercut or exploit Starwood's terms and poach deals or undermine Starwood's existing or future relationships with property owners. In fact, representatives of Hilton — including Nassetta, Goldman, Klein and Lalvani — already have been approaching owners and franchisees of properties under contract with Starwood and are using Starwood's playbook in competing for those properties.

83. Recognizing the highly sensitive, proprietary and competitively advantageous nature of much of the materials generated in the course of an employee's work, including the types of materials described above, Starwood requires each employee to acknowledge, upon employment [and yearly thereafter], that they will "protect and keep confidential all non-public information belonging to, in the possession of, or about . . . [Starwood]" and will not share such information "even after [they] leave the Company." As set forth above, each of the individual

defendants agreed to keep Starwood information confidential when they signed their employment agreements.

84. Strict confidentiality was also required of any property owners or potential property owners who were permitted access to the Starwood Confidential Information. For example, copies of the "W Interior Guidelines" manual taken to Hilton — which provides detailed guidelines to the design, construction and operational elements required for a property to receive the W imprimatur, provides on its cover, that the manual

"AND ALL MATERIALS, PROCEDURES AND SYSTEMS HEREIN CONTAINED OR DEPICTED HAVE BEEN DEVELOPED BY AND ARE THE SOLE AND EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF [STARWOOD] . . . THE CONTENTS CONTAIN PROPRIETARY TRADE SECRETS THAT ARE THE PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL PROPERTY OF STARWOOD OR ITS AFFILIATES. UNAUTHORIZED USE, DISCLOSURE, OR REPRODUCTION OF ANY MATERIAL CONTAINED IN THIS MANUAL IS EXPRESSLY PROHIBITED. THE W INTERIOR GUIDELINES ARE TO BE RETURNED IMMEDIATELY UPON THE TERMINATION OF ANY RELATIONSHIP OR AGREEMENT GIVING USER AUTHORIZATION TO POSSESS OR USE SUCH INFORMATION OR MATERIALS. . . ANY THREATENED BREACH OF UNAUTHORIZED OR ILLEGAL USE SHALL SUBJECT THE USER TO ALL REMEDIES, BOTH LEGAL AND EQUITABLE, AVAILABLE TO STARWOOD."

85. Klein and Lalvani breached their obligations to Starwood by obtaining copies of Starwood Confidential Information prior to, or in some instances, after, their departure from Starwood and taking that information for use at and for the benefit of Hilton.

86. Starwood has subsequently learned that not long after he entered discussions with Hilton, Klein began requesting highly sensitive and confidential internal Starwood documents and information, and forwarding those documents and information to his personal e-mail account. Upon information and belief, it was not Klein's practice to do so previously. Nor did he have any legitimate business need for the information at the time he requested it. The information was gathered and assembled by Klein so that he could secretly take it to Hilton for the

benefit and unjust enrichment of Hilton. Part of the cost of brand development is speed to market. Klein stole Starwood know-how to benefit Hilton, to whom time was of the essence.

87. Upon information and belief, the additional interested persons identified in paragraphs 7 and 30-37 above, in concert with Hilton, Klein and Lalvani, also requested and obtained highly sensitive and confidential internal Starwood documents and information and had such materials sent outside of Starwood.

88. Klein, Lalvani and others working in concert with them, copied Starwood Confidential Information to USB flash drives, CDs, DVDs and/or other electronic media, all in violation of their employment agreements with Starwood and in violation of their fiduciary duties. Klein, Lalvani and others working in concert with them, had Starwood Confidential Information sent to them, either by forwarding files to personal e-mail accounts or by taking hard copy materials with them. They wrongfully used Starwood's confidential information for the benefit of Hilton and Hilton has been unjustly enriched thereby.

89. The highly confidential and proprietary Starwood information and documentation that Hilton had in its possession provides a step-by-step playbook for creating a lifestyle or luxury brand; implementing the related development strategy; marketing the brand; and putting it to work on the ground. Starwood expended vast resources to develop this virtual playbook over the course of many years. Its theft by Klein, Lalvani and others working in concert with them who left Starwood for Hilton — and its obvious use by Hilton in the development and launch of a new hotel brand and in the recently announced repositioning of Hilton's luxury portfolio — is the clearest case imaginable of corporate espionage, theft of trade secrets, unfair competition and computer fraud.



**Hilton Uses Starwood's Confidential  
Information to Develop Hilton's Own Brands**

90. Hilton and the individual defendants on Hilton's behalf did not merely take the Starwood Confidential Information and put them aside. Although the full extent of Hilton's use of Starwood's materials cannot be determined until discovery is completed, it is readily apparent that Hilton, Klein and Lalvani, and others working in concert with them, have been steadily mining the Starwood Confidential Information.

91. For example, no sooner had Hilton's letter and the eight boxes of Starwood Confidential Information arrived, when, on February 9, 2009, Hilton publicly confirmed that — with Klein and Lalvani at the helm — Hilton would launch on March 10, 2009 (at a press conference associated with the International Hotel Investment Forum (the "IHIF") in Berlin, Germany) a new global "lifestyle" hotel line, code-named "Project Global21". Hilton openly declared its direction:

"'Project Global21 is a junction where business meets pleasure forever redefining how guests stay and play. Our hotels will be born modern through smart design, cultural character and sensitive service delivery -- ever enhancing how guests live now and how guest will live in the future,' said Ross Klein, global head, luxury & lifestyle brands, Hilton Family of Hotels. 'Together, with the Hilton Prestige Portfolio, Project Global21 will add to the balance of global connectivity with local destination flavor, offering travelers a wealth of authentic and unique experiences around the globe.... Hilton will deliver a captivating journey through the world of the new brand enlightened with the next evolution in hospitality.... We invite all IHIF attendees to join us for this unforgettable evening.'"

92. Developing and launching a new hotel brand is a process that requires considerable investments of time and money. Even for the most experienced companies, it typically takes three to five years to develop, launch and build-out a new hotel brand and open a newly branded hotel. The more upscale and refined the brand, the longer it takes.

93. But on March 10, 2009, just nine months after Klein and Lalvani joined Hilton, Hilton launched a new lifestyle brand — "Denizen" — at the IHIF industry symposium

in Berlin. Denizen was developed by means of corporate espionage and the theft of highly confidential and proprietary Starwood information. Even the name "Denizen" and Hilton's reference to its development of a Denizen "restro-lounge" concept are knockoffs of confidential Starwood materials referring to a W concept christened a "zen den" and planning a "restro-lounge" concept within W hotels.

94. The hospitality press has subsequently observed that Denizen is "cut from the same cloth as W":

"Hilton announced their latest brand, Denizen, here in Berlin this morning. Denizen will be Hilton's entry into the 'lifestyle brand' category pioneered by Starwood Hotels' W brand. Not coincidentally, Denizen will be led by former W boss Ross Klein. . . . Denizen sounds to be cut from the same cloth as W in many respects. . . ."

95. As reported in the hospitality press:

"Industry analysts have been anticipating Hilton's expansion into new trendy brands since it recruited two Starwood Hotels executives last year who specialize in luxury properties.

"Ross Klein, one of [the] chief designers of Denizen, was hired as global head of luxury and lifestyle brands, and Amar Lalvani was tapped to be Hilton's global head of luxury and lifestyle development. The two executives worked on the development of W, Starwood's boutique brand that inspired other competing chains with modern design and hip lobby lounges."

96. As another industry reporter put it, in talking about Denizen's "'brand DNA', you can't help but think of W Hotels."

97. Unless Defendants Hilton, Klein and Lalvani, and all those working in concert with them, are enjoined from using in any way, directly or indirectly, Starwood's highly confidential and proprietary information and trade secrets, Starwood will suffer irreparable injury. In each of the agreements signed by Klein and Lalvani with Starwood, it is agreed that any breach of their agreements in respect of the Confidential Information identified therein (and among what they took to Hilton):

"may cause [Starwood] irreparable harm for which there is no adequate remedy at law, and as a result of this, [Starwood] will be entitled to the issuance by a court of competent jurisdiction of an injunction, restraining order or other equitable relief in favor of [Starwood], without the necessity of posting a bond, restraining [Klein, Lalvani and the other interested persons] from committing or continuing to commit any such violation."

98. The harm to Starwood is neither remote nor speculative, but actual and imminent, and one that cannot be remedied if a court waits until the end of trial to resolve the harm. Hilton recently has announced that it is currently in "active negotiation" with developers regarding the expansion of its luxury and lifestyle brands. Hilton, through Klein, has publicly stated that it intends to open the first Denizen hotels by the end of 2009 or early 2010. Hilton, through Younes, has said that, although Denizen was just launched, Hilton is already in negotiation with 20 developers. Klein has said that he expects Hilton to announce signed contracts to open Denizen hotels "within 30 days."

99. That Starwood's highly successful W lifestyle brand and luxury hotel group has inspired and invited competition is to be expected. Hilton has been especially clear in its desire to mimic Starwood's successful branding and re-positioning of its luxury properties. As Hilton has described it:

"A designated team of brands within the Hilton Family of Hotels, Hilton's Luxury and Lifestyle brands offer global choices to the modern traveler. Each brand within the portfolio has a distinct personality - combined, they illustrate Hilton's ongoing commitment to meeting the needs of a changing global consumer in the expanding luxury market. Encompassing Denizen Hotels, Conrad Hotels and Resorts, Waldorf Astoria and Waldorf Astoria Collection hotels, the Hilton Luxury and Lifestyle brands blend cultured and timeless traditions with modern indigenous settings, providing luxury experiences for modern business and leisure travelers alike."

100. But here Hilton, Klein and Lalvani, and others working in concert with them, have engaged in corporate espionage and the theft of highly confidential and proprietary Starwood information and trade secrets in breach of (or aiding the breach of) contractual and fi-

duciary duties in order to expedite Hilton's entry or expansion into new hotel markets, and substantially reduce its costs and risks of doing so.

101. Klein has admitted in the press that the only investment that Hilton has made in Denizen has been in the "intellectual" component of the brand. That intelligence, however, was stolen from Starwood in the form of the explicit brand development, marketing, and negotiating tools created through years of investment of tens of millions of dollars and countless employee hours by Starwood. That investment by Starwood, which Starwood took extensive steps to try to protect, has now gone to enriching Hilton in its efforts unfairly to compete with Starwood.

102. Klein's and Lalvani's employment agreements with Starwood carve out and exclude from any arbitration all Claims involving the alleged taking, use or disclosure of trade secrets and similar confidential or proprietary information. Klein's separation agreement also carves out of and excludes from the release provided by Starwood to Klein: (i) any obligation of Klein pursuant to Klein's NON-SOLICITATION, CONFIDENTIALITY AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AGREEMENT; (ii) any act by Klein during his employment that would constitute fraud or embezzlement; or (iii) any actions, claims or demands related to actions or omissions occurring after May 30, 2008. By this action, Starwood seeks equitable relief and money damages. Klein's employment and separation agreements each acknowledge that Starwood shall be entitled to an injunction, restraining order, or such other equitable relief (without the necessity of posting a bond) in a court of law restraining Klein from committing or continuing to commit any violation of the confidentiality provisions of his employment and separation agreements.

103. By this action, Starwood seeks equitable relief and money damages. The employment agreements entered into by Klein and Lalvani, and by the other interested persons, expressly provide that Starwood shall be entitled to an injunction, restraining order, or such other equitable relief (without the necessity of posting a bond) in a court of law restraining each of them from committing or continuing to commit any violation of the confidentiality provisions of their employment agreements.

104. Plaintiff Starwood has no adequate remedy at law.

**AS AND FOR A FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF**  
**(Breach of Contract — Klein)**

105. Plaintiff repeats and realleges each and every allegation set forth in paragraphs one through 104 as though fully set forth herein.

106. As a condition of his employment with Starwood, Defendant Klein signed and agreed to be bound by the terms of a NON-SOLICITATION, CONFIDENTIALITY AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AGREEMENT.

107. At all relevant times, Plaintiff Starwood performed its duties with respect to the NON-SOLICITATION, CONFIDENTIALITY AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AGREEMENT entered into by Defendant Klein.

108. Defendant Klein has breached and continues to breach his obligations to maintain the confidentiality of Starwood's highly confidential and proprietary information under the NON-SOLICITATION, CONFIDENTIALITY AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AGREEMENT.

109. In addition, as a condition of his severance from Starwood, Defendant Klein signed and agreed to be bound by the terms of his separation agreement.

110. At all relevant times, Plaintiff Starwood performed its duties with respect to Defendant Klein under Klein's separation agreement.

111. Defendant Klein has breached and continues to breach his obligations to maintain the confidentiality of Starwood's highly confidential and proprietary information under the separation agreement.

112. As a direct and proximate result of the wrongful conduct by Defendant Klein, Plaintiff Starwood has suffered and continues to suffer irreparable injury.

113. As a direct and proximate result of the wrongful conduct by Defendant Klein, Plaintiff Starwood has suffered and continues to suffer substantial money damages.

**AS AND FOR A SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF**  
**(Breach of Contract — Lalvani)**

114. Plaintiff repeats and realleges each and every allegation set forth in paragraphs one through 113 as though fully set forth herein.

115. As a condition of his employment with Starwood, Defendant Lalvani signed and agreed to be bound by the terms of a NON-SOLICITATION, CONFIDENTIALITY AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AGREEMENT.

116. At all relevant times, Plaintiff Starwood performed its duties with respect to the NON-SOLICITATION, CONFIDENTIALITY AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AGREEMENT entered into by Defendant Lalvani.

117. Defendant Lalvani has breached and continue to breach his obligations to maintain the confidentiality of Starwood's highly confidential and proprietary information under the NON-SOLICITATION, CONFIDENTIALITY AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AGREEMENT.

118. As a direct and proximate result of the wrongful conduct by Defendant Lalvani, Plaintiff Starwood has suffered and continues to suffer irreparable injury.

119. As a direct and proximate result of the wrongful conduct by Defendant Lalvani, Plaintiff Starwood has suffered and continues to suffer substantial money damages.

**AS AND FOR A THIRD CLAIM FOR RELIEF**  
**(Inducing Breaches of Contracts; and**  
**Tortious Interference With Contractual Relations — Hilton)**

120. Plaintiff repeats and realleges each and every allegation set forth in paragraphs one through 119 as though fully set forth herein.

121. Defendant Hilton knew of Klein's and Lalvani's contractual obligations to Starwood.

122. By its wrongful actions, Defendant Hilton intentionally induced Klein and Lalvani to breach their contracts with Starwood and has tortiously interfered with Starwood's contractual relations with Klein and Lalvani.

123. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant Hilton's wrongful conduct, Plaintiff Starwood has suffered and continues to suffer irreparable injury.

124. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant Hilton's wrongful conduct, Defendant Hilton has been unjustly enriched and Plaintiff Starwood has suffered and continues to suffer substantial money damages.

**AS AND FOR A FOURTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF**  
**(Fraud — Klein)**  
**(Aiding and Abetting Fraud — Hilton and Lalvani)**

125. Plaintiff repeats and realleges each and every allegation set forth in paragraphs one through 124 as though fully set forth herein.

126. At the time Starwood and Klein entered into the separation agreement, Defendant Klein acknowledged that he had access to Starwood Confidential Information. Klein represented to Starwood that he had returned or would return all such information to Starwood by May 30, 2008, and that he had not retained and would not retain originals or any copies of documents, records or materials of any kind, whether written or electronically created or stored, which contain, relate to or refer to any Confidential Information belonging to Starwood. Klein also represented that he would not use or disclose any Starwood Confidential Information. These representations were collateral to and separate from the obligations that Klein was under by virtue of his then-existing employment agreement with Starwood.

127. At the time that Klein made these and other representations to Starwood, they were false and Klein knew them to be false. At the time that Klein made these and other representations he was already copying Starwood Confidential Information onto his personal computer, he was already emailing Starwood Confidential Information to his personal e-mail account, he was already taking Starwood Confidential Information home, and he was already shipping boxes directly to Hilton's executive offices in Beverly Hills, California — all without the authorization or agreement of Starwood.

128. Klein lied to Starwood and made knowingly false representations in order to induce Starwood into entering into the separation agreement and paying Klein over \$600,000 in severance payments to which, as a result of his wrongful conduct, he was not otherwise entitled, as well as to conceal the fact that Klein was already stealing Starwood Confidential Information to be used for the benefit of Hilton.



129. Klein's representations that he would not take, use or disclose any Starwood Confidential Information were knowingly false when made and were made by Klein for the purpose of defrauding Starwood.

130. Klein did not inform Starwood that, two weeks before Klein signed his separation agreement with Starwood, Klein had already signed an employment agreement with Defendant Hilton and that, in concert with Lalvani, Klein had already knowingly and intentionally taken Starwood Confidential Information in contravention of Starwood policy and his existing fiduciary and contractual obligations with the intention of providing it to and using it for the benefit of Hilton. Hilton and Lalvani were aware of and knowingly aided and abetted Klein's fraud.

131. Starwood relied on Klein's representations that he would not take, use or disclose Starwood confidential information when Starwood entered into the separation agreement and agreed to pay Klein over \$600,000 in severance payments.

132. Klein has fraudulently obtained Starwood Confidential Information for the unjust enrichment of himself, Lalvani and Hilton. Lalvani, who also looted Starwood's files, and Hilton, for whose benefit the information was stolen, were aware of Klein's false statements to Starwood.

133. As a direct and proximate result of the wrongful conduct of Defendants Hilton, Klein and Lalvani, Defendants have been unjustly enriched and Plaintiff Starwood has suffered and continues to suffer money damages.

**AS AND FOR A FIFTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF**  
**(Misappropriation of Trade Secrets — Hilton, Klein and Lalvani)**

134. Plaintiff repeats and realleges each and every allegation set forth in paragraphs one through 133 as though fully set forth herein.

135. By their wrongful actions, Defendants Klein and Lalvani have knowingly misappropriated and used Starwood trade secrets in breach of their agreements, confidential relationships and fiduciary duties to Starwood.

136. By its wrongful actions, including discovery of Starwood's trade secrets through improper means, Defendant Hilton has knowingly misappropriated and used, or aided and abetted the misappropriation and misuse of, Starwood trade secrets.

137. As a direct and proximate result of the wrongful conduct of Defendants Hilton, Klein and Lalvani, Plaintiff Starwood has suffered and continues to suffer irreparable injury.

138. As a direct and proximate result of the wrongful conduct of Defendants Hilton, Klein and Lalvani, Defendants have been unjustly enriched and Plaintiff Starwood has suffered and continues to suffer money damages.

**AS AND FOR A SIXTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF**  
**(Unfair Competition --- Hilton, Klein and Lalvani)**

139. Plaintiff repeats and realleges each and every allegation set forth in paragraphs one through 138 as though fully set forth herein.

140. By their wrongful actions, Defendants Hilton, Klein and Lalvani have knowingly misappropriated confidential and proprietary information for use in Hilton's business and have engaged in unfair competition with Starwood.

141. As a direct and proximate result of the wrongful conduct of Defendants Hilton, Klein and Lalvani, Plaintiff Starwood has suffered and continues to suffer irreparable injury.

142. As a direct and proximate result of the wrongful conduct of Defendants Hilton, Klein and Lalvani, Defendants have been unjustly enriched and Plaintiff Starwood has suffered and continues to suffer money damages.

**AS AND FOR A SEVENTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF**  
**(Theft/Conversion — Hilton, Klein and Lalvani)**

143. Plaintiff repeats and realleges each and every allegation set forth in paragraphs one through 142 as though fully set forth herein.

144. By their wrongful actions, Defendants have intentionally stolen and converted Starwood confidential and proprietary information and trade secrets to the exclusion of Starwood's rights.

145. As a direct and proximate result of the wrongful conduct of Defendants Hilton, Klein and Lalvani, Plaintiff Starwood has suffered and continues to suffer irreparable injury.

146. As a direct and proximate result of the wrongful conduct of Defendants Hilton, Klein and Lalvani, Plaintiff Starwood has suffered and continues to suffer money damages.

**AS AND FOR A EIGHTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF**  
**(Breaches of Fiduciary Duty — Klein and Lalvani)**

147. Plaintiff repeats and realleges each and every allegation set forth in paragraphs one through 146 as though fully set forth herein.

148. As management-level employees entrusted with confidential and proprietary information and trade secrets, Defendants Klein and Lalvani each owed at all relevant times fiduciary duties to Plaintiff Starwood.

149. Defendants Klein and Lalvani (and perhaps others) each breached that duty by surreptitiously stealing Starwood's confidential and proprietary information and trade secrets through improper means and by making or intending to make improper use of that information and those secrets for purposes contrary to Starwood's interests.

150. As a direct and proximate result of the wrongful conduct of Defendants Klein and Lalvani, Plaintiff Starwood has suffered and continues to suffer irreparable injury.

151. As a direct and proximate result of the wrongful conduct of Defendants Klein and Lalvani, Plaintiff Starwood has suffered and continues to suffer money damages.

**AS AND FOR A NINTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF**  
**(Aiding and Abetting Breaches of Fiduciary Duty — Hilton)**

152. Plaintiff repeats and realleges each and every allegation set forth in paragraphs one through 151 as though fully set forth herein.

153. Defendant Hilton knew of the fiduciary duties owed to Starwood by Defendants Klein and Lalvani.

154. By its wrongful actions, Defendant Hilton knowingly induced and participated in Klein's and Lalvani's breaches of their fiduciary obligations to Starwood.

155. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant Hilton's wrongful conduct, Plaintiff Starwood has suffered and continues to suffer irreparable injury.

156. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant Hilton's wrongful conduct, Plaintiff Starwood has suffered and continues to suffer money damages.

**AS AND FOR AN TENTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF**  
**(Unjust Enrichment — Hilton, Klein and Lalvani)**

157. Plaintiff repeats and realleges each and every allegation set forth in paragraphs one through 156 as though fully set forth herein.

158. By their wrongful actions, Defendants Hilton, Klein and Lalvani have been unjustly enriched at Starwood's expense.

159. It is against equity and good conscience to permit Defendants to retain the benefits derived from their wrongful conduct.

160. As a direct and proximate result of the wrongful conduct of Defendants Hilton, Klein and Lalvani, Plaintiff Starwood has suffered and continues to suffer irreparable injury.

161. As a direct and proximate result of the wrongful conduct of Defendants Hilton, Klein and Lalvani, Plaintiff Starwood has suffered and continues to suffer money damages.

**AS AND FOR A ELEVENTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF**  
**(Violation of Computer Fraud and Abuse Act — Hilton, Klein and Lalvani)**

162. Plaintiff repeats and realleges each and every allegation set forth in paragraphs one through 161 as though fully set forth herein.

163. Starwood's computers and computer systems are "protected computers" under the federal Computer Fraud and Abuse Act, 18 U.S.C. § 1030(e)(2).

164. By their wrongful actions, Defendants Klein and Lalvani (and others working under their direction and at their express instruction) intentionally accessed Starwood's protected computer system, without authorization and/or in excess of authorized access, and thereby obtained information from Starwood's protected computer system.

165. By their wrongful actions, Defendants Klein and Lalvani knowingly and with intent to defraud, accessed Starwood's protected computer system, without authorization and/or in excess of authorized access.

166. By their wrongful actions, Defendants Klein and Lalvani furthered the intended fraud, obtained unauthorized use of Starwood's protected computer system, and obtained Starwood's proprietary information, the value of such exceeding \$5,000 in value in any one year period.

167. The wrongful conduct of Defendants Klein and Lalvani was done with inducement from and with the knowledge and participation of Defendant Hilton, and/or for the benefit of Defendant Hilton such that Hilton is equally responsible for the wrongful conduct of Klein and Lalvani.

168. By their wrongful actions, Defendants Hilton, Klein and Lalvani intentionally accessed Starwood's protected computer system without authorization, and as a result of such conduct, caused Starwood damage and loss.

169. The wrongful actions of Defendants Hilton, Klein and Lalvani have caused loss to Starwood that exceeds \$5,000 in value during any one year period, in that Starwood has spent far in excess of \$5,000 in responding to the offense and conducting a damage assessment.

170. The activity of Defendants Hilton, Lalvani and Klein constitutes a violation of the federal Computer Fraud and Abuse Act, 18 U.S.C.A. § 1030(a)(2)C), (a)(4), (a)(5)C), and Starwood is entitled to full compensatory damages under that Act.

### PRAYER FOR RELIEF

**WHEREFORE**, Plaintiff Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide, Inc. prays for the following relief:

- (i) preliminarily and permanently enjoining Defendants Hilton, Klein and Lalvani and their respective officers, agents, servants, employees and attorneys, and all other persons who are in active concert or participation with them who receive actual notice of the order by personal service or otherwise, from using or benefiting, directly or indirectly, from the use of Starwood's confidential, proprietary and trade secret information, including without limitation the Starwood Confidential Information;
- (ii) preliminarily and permanently enjoining Defendants Hilton, Klein and Lalvani and their respective officers, agents, servants, employees and attorneys, and all other persons who are in active concert or participation with them who receive actual notice of the order by personal service or otherwise, immediately to return all Starwood Confidential Information in their possession, custody or control;
- (iii) preliminarily and permanently enjoining Defendants Hilton, Klein and Lalvani and their respective officers, agents, servants, employees and attorneys, and all other persons who are in active concert or participation with them who receive actual notice of the order by personal service or otherwise, immediately to destroy and to certify under oath the destruction of all materials derived in any way directly or indirectly in whole or in part from any Starwood Confidential Information;
- (iv) preliminarily and permanently enjoining Defendants Hilton, Klein and Lalvani and their respective officers, agents, servants, employees and attorneys, and all other persons who are in active concert or participation with them who receive actual notice of the order by personal service or otherwise, immediately to destroy and to certify under oath the destruction of all documents and information relating to the promotion and roll-out of Hilton's Denizen brand — thus requiring Hilton to start over without the benefit of its theft of Starwood Confidential Information;
- (v) preliminarily and permanently enjoining Defendants Hilton, Klein and Lalvani and their respective officers, agents, servants, employees and attorneys, and all other persons who are in active concert or participation with them who receive actual notice of the order by personal service or otherwise, to impose a constructive trust on and provide a detailed accounting of all revenues derived and expenses saved by Hilton from the use of the Starwood Confidential Information;
- (vi) preliminarily and permanently enjoining Defendants Hilton, Klein and Lalvani and their respective officers, agents, servants, employees and attorneys, and all other persons who are in active concert or participation with them who receive actual notice of the order by personal service or otherwise, for a reasonable time from pursuing any hotel owners for hotel properties targeted in the locations iden-

tified in the Starwood Confidential Information as targeted for Starwood Luxury Brand Group properties; and

- (vii) preliminarily and permanently enjoining Defendants Hilton, Klein and Lalvani and their respective officers, agents, servants, employees and attorneys, and all other persons who are in active concert or participation with them who receive actual notice of the order by personal service or otherwise, for a reasonable time from negotiating with any investors with whom Starwood has current management contracts;
- (viii) ordering Defendants Hilton, Klein and Lalvani to disgorge all unjust enrichment as a result of their taking and use of Starwood Confidential Information;
- (ix) ordering Defendants Hilton, Klein and Lalvani, jointly and severally, to pay Starwood compensatory damages in an amount to be proven at trial;
- (x) ordering Defendants Hilton, Klein and Lalvani each to pay Starwood punitive damages in amounts to be proven at trial; and
- (xi) ordering such other and further relief as this Court deems just and proper.

Dated: April 16, 2009

CAHILL GORDON & REINDEL LLP

By: Charles A. Gilman  
Charles A. Gilman  
David G. Januszewski  
Andrea R. Butler

80 Pine Street  
New York, New York 10005  
(212) 701-3000

*Attorneys for Plaintiff Starwood Hotels & Resorts  
Worldwide, Inc.*



**DEMAND FOR TRIAL BY JURY**

Plaintiff demands trial by jury on all claims as to which it is so entitled.

By: Charles A. Gilman  
Charles A. Gilman

## EXHIBIT 1

# STARWOOD

HOTELS & RESORTS WORLDWIDE, INC.

May 9, 2005

David K. Norton  
EVP, HUMAN RESOURCES

Ross Klein  
c/o Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide, Inc.

Dear Ross,

The specifics of your assignment with Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide, Inc., in connection with your promotion to President, W Hotels Worldwide, are outlined below:

**Start Date:**

Subject to the terms of this letter, your promotion with Starwood will be effective on May 1, 2005.

**Responsibilities:**

Initially, your position will be President, W Hotels Worldwide, and you shall perform such duties and services as are assigned to you by the Company as requested. You shall devote your full time and attention to the affairs of the Company and to your job duties, and use your best efforts and abilities to promote Starwood's interests. You will initially be reporting to Steve Heyer, Chief Executive Officer, though the Company may make changes in your reporting structure title, and job responsibilities at any time.

In performing your duties, you will be expected to comply at all times with all Starwood policies, procedures and directives as they currently exist or as they may be adopted or changed from time to time.

**Base Salary:**

Your base salary will be \$400,000 annually, paid in or semi-monthly intervals of \$16,666.66, less applicable withholdings. The Starwood salary program provides performance-based salary reviews for future salary progression.

**Annual Incentive (Bonus):**

You will be eligible to participate in the Starwood Annual Incentive Plan (AIP). Your target incentive is 75% of base salary. Your actual incentive award will be based upon a variety of factors including Company and division performance, and your achieving specified performance criteria to be established and approved with your manager. In the event that changes are made to any of the incentive plans, the changes will apply to you as they do other similarly situated employees of the Company.

Payment of your 2005 bonus (pro-rata) will be delivered according to the regular annual incentive plan payout schedule. An annual bonus shall not be deemed earned by you until the Company has determined your entitlement to such bonus and only if you are employed by the Company at the time such bonus is payable in accordance with the Annual Incentive Plan (AIP) and Company practices. The Company does not pay pro-rata bonuses upon departure.



**Long Term Incentive:**

You will be eligible to participate in the Starwood Long Term Incentive Compensation Plan ("LTIP"), subject to the terms and conditions of the plan, as it may be changed from time to time. This plan currently provides for the award of stock options and/or restricted shares at the Company's discretion to high performing executives. The actual number of shares granted, if any, will be based upon your performance.

**Benefits:**

Your original hire date will remain the same for benefit accrual purposes. If your promotion necessitates a change in medical plans, information will be provided to you after your new assignment begins.

**Resolution of Disputes:**

From time to time, disagreements and misunderstandings may arise concerning your job responsibilities, performance, compensation, benefits or other matters affecting your employment with Starwood, or one of its affiliated companies. We hope that we will be able to resolve such matters through normal discussions with your immediate managers or Human Resources representatives.

In the event those efforts fail, you and Starwood agree, except as may be prohibited by law or as otherwise excluded by the terms of the attached Mutual Agreement to Arbitrate (Attachment A), to submit any and all disputes relating to or arising out of this offer letter, your employment with Starwood or the termination of that employment to final and binding arbitration pursuant to the employment rules then in effect of the American Arbitration Association, which shall be the sole and exclusive remedy for such disputes. Accordingly, you acknowledge and agree that this offer of employment and the benefits provided herein are contingent upon your execution of the Mutual Agreement to Arbitrate provided to you herewith and incorporated herein by reference. In the event that the Mutual Agreement to Arbitrate is determined by a court with appropriate jurisdiction to be unenforceable, you and Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide, Inc. waive any right to a trial by jury on the claims that otherwise would have been subject to the Mutual Agreement to Arbitrate.

**Employment Term:**

While Starwood looks forward to a long and mutually beneficial relationship with you, you should understand that there is no fixed duration for your employment. In accepting this offer, you acknowledge and agree that your employment with the Company is at will, and may be terminated by Starwood at any time, with or without notice and for any or no reason. By signing below, you acknowledge that except for this letter, there is not and shall not be any written contract between you and the Company concerning this offer of employment or your prospective employment, and that nothing in this letter guarantees employment for any definite or specific term or duration or any particular level of benefits or compensation.

**Severance:**

In the event that Starwood terminates your employment for any reason other than cause, Starwood will pay to you twelve (12) months of your then current base salary, in a lump sum less all applicable withholdings (the "Severance Payment"), and it will periodically reimburse you for your COBRA expenses minus your last level of normal contribution for up to twelve (12) months

commencing on the termination date. The Severance Payment will be in lieu of any compensation, damage or remedy to which you might otherwise be entitled and will be subject to and conditioned upon (a) your continuing compliance with the Non-Solicitation, Confidentiality and Intellectual Property Agreement referred to below, and (b) your signing a written waiver and release of any and all claims against Starwood arising out of or relating to your employment with Starwood, in form and substance satisfactory to Starwood. You will not be eligible for any Severance Payment or COBRA reimbursement if you resign from your employment with the Company.

For purposes of this paragraph, "cause," shall mean (i) any material breach by you of any of the duties, responsibilities or obligations of your employment, or any of the policies or practices of Starwood; (ii) your failure or refusal to properly perform, or the habitual neglect of (both as determined by Starwood in its reasonable discretion and judgment), the duties, responsibilities or obligations of your employment, or to properly perform or follow (as determined by Starwood in its reasonable discretion and judgment) any lawful order or direction by Starwood; (iii) any acts or omissions by you that constitute (as determined by Starwood in its reasonable discretion and judgment) fraud, dishonesty, disloyalty, breach of trust, gross negligence, civil or criminal illegality, or any other misconduct or behavior that could (as determined by Starwood in its reasonable discretion and judgment), subject to civil or criminal liability or otherwise adversely affect the business, interests or reputation of Starwood or any of its affiliates.

**Other Conditions and Obligations:**

You acknowledge that you are not subject to any currently effective employment contract, or any other contractual or other binding obligations pursuant to which your employment or employment activities with or on behalf of the Company may be subject to any restrictions. Restrictions include, without limitation, any agreements or other obligations or documents relating to non-competition, confidentiality, trade secrets, proprietary information or works for hire. By signing this letter, you represent to Starwood that there are no agreements or arrangements, whether written or oral, in effect that would prevent or conflict with your full performance of your Employment duties and responsibilities to us.

As a further condition of this offer and your right to receive any of the benefits detailed herein, you agree to execute and be bound by the Non-solicitation, Confidentiality and Intellectual Property Agreement attached hereto (Attachment B) and incorporated herein by reference.

**No Other Assurances:**

You acknowledge that in deciding to sign this offer, you have not relied on any promises, commitments, statements or representations, whether spoken or in writing, made to you by any representative of the Company, except for what is expressly stated herein. This offer replaces and cancels all previous agreements, commitments, and understandings whether spoken or written, if any, that the Company or any representative of the Company may have made in connection with your anticipated employment.

You also acknowledge that this offer is intended as written, and that no marginal notations or other revisions to either this offer, the Mutual Agreement to Arbitrate, or the Non-solicitation, Confidentiality and Intellectual Property Agreement are binding on the Company unless expressly consented to in writing by the Executive Vice President, Human Resources or Starwood's General Counsel. This offer shall be construed, governed by and enforced in accordance with the laws of the State of New York, without regard to its conflicts of laws principles.

By signing and returning this letter, you confirm that this letter accurately sets forth the current understanding between you and Starwood and that you accept and agree to the terms as stated above.

Very truly yours,

David Norton  
EVP, Human Resources  
Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide, Inc.

cc: Personnel File

ACCEPTED AND AGREED TO:

  
Ross Klein

  
Date

MUTUAL AGREEMENT TO ARBITRATE

In order to gain the benefits of a speedy, impartial, and cost-effective dispute resolution procedure, and for good and valid consideration as covenanted below and in addition to any other consideration, and intending to be legally bound, Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide, Inc. ("Starwood") and I hereby agree that, except as otherwise provided herein, all disputes and claims for which a court otherwise would be authorized by law to grant relief, in any manner, that I may have, now or in the future, during or after my employment with Starwood, of any and every kind or nature whatsoever with or against Starwood, any of Starwood's affiliated or subsidiary companies, partners, joint venturers, owners of properties Starwood manages, and/or any of his, her, its or their directors, officers, employees or agents, or any disputes and claims that Starwood may have against me (collectively, "Claims"), shall be submitted to the American Arbitration Association ("AAA") to be resolved and determined through final and binding arbitration before a single arbitrator and to be conducted in accordance with the National Rules for the Resolution of Employment Disputes of the AAA. Starwood and I agree that the arbitrator will have the authority to grant motions dispositive of all or part of any Claim. Starwood shall be responsible for payment of all arbitrator compensation, AAA filing fees and AAA administrative fees, other than the initial AAA filing fee for which I will be responsible to pay up to a maximum of \$500.00, or as otherwise required by law.

Any reference in this Agreement to Starwood also refers to all of Starwood's affiliated entities, benefit plans, the benefit plans' sponsors, fiduciaries and administrators, and all successors and assigns of any of them.

Starwood and I each have the right to representation by counsel with respect to arbitration of any dispute pursuant to this Agreement. Except as prohibited by law, at the request of either Starwood or me, the arbitration proceedings shall be conducted in confidence, and, in such a case, all documents, testimony, and records shall be received, heard, and maintained by the arbitrator in confidence, available for inspection only by me and Starwood, our respective attorneys, and experts, who shall agree, in advance and in writing, to receive all such information confidentially and to maintain the secrecy of such information until it shall become generally known. Both parties shall be allowed adequate discovery as part of the arbitration process, including reasonable access to essential documents and witnesses as determined by agreement or the arbitrator.

The arbitrator shall conduct a full hearing as to all issues and disputes not resolved by dispositive motion. At such hearing, the parties shall be entitled to present evidence and examine and cross-examine witnesses. The arbitrator shall issue a written decision revealing the essential findings and conclusions upon which any award is based. In addition, the arbitrator shall have authority to award equitable relief, damages, costs, and fees to the extent permitted by law, including, but not limited to, any remedy or relief that a governing court might order.

Starwood and I hereby agree that the Claims subject to arbitration shall include but not be limited to any and all Claims that arise out of or are related to the offer of employment, transfer or promotion extended by Starwood to me, any withdrawal or rescission of that offer, any aspect of my employment with Starwood or the terms and conditions of that employment, any claim for bonus, vacation pay or other compensation, any termination of that employment and any Claim of discrimination, retaliation, or harassment based upon age, race, religion, sex, creed, ethnicity, pregnancy, veteran status, citizenship status, national origin, disability, handicap, medical condition, sexual orientation or any other unlawful basis, or any other unlawful conduct, under

any applicable federal, state, local or other statutes, orders, laws, ordinances, regulations or the like, or case law, that relate to employment or employment practices, including without limitation, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, the Civil Rights Act of 1991, as amended, the Civil Rights Acts of 1866 and 1871, as amended, the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967, as amended, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended, the Family Medical Leave Act of 1993, as amended, the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1990, as amended, the Worker Adjustment Retraining and Notification Act, as amended, the Fair Labor Standards Act, as amended, the Vietnam Era Veterans' Readjustment Assistance Act, as amended, the Equal Pay Act, as amended, the Rehabilitation Act, as amended, the Immigration Reform and Control Act, and the state and local analogues to the foregoing.

Starwood and I further agree that the Claims subject to arbitration shall exclude any Claims required by any applicable federal, state, local or other statute or benefit or pension plan to be submitted to an administrative forum (for example, a workers' compensation claim, a claim for unemployment insurance benefits, or an administrative charge of discrimination or retaliation filed with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission or the state or local analogue to that agency but not litigation arising from such charges) and any Claims involving solely a monetary dispute within the jurisdiction of a small claims court. Starwood and I further agree that the Claims subject to arbitration also shall exclude any Claims to the extent they involve the alleged taking, use or disclosure of trade secrets and similar confidential or proprietary information, Claims involving a failure to pay a retention bonus or relocation expense, Claims involving a failure to repay any unearned portion of a retention bonus or relocation expense, Claims based upon any employee pension or benefit plan the terms of which contain an enforceable arbitration procedure, in which case the procedure of such plan shall apply, and Claims that cannot be compelled to mandatory arbitration under applicable federal law.

Starwood and I agree that any arbitration award rendered as the result of any arbitration under this Agreement shall be final and binding and may be entered and enforced as a court judgment in accordance with applicable law. Starwood and I further agree that this Agreement, any arbitration under this Agreement and any arbitration award rendered in such arbitration shall be governed by the Federal Arbitration Act.

By entering into this Agreement, Starwood and I each specifically acknowledge and understand that the right to the determination and/or trial of any Claims in court before a judge or a jury is a valuable right, and that by signing this Agreement Starwood and I hereby knowingly and voluntarily waive any and all rights we may have to assert any Claims in any court of competent jurisdiction and to a determination and/or trial before a judge or a jury.

I further understand and acknowledge that this Agreement is not intended to be and shall not be deemed to constitute a contract of employment for any specific duration, and that my employment shall be and remain at will, which means that Starwood and I shall be free to terminate that employment at any time for any or no reason with or without notice and with or without cause.

Each party's promise to resolve Claims by arbitration in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement is consideration for the other party's like promise. Additionally, I enter into this Agreement in consideration of Starwood's employment, transfer or promotion of me.



This Agreement shall survive my employer-employee relationship with Starwood and shall apply to any covered Claim whether arising or asserted during my employment or after the termination of my employment with the Company. This Agreement can be modified or revoked only by a writing signed by both Starwood's Executive Vice President, Human Resources and me and that expressly refers to this Agreement and specifically states an intent to modify or revoke it. This is the complete agreement of the parties on the subject of arbitration of disputes, except for any arbitration provision contained in a pension or benefit plan or an agreement covering change in control benefits and protections.

EACH PARTY TO THIS AGREEMENT ACKNOWLEDGES CAREFULLY READING THIS AGREEMENT, UNDERSTANDING ITS TERMS, AND ENTERING INTO THIS AGREEMENT KNOWINGLY AND VOLUNTARILY AND NOT IN RELIANCE ON ANY PROMISES OR REPRESENTATIONS OTHER THAN THOSE CONTAINED IN THIS AGREEMENT ITSELF.

EACH PARTY FURTHER ACKNOWLEDGES HAVING THE OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS THE AGREEMENT WITH PERSONAL LEGAL COUNSEL AND HAS USED THAT OPPORTUNITY TO THE EXTENT DESIRED.


Dated:

5/17/05

  
Ross Klein

Dated:

5/9/05

  
David Norton  
EVP, Human Resources  
Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide, Inc.

**NON-SOLICITATION, CONFIDENTIALITY AND INTELLECTUAL  
PROPERTY AGREEMENT**

This Non-solicitation, Confidentiality and Intellectual Property Agreement ("Agreement") is entered into as of this 1<sup>st</sup> day of May 2005, (the "Effective Date"), by and between Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide, Inc. (the "Company") and [Name] ("Employee").

WHEREAS, the Company devotes significant time, resources and effort to the training and advancement of its management, and its management team constitutes a significant asset and important competitive advantage; and

WHEREAS, the Employee has and will have access to important and sensitive confidential information; and

WHEREAS, the Company has determined that it is in the best interests of the Company and its shareholders to enter into an agreement with Employee whereby Employee will be prohibited from soliciting employees of the Company in accordance with the terms and conditions of this Agreement; and

WHEREAS, Employee may create inventions, trade secrets, know-how and documents or other works of authorship and may appear or perform in various promotional materials within the scope of Employee's employment.

WHEREAS, in consideration of the Company's offer of employment, Employee agrees to enter into this Agreement.

THEREFORE, the Company and Employee agree as follows:

1. **Non-solicitation.** During the period in which Employee is employed by the Company, and for a period of one (1) year following the date of any termination of employment from the Company, Employee shall not, without the prior written consent of the Company, except in the course of carrying out Employee's duties hereunder, directly or indirectly solicit or attempt to solicit for employment with or on behalf of any corporation, partnership, joint venture or other business entity, any person who is, or at any time during the six-month period preceding the solicitation of such person was, a management-level employee of the Company (including, without limitation, for this purpose any director level employee of the Company and any General Manager of any hotel owned (in whole or in part) or managed by the Company).

2. **Confidentiality.** Employee acknowledges that during the course of his/her employment with the Company, Employee will receive, and will have access to, "Confidential Information," as such term is defined below, of the Company and that such information is a special, valuable and unique asset belonging to the Company. Accordingly, Employee is willing to enter into the covenants contained in this Agreement in order to provide the Company with what Employee considers to be reasonable protection for the Company's interests. All notes, memoranda, papers, documents, correspondence or writings (which shall include information recorded or stored in writing, on magnetic tape or disc, or otherwise recorded or stored for reproduction, whether by mechanical or electronic means and whether or not such

reproduction will result in a permanent record being made) ("Documents") which from time to time may be in Employee's possession (whether prepared by Employee or not) relating, directly or indirectly, to the business of the Company shall be and remain the property of the Company and shall be delivered by Employee to the Company immediately upon request, and in any event promptly upon termination of Employee's employment, and Employee shall not make or keep any copies or extracts of the Documents. At any time during or after Employee's employment with the Company ends, without the prior written consent of the Company, except (i) in the course of carrying out Employee's duties hereunder or (ii) to the extent required by a court or governmental agency, or by applicable law or under compulsion of legal process, Employee shall not disclose to any third person any information concerning the business of the Company, including, without limitation, any trade secrets, customer lists and details of contracts with or requirements of customers, the identity of any owner of a managed hotel, information relating to any current, past or prospective management agreement or joint venture, information pertaining to business methods, sales plans, design plans and strategies, management organization, computer systems and software, operating policies or manuals, personnel records or information, information relating to current, past or contemplated employee benefits or compensation data or strategies, business, financial, development or marketing plans, or manpower strategies or plans, financial records or other financial, commercial, business or technical information relating to the Company (collectively, "Confidential Information"), unless such Confidential Information has been previously disclosed to the public by the Company or is in the public domain (other than by reason of Employee's breach of this Section 2). Employee will, prior to making any such disclosure pursuant to subsection (ii), promptly notify the Company of his/her receipt of such process or requirement, consult with the Company on the advisability of taking steps to resist or narrow such request, cooperate with the Company in any attempt that the Company may make to obtain a court order or other reliable assurance that confidential treatment will be accorded to all or designated portions of such information, and not disclose such Confidential Information unless the Company shall have had reasonable opportunity to obtain a court order prohibiting or limiting such disclosure.

2.1 Employee agrees that, both during and after Employee's employment with the Company, if Employee is uncertain of whether or not information is confidential, Employee will treat that information as Confidential Information until Employee has received written verification from an authorized officer of the Company that the information is not Confidential Information.

3. Intellectual Property and Publicity Rights. Employee acknowledges and agrees that all right, title and interest in and to patents, patent applications, inventions, improvements, discoveries, developments, processes, business methods, technical information, know-how, trade secrets, computer programs, writings, designs, copyrights, maskworks, trademarks, service marks, trade names, trade dress and the like (collectively, "Intellectual Property"), including the right to invoke the benefit of the right of priority provided by any treaty to which the United States is a party, which Employee creates, conceives, develops or obtains, either solely or jointly with others, during Employee's employment with the Company (a) with the use of the Company's time, materials, facilities or other resources; or (b) resulting from or suggested by Employee's work for the Company; or (c) in any way relating to any subject matter relating to the existing or contemplated business, products and services of the Company or the Company's affiliates, subsidiaries and licensees shall be owned by the Company. Upon request, Employee shall execute all such assignments and other documents and take all such other action as the Company may reasonably request in order to vest in the Company, or its nominee, all of Employee's right, title, and interest in and to such Intellectual Property. Employee further acknowledges and agrees that the Company shall have the perpetual, worldwide right to use

Employee's name, performance, biography, voice, image, signature and likeness in promotional or any other materials developed by or for the Company during Employee's employment with the Company. Employee hereby irrevocably and unconditionally waives any and all rights that he/she has or may have in and to the Intellectual Property, including, without limitation, any "moral rights" that he/she has or may have as "author" of the Intellectual Property, and hereby expressly agrees not to make any claim or demand against the Company or any party authorized by the Company to exploit the Intellectual Property.

4. Equitable Relief.

4.1 Employee acknowledges that the restrictions and obligations specified in Sections 1, 2 and 3 hereof are reasonable in view of the nature of the business in which the Company is engaged and Employee's knowledge of, and responsibilities with respect to, the Company's business, and that any breach of Sections 1, 2 or 3 hereof may cause the Company irreparable harm for which there is no adequate remedy at law, and as a result of this, the Company will be entitled to the issuance by a court of competent jurisdiction of an injunction, restraining order or other equitable relief in favor of the Company, without the necessity of posting a bond, restraining Employee from committing or continuing to commit any such violation. Any right to obtain an injunction, restraining order or other equitable relief hereunder will not be deemed to be a waiver of any right to assert any other remedy the Company may have at law or in equity, including, without limitation, the right to cancel payments to which Employee is otherwise entitled under Employee's employment agreement.

4.2 Any proceeding or action seeking equitable relief for violation of Sections 1, 2 and 3 hereof may be commenced in the federal courts in the Southern District of the State of New York, or in the absence of federal jurisdiction in state court in the State of New York. Employee hereby irrevocably and unconditionally submits to the exclusive jurisdiction of such courts and agrees to take any and all future action necessary to submit to the jurisdiction of such courts. Employee irrevocably waives any objection that Employee now has or hereafter may have to the laying of venue of any suit, action or proceeding brought in any such court and further irrevocably waives any claim that any such suit, action or proceeding brought in any such court has been brought in an inconvenient forum. Final judgment against Employee in any such suit will be conclusive and may be enforced in other jurisdictions by suit on the judgment, a certified or true copy of which will be conclusive evidence of the fact and the amount of any liability therein described, or by appropriate proceedings under an applicable treaty or otherwise.

5. Severability. In the event that any provision of this Agreement conflicts with the law under which this Agreement is to be construed, and/or if any such provision is held invalid by a court with jurisdiction over the parties to this Agreement and the subject matter of this agreement, (a) such provision will be deemed to be restated to reflect as nearly as possible the original intentions of the parties to the fullest extent permitted under applicable law, and (b) the remaining terms and provisions of this Agreement will remain in full force and effect.

6. Governing Law. This Agreement shall be construed, governed and enforced according to the laws of the State of New York, without regard to the principles of conflicts of laws.

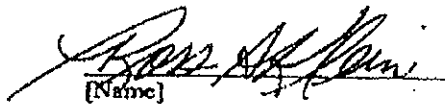
7. Amendments and Waivers. No failure to act by the Company will waive any right contained in this Agreement. No provision of this Agreement may be amended or waived, except by a written agreement signed by both Employee and an authorized executive officer of the Company. Any waiver by the Company of strict performance of any provision of

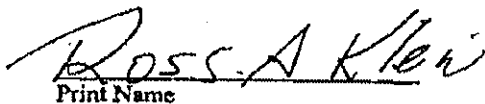
this Agreement shall not be a waiver of or prejudice the Company's right to require strict performance of that same provision or any other provision of the Agreement in the future

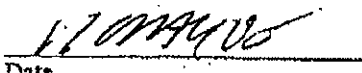
Employee acknowledges that he/she has had a reasonable opportunity to review and consider the terms described above and to consult with an attorney if he/she so chooses prior to signing this Agreement. Fully understanding the above terms, Employee is entering into this letter agreement knowingly and voluntarily.

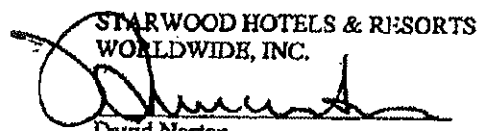
IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties have executed this Agreement on the day and year first above written.

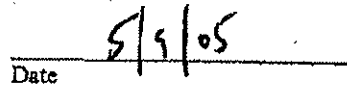
EMPLOYEE

  
[Name]

  
Print Name

  
Date

STARWOOD HOTELS & RESORTS  
WORLDWIDE, INC.  
  
David Norton  
EVP, Human Resources

  
Date

## EXHIBIT 2

**STARWOOD**  
HOTELS & RESORTS WORLDWIDE, INC.

October 9, 2006

Mr. Amar Lalvani  
c/o Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide, Inc.

Dear Amar,

We are delighted to confirm to you our offer of promotion at Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide, Inc.

Attached are documents specifically outlining our offer of promotion to you. Please review them carefully and contact me should you have any questions concerning the terms of this assignment.

We are pleased that you are continuing to be an increasingly important part of our team. Please acknowledge your acceptance of this promotion by signing and returning the attached documents to me.

Sincerely,

*Andrea Davitt*

Andrea Davitt  
Vice President, Corporate Human Resources  
Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide, Inc.



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October 9, 2006

**STARWOOD**  
HOTELS & RESORTS WORLDWIDE, INC.

Mr. Amar Lalvani  
c/o Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide, Inc.

Dear Amar,

We are pleased to offer your promotion with Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide, Inc. ("Starwood" or the "Company") under the terms and conditions stated below:

**Start Date:**

Subject to the terms of this letter, this assignment with Starwood will begin on Monday, October 2, 2006.

**Responsibilities:**

Initially, your position will be Senior Vice President, W Development - Global in the Real Estate Group at the W office in New York City and you shall perform such duties and services as are assigned to you by the Company as requested. You shall devote your full time and attention to the affairs of the Company and to your job duties, and use your best efforts and abilities to promote Starwood's interests. You will be reporting to me, though the Company may make changes in your reporting structure, title, and job responsibilities at any time.

In performing your duties, you will be expected to comply at all times with all Starwood policies, procedures and directives as they currently exist or as they may be adopted or changed from time to time.

**Base Salary:**

Your base salary will be \$250,000.00 annually, paid in semi-monthly intervals of \$10,416.67, and subject to applicable withholdings for FICA, state and federal taxes. The Starwood salary program provides performance-based salary reviews for future salary progression.

**Cost of Living Allowance:**

You will also receive a cost of living allowance expressed in bi-weekly terms; this C.O.L.A. will be \$2,083.33 (on an annualized basis equivalent to \$50,000) for year one. In year two, this C.O.L.A. will be \$1,041.67 (on an annualized basis equivalent to \$25,000). Both years will be subject to applicable withholdings for FICA, state and federal taxes and Medicare. There will be no cost of living adjustment in year three. Any subsequent reassignment will result in having the COLA re-evaluated.

**Annual Incentive (Bonus):**

You will be eligible to participate in the Starwood Annual Incentive Plan (AIP). Your target incentive is 60% of base salary. Your actual incentive award will be based upon a variety of factors including company and division performance, and your achieving specified performance criteria to be established and approved with your manager. In the event that changes are made to any of the incentive plans, the changes will apply to you as they do other similarly situated employees of the Company.



FOUR POINTS



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Please note that the AIP provides that a portion of your annual bonus will be deferred and payable in Starwood stock or stock units. The current deferral portion of the bonus is 10% and is payable in Starwood stock having a value on the date of deferral equal to 133% of the amount deferred.

Payment of your 2006 bonus will be delivered according to the regular annual incentive plan payout schedule. An annual bonus shall not be deemed earned by you until the Company has determined your entitlement to such bonus and only if you are employed by the Company at the time such bonus is payable in accordance with the Annual Incentive Plan (AIP) and Company practices. The Company does not pay pro-rata bonuses upon departure.

**Long Term Incentive:**

You will be eligible to participate in Starwood's Long Term Incentive Compensation Plan ("LTIP"). This plan provides for the award of restricted shares at the Company's discretion to high performing executives. The actual number of shares granted, if any, will be based upon your performance.

**Benefits:**

Your original hire date will remain the same for benefit accrual purposes. If your promotion necessitates a change in medical plans, information will be provided to you after your new assignment begins.

**Relocation:**

Starwood has selected Cartus Mobility Services to administer our Relocation Program. Starwood will pay the reasonable, out-of-pocket costs of relocating your family and household furnishings from Brussels to the White Plains, NY area in accordance with the provisions of Starwood's Relocation Program - Plan I Homeowner. Details of Starwood's Relocation Program are enclosed. To be eligible for reimbursement of certain benefits, you are required to utilize the services of an agent in the Cartus Mobility Preferred Network on both departure and destination.

To initiate the moving process, please contact your Human Resources office. You will be assigned to a Client Services Consultant at Cartus Mobility who will provide you with relocation assistance and the names of the Preferred Network agents. In an effort to fully utilize our relocation benefit and avoid additional tax liability, we ask that you do not begin your relocation process before being contacted by your assigned Cartus Client Services Consultant. Please do not sign a Listing Agreement or begin searching for a new home until you have spoken with your Consultant. For questions regarding policy benefits or to register a real estate agent with Cartus, please call 1-800-423-8624.

In the event that you accept this offer of transfer and relocation expenses are paid to you or on your behalf, you agree that if you voluntarily terminate your employment within one year after your first day of employment, you will repay all such relocation expenses, reduced by 1/12 for each full calendar month actually worked. In addition, eligibility for reimbursement of any and all relocation expenses will cease on the last day of employment and any relocation expenses incurred after that date will not be reimbursed by Starwood and will be your responsibility.

**Resolution of Disputes:**

From time to time, disagreements and misunderstandings may arise concerning your job responsibilities, performance, compensation, benefits or other matters affecting your employment with Starwood, or one of its affiliated companies. We hope that we will be able to resolve such matters through normal discussions with your immediate managers or Human Resources representatives.

In the event those efforts fail, you and Starwood agree, except as may be prohibited by law or as otherwise excluded by the terms of the attached Mutual Agreement to Arbitrate (Attachment A), to submit any and all disputes relating to or arising out of this offer letter, your employment with Starwood or the termination of that employment to final and binding arbitration pursuant to the employment rules then in effect of the American Arbitration Association, which shall be the sole and exclusive remedy for such disputes. Accordingly, you acknowledge and agree that this offer of employment and the benefits provided herein are contingent upon your execution of the Mutual Agreement to Arbitrate provided to you herewith and incorporated herein by reference. In the event that the Mutual Agreement to Arbitrate is determined by a court with appropriate jurisdiction to be unenforceable, you and Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide, Inc. waive any right to a trial by jury on the claims that otherwise would have been subject to the Mutual Agreement to Arbitrate.

**Employment Term:**

While Starwood looks forward to a long and mutually beneficial relationship with you, you should understand that there is no fixed duration for your employment. In accepting this offer, you acknowledge and agree that your employment with the Company is at will, and may be terminated by Starwood at any time, with or without notice and for any or no reason. By signing below, you acknowledge that except for this letter, there is not and shall not be any written contract between you and the Company concerning this offer of employment or your prospective employment, and that nothing in this letter guarantees employment for any definite or specific term or duration or any particular level of benefits or compensation.

**Severance:**

In the event that Starwood terminates your employment for any reason other than "cause," Starwood will pay to you 12 months of your then current base salary, in a lump sum less all applicable withholdings (the "Severance Payment") and it will periodically reimburse you for your COBRA expenses minus your last level of normal contribution for up to 12 months commencing on the termination date. The Severance Payment will be in lieu of any compensation, damage or remedy to which you might otherwise be entitled and will be subject to and conditioned upon (a) your continuing compliance with the Non-Solicitation, Confidentiality and Intellectual Property Agreement referred to below and (b) your signing a written waiver and release of any and all claims against Starwood arising out of or relating to your employment with Starwood. You will not be eligible for any Severance Payment or COBRA reimbursement if you resign from your employment with the Company.

For purposes of this paragraph, "cause," shall mean (i) any material breach by you of any of the duties, responsibilities or obligations of your employment, or any of the policies or practices of Starwood; (ii) your failure or refusal to properly perform, the duties, responsibilities or obligations of your employment, or to properly perform or follow (as determined by Starwood in its reasonable discretion and judgment) any lawful order or direction by Starwood; (iii) any acts or omissions by you that constitute (as determined by Starwood in its reasonable discretion and judgment) fraud, dishonesty, breach of trust, gross negligence, civil or criminal illegality, or any other misconduct or behavior that could (as determined by Starwood in its reasonable discretion and judgment) subject to civil or criminal liability or otherwise adversely affect the business, interests or reputation of Starwood or any of its affiliates.

**Other Conditions and Obligations:**

You acknowledge that you are not subject to any currently effective employment contract, or any other contractual or other binding obligations pursuant to which your employment or employment activities with or on behalf of the Company may be subject to any restrictions. Restrictions include, without limitation, any agreements or other obligations or documents relating to non-competition, confidentiality, trade secrets, proprietary information or works for hire. By signing this letter, you represent to Starwood that there are no agreements or arrangements, whether written or oral, in effect that would prevent or conflict with your full performance of your employment duties and responsibilities to us.

As a further condition of this offer and your right to receive any of the benefits detailed herein, you agree to execute and be bound by a confidentiality and non-solicitation agreement provided to you by the Company (Attachment B).

**No Other Assurances:**

You acknowledge that in deciding to sign this offer, you have not relied on any promises, commitments, statements or representations, whether spoken or in writing, made to you by any representative of the Company, except for what is expressly stated herein. This offer replaces and cancels all previous agreements, commitments, and understandings whether spoken or written, if any, that the Company or any representative of the Company may have made in connection with your anticipated employment.

You also acknowledge that this offer is intended as written, and that no marginal notations or other revisions to either this offer, the Mutual Agreement to Arbitrate, or the Non-solicitation, Confidentiality and Intellectual Property Agreement are binding on the Company unless expressly consented to in writing by the Senior Vice President, Human Resources or Starwood's General Counsel. This offer shall be construed, governed by and enforced in accordance with the laws of the State of New York, without regard to its conflicts of laws principles.

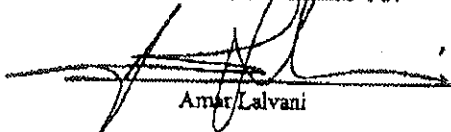
By signing and returning this letter, you confirm that this letter accurately sets forth the current understanding between you and Starwood and that you accept and agree to the terms as stated above.

Very truly yours,



James Sabatier  
Senior Vice President, Global Investments & W Development  
Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide, Inc.

ACCEPTED AND AGREED TO:

  
Amar Lalvani

Oct 12, 2006  
Date

**MUTUAL AGREEMENT TO ARBITRATE**

In order to gain the benefits of a speedy, impartial, and cost-effective dispute resolution procedure, and for good and valid consideration as covenanted below and in addition to any other consideration, and intending to be legally bound, Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide, Inc. ("Starwood") and I hereby agree that, except as otherwise provided herein, all disputes and claims for which a court otherwise would be authorized by law to grant relief, in any manner, that I may have, now or in the future, during or after my employment with Starwood, of any and every kind or nature whatsoever with or against Starwood, any of Starwood's affiliated or subsidiary companies, partners, joint venturers, owners of properties Starwood manages, and/or any of his, her, its or their directors, officers, employees or agents, or any disputes and claims that Starwood may have against me (collectively, "Claims"), shall be submitted to the American Arbitration Association ("AAA") to be resolved and determined through final and binding arbitration before a single arbitrator and to be conducted in accordance with the National Rules for the Resolution of Employment Disputes of the AAA. Starwood and I agree that the arbitrator will have the authority to grant motions dispositive of all or part of any Claim. Starwood shall be responsible for payment of all arbitrator compensation, AAA filing fees and AAA administrative fees, other than the initial AAA filing fee for which I will be responsible to pay up to a maximum of \$1.25, or as otherwise required by law.

Any reference in this Agreement to Starwood also refers to all of Starwood's affiliated entities, benefit plans, the benefit plans' sponsors, fiduciaries and administrators, and all successors and assigns of any of them.

Starwood and I each have the right to representation by counsel with respect to arbitration of any dispute pursuant to this Agreement. Except as prohibited by law, at the request of either Starwood or me, the arbitration proceedings shall be conducted in confidence, and, in such a case, all documents, testimony, and records shall be received, heard, and maintained by the arbitrator in confidence, available for inspection only by me and Starwood, our respective attorneys, and experts, who shall agree, in advance and in writing, to receive all such information confidentially and to maintain the secrecy of such information until it shall become generally known. Both parties shall be allowed adequate discovery as part of the arbitration process, including reasonable access to essential documents and witnesses as determined by agreement or the arbitrator.

The arbitrator shall conduct a full hearing as to all issues and disputes not resolved by dispositive motion. At such hearing, the parties shall be entitled to present evidence and examine and cross-examine witnesses. The arbitrator shall issue a written decision revealing the essential findings and conclusions upon which any award is based. In addition, the arbitrator shall have authority to award equitable relief, damages, costs, and fees to the extent permitted by law, including, but not limited to, any remedy or relief that a governing court might order.

Starwood and I hereby agree that the Claims subject to arbitration shall include but not be limited to any and all Claims that arise out of or are related to the offer of employment, transfer or promotion extended by Starwood to me, any withdrawal or rescission of that offer, any aspect of my employment with Starwood or the terms and conditions of that employment, any claim for bonus, vacation pay or other compensation, any termination of that employment and any Claim of

discrimination, retaliation, or harassment based upon age, race, religion, sex, creed, ethnicity, pregnancy, veteran status, citizenship status, national origin, disability, handicap, medical condition, sexual orientation or any other unlawful basis, or any other unlawful conduct, under any applicable federal, state, local or other statutes, orders, laws, ordinances, regulations or the like, or case law, that relate to employment or employment practices, including without limitation; Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, the Civil Rights Act of 1991, as amended, the Civil Rights Acts of 1866 and 1871, as amended, the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967, as amended, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended, the Family Medical Leave Act of 1993, as amended, the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1990, as amended, the Worker Adjustment Retraining and Notification Act, as amended, the Fair Labor Standards Act, as amended, the Vietnam Era Veterans' Readjustment Assistance Act, as amended, the Equal Pay Act, as amended, the Rehabilitation Act, as amended, the Immigration Reform and Control Act, and the state and local analogues to the foregoing.

Starwood and I further agree that the Claims subject to arbitration shall exclude any Claims required by any applicable federal, state, local or other statute or benefit or pension plan to be submitted to an administrative forum (for example, a workers' compensation claim, a claim for unemployment insurance benefits, or an administrative charge of discrimination or retaliation filed with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission or the state or local analogue to that agency but not litigation arising from such charges), any claims involving any loans or advances paid to me that are subject to any mortgage, promissory note or other similar agreement that I have signed, and any Claims involving solely a monetary dispute within the jurisdiction of a small claims court. Starwood and I further agree that the Claims subject to arbitration also shall exclude any Claims to the extent they involve the alleged taking, use or disclosure of trade secrets and similar confidential or proprietary information, Claims involving a failure to pay a retention bonus or relocation expense, Claims involving a failure to repay any unearned portion of a retention bonus or relocation expense, Claims based upon any employee pension or benefit plan the terms of which contain an enforceable arbitration procedure, in which case the procedure of such plan shall apply, and Claims that cannot be compelled to mandatory arbitration under applicable federal law.

Starwood and I agree that any arbitration award rendered as the result of any arbitration under this Agreement shall be final and binding and may be entered and enforced as a court judgment in accordance with applicable law. Starwood and I further agree that this Agreement, any arbitration under this Agreement and any arbitration award rendered in such arbitration shall be governed by the Federal Arbitration Act.

By entering into this Agreement, Starwood and I each specifically acknowledge and understand that the right to the determination and/or trial of any Claims in court before a judge or a jury is a valuable right, and that by signing this Agreement Starwood and I hereby knowingly and voluntarily waive any and all rights we may have to assert any Claims in any court of competent jurisdiction and to a determination and/or trial before a judge or a jury.

I further understand and acknowledge that this Agreement is not intended to be and shall not be deemed to constitute a contract of employment for any specific duration, and that my employment shall be and remain at will, which means that Starwood and I shall be free to terminate that employment at any time for any or no reason with or without notice and with or without cause.

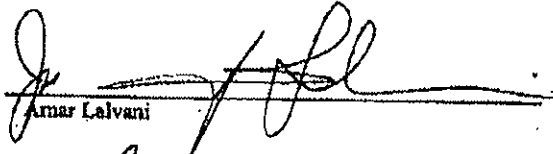
Each party's promise to resolve Claims by arbitration in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement is consideration for the other party's like promise. Additionally, I enter into this Agreement in consideration of Starwood's employment, transfer or promotion of me.

This Agreement shall survive my employer-employee relationship with Starwood and shall apply to any covered Claim whether arising or asserted during my employment or after the termination of my employment with the Company. This Agreement can be modified or revoked only by a writing signed by both Starwood's Senior Vice President, Human Resources and me and that expressly refers to this Agreement and specifically states an intent to modify or revoke it. This is the complete agreement of the parties on the subject of arbitration of disputes, except for any arbitration provision contained in a pension or benefit plan or an agreement covering change in control benefits and protections.

EACH PARTY TO THIS AGREEMENT ACKNOWLEDGES CAREFULLY READING THIS AGREEMENT, UNDERSTANDING ITS TERMS, AND ENTERING INTO THIS AGREEMENT KNOWINGLY AND VOLUNTARILY AND NOT IN RELIANCE ON ANY PROMISES OR REPRESENTATIONS OTHER THAN THOSE CONTAINED IN THIS AGREEMENT ITSELF.

EACH PARTY FURTHER ACKNOWLEDGES HAVING THE OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS THE AGREEMENT WITH PERSONAL LEGAL COUNSEL AND HAS USED THAT OPPORTUNITY TO THE EXTENT DESIRED.

Dated: Oct 12, 2006

  
Amar Lalvani

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

  
James Sabatier  
Senior Vice President, Global Investments & W Development  
Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide, Inc.

**NON-SOLICITATION, CONFIDENTIALITY AND INTELLECTUAL  
PROPERTY AGREEMENT**

This Non-solicitation, Confidentiality and Intellectual Property Agreement ("Agreement") is entered into as of this 9th day of October, 2006, (the "Effective Date"), by and between Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide, Inc. (the "Company") and Amar Lalvani (the "Employee").

WHEREAS, the Company devotes significant time, resources and effort to the training and advancement of its management, and its management team constitutes a significant asset and important competitive advantage; and

WHEREAS, the Employee has and will have access to important and sensitive confidential information; and

WHEREAS, the Company has determined that it is in the best interests of the Company and its shareholders to enter into an agreement with Employee whereby Employee will be prohibited from soliciting employees of the Company in accordance with the terms and conditions of this Agreement; and

WHEREAS, Employee may create inventions, trade secrets, know-how and documents or other works of authorship and may appear or perform in various promotional materials within the scope of Employee's employment.

WHEREAS, in consideration of the Company's offer of employment, Employee agrees to enter into this Agreement.

THEREFORE, the Company and Employee agree as follows:

1. **Non-solicitation.** During the period in which Employee is employed by the Company, and for a period of one (1) year following the date of any termination of employment from the Company, Employee shall not, without the prior written consent of the Company, except in the course of carrying out Employee's duties hereunder, directly or indirectly solicit or attempt to solicit for employment with or on behalf of any corporation, partnership, joint venture or other business entity, any person who is, or at any time during the six-month period preceding the solicitation of such person was, a management-level employee of the Company (including, without limitation, for this purpose any director level employee of the Company and any General Manager of any hotel owned (in whole or in part) or managed by the Company).

2. **Confidentiality.** Employee acknowledges that during the course of his/her employment with the Company, Employee will receive, and will have access to, "Confidential Information," as such term is defined below, of the Company and that such information is a special, valuable and unique asset belonging to the Company. Accordingly, Employee is willing to enter into the covenants contained in this Agreement in order to provide the Company with what Employee considers to be reasonable protection for the Company's interests. All notes, memoranda, papers, documents, correspondence or writings (which shall include information recorded or stored in writing, on magnetic tape or disc, or otherwise recorded

or stored for reproduction, whether by mechanical or electronic means and whether or not such reproduction will result in a permanent record being made) ("Documents") which from time to time may be in Employee's possession (whether prepared by Employee or not) relating, directly or indirectly, to the business of the Company shall be and remain the property of the Company and shall be delivered by Employee to the Company immediately upon request, and in any event promptly upon termination of Employee's employment, and Employee shall not make or keep any copies or extracts of the Documents. At any time during or after Employee's employment with the Company ends, without the prior written consent of the Company, except (i) in the course of carrying out Employee's duties hereunder or (ii) to the extent required by a court or governmental agency, or by applicable law or under compulsion of legal process, Employee shall not disclose to any third person any information concerning the business of the Company, including, without limitation, any trade secrets, customer lists and details of contracts with or requirements of customers, the identity of any owner of a managed hotel, information relating to any current, past or prospective management agreement or joint venture, information pertaining to business methods, sales plans, design plans and strategies, management organization, computer systems and software, operating policies or manuals, personnel records or information, information relating to current, past or contemplated employee benefits or compensation data or strategies, business, financial, development or marketing plans, or manpower strategies or plans, financial records or other financial, commercial, business or technical information relating to the Company (collectively, "Confidential Information"), unless such Confidential Information has been previously disclosed to the public by the Company or is in the public domain (other than by reason of Employee's breach of this Section 2). Employee will, prior to making any such disclosure pursuant to subsection (ii), promptly notify the Company of his/her receipt of such process or requirement, consult with the Company on the advisability of taking steps to resist or narrow such request, cooperate with the Company in any attempt that the Company may make to obtain a court order or other reliable assurance that confidential treatment will be accorded to all or designated portions of such information, and not disclose such Confidential Information unless the Company shall have had reasonable opportunity to obtain a court order prohibiting or limiting such disclosure.

2.1 Employee agrees that, both during and after Employee's employment with the Company, if Employee is uncertain of whether or not information is confidential, Employee will treat that information as Confidential Information until Employee has received written verification from an authorized officer of the Company that the information is not Confidential Information.

3. Intellectual Property and Publicity Rights. Employee acknowledges and agrees that all right, title and interest in and to patents, patent applications, inventions, improvements, discoveries, developments, processes, business methods, technical information, know-how, trade secrets, computer programs, writings, designs, copyrights, maskworks, trademarks, service marks, trade names, trade dress and the like (collectively, "Intellectual Property"), including the right to invoke the benefit of the right of priority provided by any treaty to which the United States is a party, which Employee creates, conceives, develops or obtains, either solely or jointly with others, during Employee's employment with the Company (a) with the use of the Company's time, materials, facilities or other resources; or (b) resulting from or suggested by Employee's work for the Company; or (c) in any way relating to any subject matter relating to the existing or contemplated business, products and services of the Company or the Company's affiliates, subsidiaries and licensees shall be owned by the Company. Upon request, Employee shall execute all such assignments and other documents and take all such other action as the Company may reasonably request in order to vest in the Company, or its nominee, all of Employee's right, title, and interest in and to such Intellectual Property. Employee further



acknowledges and agrees that the Company shall have the perpetual, worldwide right to use Employee's name, performance, biography, voice, image, signature and likeness in promotional or any other materials developed by or for the Company during Employee's employment with the Company. Employee hereby irrevocably and unconditionally waives any and all rights that he/she has or may have in and to the Intellectual Property, including, without limitation, any "moral rights" that he/she has or may have as "author" of the Intellectual Property, and hereby expressly agrees not to make any claim or demand against the Company or any party authorized by the Company to exploit the Intellectual Property.

4. Equitable Relief.

4.1 Employee acknowledges that the restrictions and obligations specified in Sections 1, 2 and 3 hereof are reasonable in view of the nature of the business in which the Company is engaged and Employee's knowledge of, and responsibilities with respect to, the Company's business, and that any breach of Sections 1, 2 or 3 hereof may cause the Company irreparable harm for which there is no adequate remedy at law, and as a result of this, the Company will be entitled to the issuance by a court of competent jurisdiction of an injunction, restraining order or other equitable relief in favor of the Company, without the necessity of posting a bond, restraining Employee from committing or continuing to commit any such violation. Any right to obtain an injunction, restraining order or other equitable relief hereunder will not be deemed to be a waiver of any right to assert any other remedy the Company may have at law or in equity, including, without limitation, the right to cancel payments to which Employee is otherwise entitled under Employee's employment agreement.

4.2 Any proceeding or action seeking equitable relief for violation of Sections 1, 2 and 3 hereof may be commenced in the federal courts in the Southern District of the State of New York, or in the absence of federal jurisdiction in state court in the State of New York. Employee hereby irrevocably and unconditionally submits to the exclusive jurisdiction of such courts and agrees to take any and all future action necessary to submit to the jurisdiction of such courts. Employee irrevocably waives any objection that Employee now has or hereafter may have to the laying of venue of any suit, action or proceeding brought in any such court and further irrevocably waives any claim that any such suit, action or proceeding brought in any such court has been brought in an inconvenient forum. Final judgment against Employee in any such suit will be conclusive and may be enforced in other jurisdictions by suit on the judgment, a certified or true copy of which will be conclusive evidence of the fact and the amount of any liability therein described, or by appropriate proceedings under an applicable treaty or otherwise.

5. Severability. In the event that any provision of this Agreement conflicts with the law under which this Agreement is to be construed, and/or if any such provision is held invalid by a court with jurisdiction over the parties to this Agreement and the subject matter of this agreement, (a) such provision will be deemed to be restated to reflect as nearly as possible the original intentions of the parties to the fullest extent permitted under applicable law, and (b) the remaining terms and provisions of this Agreement will remain in full force and effect.

6. Governing Law. This Agreement shall be construed, governed and enforced according to the laws of the State of New York, without regard to the principles of conflicts of laws.

7. Amendments and Waivers. No failure to act by the Company will waive any right contained in this Agreement. No provision of this Agreement may be amended or waived, except by a written agreement signed by both Employee and an authorized executive

officer of the Company. Any waiver by the Company of strict performance of any provision of this Agreement shall not be a waiver of or prejudice the Company's right to require strict performance of that same provision or any other provision of the Agreement in the future.

Employee acknowledges that he/she has had a reasonable opportunity to review and consider the terms described above and to consult with an attorney if he/she so chooses prior to signing this Agreement. Fully understanding the above terms, Employee is entering into this letter agreement knowingly and voluntarily.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties have executed this Agreement on the day and year first above written.

Dated: October 12, 2009

  
Amir Lalvani

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

  
James Sabatier

Senior Vice President, Global Investments & W Development  
Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide, Inc.

## EXHIBIT 3

## SEPARATION AGREEMENT AND MUTUAL GENERAL RELEASE OF CLAIMS

Ross Klein (hereinafter referred to as "Employee") and Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide, Inc. (hereinafter referred to as the "Company") agree as follows:

### ONE: Termination of Employment.

Employee acknowledges that his employment with the Company will end upon his resignation, which he hereby tenders and which will be effective May 30, 2008 (hereinafter referred to as the "Termination Date"). After the Termination Date, Employee will perform no further duties, functions or services for the Company or any of its affiliates, nor will he be entitled to any further compensation and/or benefits except as described herein.

### TWO: Benefits.

In consideration for Employee's agreements and covenants including the release of claims set forth in this Agreement and as full and complete and final satisfaction of any and all claims which Employee had, has or may have against the Company through the date of execution of this Agreement, the Company agrees that after its receipt of this fully executed Agreement, provided that Employee does not revoke pursuant to Paragraph EIGHT herein, it will (i) pay Employee an amount equal to 12 months of his base salary in a lump sum of \$496,116.00, less applicable deductions within 10 business days of the date when this Agreement becomes binding; (ii) make COBRA premium payments on Employee's behalf, minus Employee's normal contributions, for a period of 12 months commencing on the Termination Date should Employee choose to continue coverage under the Company's applicable plans; (iii) pay Employee \$59,475.00, less applicable deductions, within 10 business days of the date when this Agreement becomes binding, which amount represents one half of the initial HOT Feature deduction of \$118,950.00 made on March 1, 2007 under the Company's Annual Incentive Plan; and (iv) pay Employee \$106,635.00, less applicable deductions, within 10 business days of the date when this Agreement becomes binding, which amount represents the full amount of the HOT Feature deduction made on March 1, 2008 under the Company's Annual Incentive Plan. Employee also shall be entitled to receive a payout for accrued and unused vacation time as of the Termination Date in accordance with the Company's policies.

### THREE: Mutual General Release.

In exchange for the agreement to provide the severance pay and other benefits and arrangements provided for in this Agreement, Employee, on behalf of himself and his heirs, dependents, beneficiaries, executors, administrators, representatives, successors, and assigns, hereby irrevocably, fully and unconditionally releases and discharges the Company and its affiliates and subsidiaries and its and their officers, directors, employees, agents, shareholders, employee benefit programs, administrators, insurers, attorneys and successors and assigns (collectively, "Releasees"), from any and all claims, actions, suits, damages, complaints and

grievances the Employee, his attorneys, heirs, dependents, beneficiaries, executors, administrators, successors, and assigns, ever had, now have or hereafter can, shall or may have of any nature whatsoever, whether in law or in equity, whether known or unknown, including any and all claims related to the Employee's employment with the Company or the termination of that employment. This includes a release of any rights or claims the Employee may have under the Age Discrimination in Employment Act, which prohibits discrimination in employment based on age; Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, and the Civil Rights Act of 1991, which prohibit discrimination in employment based on race, color, national origin, ancestry, religion or sex; the Pregnancy Discrimination Act, which prohibits discrimination based on pregnancy; the Equal Pay Act, which prohibits paying men and women unequal pay for equal work; the Civil Rights Acts of 1866 and 1871, as amended, which protect against certain discrimination and violations of individuals' civil rights; the Americans with Disabilities Act, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of physical or mental disability; the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA), which regulates certain conduct and practices relating to employee benefit and health plans; the Family and Medical Leave Act, which provides time off to employees for certain family and medical events and prohibits discrimination relating to such leaves of absence; the Immigration Reform and Control Act, which prohibits discrimination based upon an individual's national origin citizenship status and/or work authorization documents; the Older Worker Benefit Protection Act (OWBPA) the New York State Executive Law, the New York City Administrative Code, and the New York State Constitution; or any other federal, state or local laws or regulations prohibiting employment discrimination or regulating employment or termination of employment. This also includes a release by the Employee of any claims for wrongful discharge and any other common law claims. This release applies to all claims through the date of execution of this Agreement and covers both claims that the Employee knows about and those he may not know about but excludes (i) any claim by Employee to enforce the terms of this Agreement; and (ii) any claim to enforce Employee's indemnification rights; and (iii) any claims related to actions or omissions occurring after the execution of this Agreement.

In consideration of Employee's agreements hereunder, the Company, on its own behalf and on behalf of its current and former affiliates or related companies, subsidiaries, branches and divisions, and the successors and assigns of all of the foregoing (collectively, the "Company Releasor") hereby releases Employee and Employee's heirs, executors, administrators, successors and assigns from or in connection with any and all actions, claims or demands, known or unknown and of any nature whatsoever and which Company Releasor ever had, now has or hereafter can, shall or may have as of the date hereof relating to Employee's employment with the Company, except that this Release shall not apply to (i) any obligation of Employee pursuant to this Agreement and the Non-Solicitation, Confidentiality and Intellectual Property Agreement dated May 1, 2005 (the "Confidentiality Agreement"); (ii) any act by Employee during his employment that would constitute fraud or embezzlement; or (iii) any actions, claims or demands related to actions or omissions occurring after the date hereof.

FOUR: Acknowledgment of Full Payment.

Employee acknowledges that the payments and arrangements specified in Paragraph TWO above represent sufficient consideration for Employee's release of claims and the other covenants contained in this Agreement. Employee expressly acknowledges that the severance pay provided for in this Agreement exceeds, supersedes and extinguishes any amount, if any, to which Employee may be entitled under any employment agreement, verbal or written, as well as any employment or personnel policies, procedures or handbooks including but not limited to severance plans, policies or precedent utilized by the Company or any other legal obligation which the Company may have to Employee. Employee further acknowledges that in the absence of this Agreement, Employee would not be entitled to, among other things, all of the payments and benefits specified in paragraph TWO above. Other than Employee's accrued but unused vacation pay for which Employee will be compensated and Employee's 401k plan benefits, Employee also acknowledges that the Company has paid all sums owed to him as a result of his employment with the Company and/or the termination of that employment and that, other than as provided in this Agreement, Employee is not entitled to, among other things, any further pay, benefits or severance.

Employee and the Company acknowledge and agree that to the extent that Employee currently holds stock options and restricted stock, that this information is accurately set forth on Exhibit A attached hereto, Employee has no other rights that relate to the securities of the Company or any of its affiliates or subsidiaries and that such equity will expire in accordance with the applicable long-term incentive plan and/or stock option agreements and/or restricted stock agreements. Other than the fact that Employee's employment was terminated on the Termination Date and other than as detailed expressly in Paragraph TWO herein, nothing in this Agreement shall be construed to alter, amend or modify the terms and conditions governing any restricted stock, stock options or similar rights, and any rights pertaining thereto, granted to Employee prior to the Termination Date.

**FIVE: Termination of All Existing Agreements.**

Except as otherwise expressly provided herein and other than agreements relating to confidentiality, non-solicitation and non-disclosure, including, without limitation, the Confidentiality Agreement, all rights and obligations of the Company and Employee under any employment agreement Employee may have had with the Company, and any other agreement, arrangement, obligation or understanding between the Company and the Employee are hereby cancelled and terminated as of the Termination Date without liability of any party thereunder.

**SIX: Non-Admission of Liability.**

The parties have entered into this Agreement to effect a mutually acceptable termination of Employee's employment with the Company. Neither the Company nor the Employee believes nor admits that either or both of them have done anything wrong.

**SEVEN: Period for Review and Consideration of Agreement.**

Employee understands that he has been given a period of 21 calendar days to review and consider this Agreement. Employee further understands that he may take as much or as little of this 21-day period of time to consider this Agreement as he wishes, before signing this Agreement.

EIGHT: Revocation Period and Payment of Benefits.

This Agreement will not become effective or binding on the parties until seven (7) days after it is signed, during which time Employee may revoke this Agreement if he desires. Any revocation must be in writing and directed to Chief Administrative Officer and General Counsel, 1111 Westchester Avenue, White Plains, NY 10604.

NINE: Encouragement to Consult with Attorney.

Employee is encouraged to consult with an attorney before signing this Agreement. Employee understands that whether to do so is his decision.

TEN: Binding Agreement.

This Agreement shall be binding upon and inure to the benefit of the parties, as well as their heirs, administrators, representatives, agents, executors, successors and assigns.

ELEVEN: Arbitration.

Any controversy, dispute or claim arising out of or related to this Agreement or its enforceability shall be finally settled by final and binding arbitration conducted by a single arbitrator selected by the parties in accordance with the Employment Rules of the American Arbitration Association.

TWELVE: Confidentiality.

Employee represents and agrees that he will keep the terms and dollar amount contained in this Agreement confidential, and that he will not disclose any information concerning this Agreement to any third person, including, but not limited to any past or present employee of the Company, except as may be required by law. Nothing herein shall preclude Employee from disclosing the terms of this Agreement to his spouse or to his accountant, legal counsel, insurer or tax advisors; provided that his spouse and such accountant, legal counsel, insurer or tax advisors are advised of and agree to be bound by the provisions of this Paragraph. Employee acknowledges that he will be responsible for any violation of the terms of this Paragraph TWELVE by any of those persons.

THIRTEEN: Confidential Information.

As a senior executive of the Company, Employee acknowledges that he has had access to Confidential Information (as hereinafter defined) of the Company through the Termination Date. Without limiting Employee's continuing legal obligations pursuant to the

Confidentiality Agreement, in recognition of Employee's legal obligations and the consideration set forth in this Agreement, Employee agrees not to disclose, communicate or divulge to, or use for the direct or indirect benefit of, any person (including Employee), firm, association or other entity (other than the Company or its affiliates) any Confidential Information.

"Confidential Information" includes, but is not limited to, customer lists, customer financial information, vendor lists, joint venture lists, actual, contemplated and potential development projects, opportunities and partners, development strategies, brand marketing and other brand strategies, information relating to any current, past or prospective management agreement or joint venture, design plans and strategies, personnel information, labor and personnel strategies, databases, computer programs and software, frameworks, designs, models, blueprints, marketing programs and plans, sales, financial, design, training and technical information and plans, sales data and contacts, business methods, business policies, procedures, techniques, research or development projects or results, trade secrets (which includes the Company's customer and prospective customer lists), pricing policies, financial records, or other financial, commercial, business or technical information relating to the Company or any of its subsidiaries. Employee's obligation with respect to Confidential Information shall terminate with respect to any particular portion of the Confidential Information when Employee can document that such information was in the public domain at the time of its communication or it entered the public domain through no fault of Employee.

Employee hereby represents and agrees that on or before the Termination Date: (i) Employee has returned or will return to the Company, and has not retained or will not retain originals or any copies of all documents, records or materials of any kind, whether written or electronically created or stored, which contain, relate to or refer to any Confidential Information ("Confidential Materials"); and (ii) Employee has not disclosed and will not disclose any Confidential Information or Confidential Materials to any person or entity without the express written authorization of an authorized officer of the Company.

In the event that Employee receives a subpoena or any other written or oral request for disclosure or release of any Confidential Information, Confidential Materials or any other information concerning the Company or its subsidiaries, or its or their current or former employees, officers, directors, shareholders or agents, Employee shall, within two (2) business days of the service or receipt of such subpoena or other request notify the Company in writing directed to Chief Administrative Officer and General Counsel, Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide, Inc., 1111 Westchester Avenue, White Plains, New York 10604 and provide the Company with a copy of any subpoena or other written request, or disclose the nature of the request for information, if oral.

#### FOURTEEN: Noninterference.

During the period commencing on the Termination Date and ending on the first anniversary of the Termination Date, Employee solely with respect to matters of which he is aware on or before the Termination Date, shall not take or omit to take any action or actions which are intended to or actually cause or encourage any person or prospective entity with which the



Company intends to enter into a business relationship or transaction (or any agent or affiliate thereof) to fail to enter into the contemplated business relationship or complete the contemplated transaction. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, Employee agrees not to pursue on his behalf or on behalf of any other person or entity or otherwise interfere with the Company's pursuit of any pending or contemplated deal, merger or acquisition of which he was aware on or before the Termination Date.

**FIFTEEN: Non-Disparagement.**

Employee agrees not to engage in any act or say, publish or disseminate anything (either directly or by or through another person) that is intended, or may reasonably be expected, to harm the reputation, business or operations of the Company, its customers, its employees, officers, directors or shareholders prior to or after the Termination Date. The Company agrees that it will not make any statements that are intended, or would reasonably be expected, to disparage or defame Employee.

**SIXTEEN: Future Cooperation.**

After the Termination Date, Employee will comply with reasonable requests from any Releasee for assistance and/or information in connection with any matters and/or issues relating to or encompassed within the duties and responsibilities of Employee's employment, including without limitation, consulting with any of the employees and/or attorneys of any Releasee with respect to, and/or appearing as a witness in, any dispute, controversy, action or proceeding of any kind. Employee agrees to appear as a witness in any proceeding of any kind and to make himself available in advance for reasonable preparation upon the request of the Company with reasonable advance notification without the need for the Company to issue a subpoena. In connection with any of Employee's cooperation efforts mandated by this Paragraph SIXTEEN, Employee shall be entitled to receive an agreed hourly or per diem amount (or reimbursement of lost wages as the case may be) and reimbursement of reasonable travel and other out of pocket expenses provided that those expenses are submitted pursuant to and are in conformance with the then applicable Company policy relating to expense reimbursement.

**SEVENTEEN: Non-Solicitation**

During the 12-month period commencing on the Termination Date, Employee agrees that he will not, without the prior written consent of the Company, directly or indirectly, solicit or attempt to solicit for employment with or on behalf of any corporation, partnership, joint venture or other business entity, any person who is, or at any time during the six-month period preceding the solicitation of such person was, a management-level employee of the Company (including, without limitation, for this purpose any employee at director level or above and any General Manager of any hotel owned (in whole or in part) or managed by the Company).

**EIGHTEEN: Injunctive Relief**

Employee acknowledges and agrees that Paragraphs THIRTEEN, FOURTEEN, FIFTEEN and SEVENTEEN hereof relate to special, unique and extraordinary matters and that a violation of any of the terms of such Paragraphs will cause the Company irreparable injury for which adequate remedies are not available at law. Therefore, Employee agrees that the Company shall be entitled to an injunction, restraining order or such other equitable relief (without the requirement to post bond) in a court of law restraining Employee from committing any violation of the covenants and obligations contained in Paragraphs THIRTEEN, FOURTEEN, FIFTEEN and SEVENTEEN. These remedies are cumulative and are in addition to any other rights and remedies the Company may have at law or in equity.

NINETEEN: Return of Company Property.

Employee agrees that within 1 week after the Termination Date, he will return to the Company all Company property in his possession or over which he has retained control such as printers, scanners and accessories, disks, laptops, computers, PDA's, such as Blackberry devices, keys, cell phones, credit cards, access cards, Company records, documents and files and all copies and recordings thereof. To the extent Employee subsequently discovers Company property in his possession or within his control, he shall immediately return such property and all copies, recordings or duplicates thereof to the Company.

TWENTY: Severability.

If any portion of this Agreement is declared unlawful or unenforceable, the remaining parts will remain enforceable.

TWENTY-ONE: Public Announcement

Employee is required to request and receive approval of the Company of the content of any voluntary statements, whether oral or written, to be made by Employee to any third party or parties regarding Employee's separation from employment with the Company, including, without limitation, any press release or other statements to the press, except that this Paragraph TWENTY-ONE shall not apply to any statements required to be made by reason of law, regulation, or any judicial or other similar proceeding or order. Employee hereby covenants and agrees not to make any public statements (either directly or by or through another person) to any third party, including, without limitation, to any representative of any news organization, which are inconsistent in any material respect with the aforementioned agreed upon statements to the public.

TWENTY-TWO: Entire Agreement.

This Agreement, including Exhibits A hereto, is the entire agreement between Employee and the Company regarding the subjects addressed in this document and this Agreement supersedes any other agreements between the parties, other than agreements relating to confidentiality, non-disclosure and non-solicitation, including without limitation, the Confidentiality Agreement. The Company has made no promises to Employee other than those in this Agreement.

EMPLOYEE ACKNOWLEDGES THAT HE HAS READ THIS AGREEMENT, UNDERSTANDS IT, HAS TAKEN SUFFICIENT TIME TO CONSIDER IT AND IS VOLUNTARILY ENTERING INTO IT.

EMPLOYEE UNDERSTANDS THAT THIS AGREEMENT CONTAINS A RELEASE OF ALL KNOWN AND UNKNOWN CLAIMS AND A RESTRICTION ON RELEASE OF CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION.

ROSS KLEIN

Signed: 

Dated: 24 March

STARWOOD HOTELS & RESORTS WORLDWIDE, INC.

By: 

Name: JEFFREY M. CARR

Title: SVP CHIEF HR OFFICER

Dated: 5/3/08

## EXHIBIT 4

# HOGAN & HARTSON

Hogan & Hartson LLP  
875 Third Avenue  
New York, NY 10022  
+1.212.918.3000 Tel  
+1.212.918.3100 Fax

www.hhlaw.com

November 17, 2008

Michael Starr  
Partner  
(212) 918-3638  
mstarr@hhlaw.com

VIA FEDERAL EXPRESS

## PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL

Mr. Ross A. Klein  
c/o Hilton Hotels Corporation  
9336 Civic Center Drive  
Beverly Hills, CA 90210

Re: *In the Matter of the Arbitration Between Starwood  
Hotels & Resorts Worldwide, Inc. and Ross A. Klein*

Dear Mr. Klein:

This firm represents Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide, Inc. ("Starwood") in the arbitration that Starwood has commenced against you pursuant to the Separation Agreement and Mutual General Release of Claims, that you signed on May 29, 2008.

This letter is to advise you that in connection with this arbitration we will, at the appropriate time, seek documents in your possession, custody or control that are relevant to the issues in this action. Accordingly, you should take care not to delete or destroy any hard copy or electronic documents and/or e-mails that you have in your files or on your computer(s), including the non-intentional deletion of electronically-stored information by automatic processes. Such documents include but are not necessarily limited to the following:

- Documents or e-mails concerning the hiring and recruitment of Jeffrey Darnell, Amar Dalvani, Erin Shaffer, or Stephanie Heer by Hilton Hotel Corporation ("Hilton");
- E-mails from or to you, including indirectly to you as a recipient who was "cc'd" or "bcc'd," concerning Hilton's hiring and recruitment of Jeffrey Darnell, Amar Dalvani, Erin Shaffer, and Stephanie Heer;
- Documents or e-mails concerning any attempted or actual recruitment or solicitations, by Hilton, including by any persons who were at the time of such solicitation or recruitment, employed by Hilton, of any other person who at the time of such activity, was a

Mr. Ross A. Klein  
c/o Hilton Hotels Corporation  
November 17, 2008  
Page 2

management-level employee of Starwood, whether or not that person was actually hired by Hilton; and

- Documents or e-mails concerning any other person who at the time of his or her hiring, or immediately preceding his or her hiring by Hilton, was a management-level employee of Starwood.

Please understand that the destruction or alteration in any way, of the documents that may be needed by Starwood in a legal proceeding, is a serious matter and may be wrongful on your part. We expect your full compliance with this request.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Starr", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Michael Starr

MS:sc

cc: Jamie E. Balanoff, Esq.

## EXHIBIT 5

# HOGAN & HARTSON

Hogan & Hartson LLP  
875 Third Avenue  
New York, NY 10022  
+1.212.918.3000 Tel  
+1.212.918.3100 Fax

[www.hhlaw.com](http://www.hhlaw.com)

November 17, 2008

Michael Starr  
Partner  
(212) 918-3638  
[mstarr@hhlaw.com](mailto:mstarr@hhlaw.com)

VIA FEDERAL EXPRESS

Richard M. Lucas, Esq.  
EVP & General Counsel  
Hilton Hotels Corporation  
9336 Civic Center Drive  
Beverly Hills, CA 90210

Re: *In the Matter of the Arbitration Between Starwood  
Hotels & Resorts Worldwide, Inc. and Ross A. Klein*

Dear Mr. Lucas:

This firm represents Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide, Inc. ("Starwood") in a certain arbitration that Starwood has commenced against your employee, Ross Klein, pursuant to the Separation Agreement and Mutual General Release of Claims, that he signed with Starwood on May 29, 2008.

While we cannot at this time disclose to you the precise nature of the claims asserted, we have reason to believe that Hilton Hotel Corporation ("Hilton") is likely to have documents that are relevant to the issues raised in that proceeding. As such, at the appropriate time we intend to seek a subpoena for the production of relevant documents in Hilton's possession, custody or control. In the interim, we urge that Hilton take care not to delete or destroy any hard copy or electronic documents and/or e-mails stored in shared or personal networks or hard copy files of the corporation or its employees that could bear on this litigation. Hilton's preservation efforts should include prevention of routine destruction of documents pursuant to the corporation's regular document retention policies or the non-intentional deletion of electronically-stored information by automatic processes.

The documents that Starwood may seek in connection with this proceeding include but are not necessarily limited to the following:

- Personnel files of Jeffrey Darnell, Amar Dalvani, Erin Shaffer, and Stephanie Heer;



Richard M. Lucas, Esq.  
November 17, 2008  
Page 2

- Documents or e-mails concerning Hilton's hiring and recruitment of Jeffrey Darnell, Amar Dalvani, Erin Shaffer, and Stephanie Heer;
- E-mails from or to Ross Klein, including indirectly to Mr. Klein as a recipient who was "cc'd" or "bcc'd," concerning Hilton's hiring and recruitment of Jeffrey Darnell, Amar Dalvani, Erin Shaffer, and Stephanie Heer;
- Documents or e-mails concerning any attempted recruitment by Hilton of any other person who at the time of the recruiting effort, was a management level employee of Starwood, whether or not that person was actually hired by Hilton; and
- Documents or e-mails concerning any other person who at the time of his or her hiring or immediately preceding his or her hiring by Hilton, was a management level employee of Starwood.

We are sure that you understand that the destruction or alteration in any way of documents that may be needed by Starwood as evidence in a legal proceeding is a serious matter and may be wrongful. Now that this matter has been brought to Hilton's attention, we expect its full cooperation.

Very truly yours



Michael Starr

MS:sc

cc: Jamie E. Balanoff, Esq.

## EXHIBIT 6



February 5, 2009

The Hilton Family



CONRAD  
HOTELS & RESORTS



Hilton  
Garden Inn



Kenneth S. Siegel  
Chief Administrative Officer & General Counsel  
Starwood Hotels and Resorts Worldwide, Inc.  
1111 Westchester Avenue  
White Plains, NY 10604

Dear Ken:

In connection with an arbitration proceeding that Starwood has pending against Ross Klein, you requested that Hilton Hotels Corp. preserve all potentially responsive documents and information in our possession, custody and control. In the process of implementing a litigation hold of such materials, we learned that Ross had certain materials that he developed or obtained while working for Starwood. Starwood apparently boxed up and shipped most of the materials to Ross at Hilton after he left Starwood and after Starwood barred him from entering his office. Based on a cursory review of these documents by counsel, it appears that at least some of the materials might be the type that Ross's separation agreement with Starwood requires him to return to Starwood. With the concurrence of Ross and his attorneys, we are returning them to you.

After learning about the materials that Ross had, Hilton's Legal Department took possession of the materials and restricted access to them. Hilton's Legal Department also inquired whether other Hilton employees who formerly worked for Starwood had similar materials, and we determined that some of them also brought to Hilton documents or materials that they developed or acquired while they worked for Starwood. Hilton's Legal Department similarly took possession of those materials, preserved them, and restricted access to them. We also are taking steps to ensure that no such materials remain at Hilton.

In short, we have conducted a diligent and thorough search of physical and electronic files to collect documents and materials brought to Hilton by former Starwood employees. Enclosed with this letter are the materials we have collected, along with some additional materials that certain of the former Starwood employees had at home. While much of the materials appear to be publicly available or historic in nature, and seem to be neither sensitive nor confidential, we are returning them nonetheless in an abundance of caution.

Sincerely,

Richard M. Lucas  
Executive Vice President, General  
Counsel and Corporate Secretary

Encls.

Cc: Ronald J. Nessim (without encls.)



official sponsor

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