

Greg Duff

Principal

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Throughout Greg's 25+ year career working in the hospitality industry, he has dedicated himself to helping clients solve the range of legal issues associated with operating a modern hospitality operation – from negotiating management and other operational agreements to advising on the myriad of issues associated with sales distribution and online travel.

Greg is Chair of the firm's national Hospitality, Travel & Tourism practice, which is directed at the variety of matters faced by hospitality and travel industry members, including purchase and sales agreements, management agreements, sales and marketing, distribution, privacy and data security, procurement and technology.

His clients include owners, operators and franchisors of hotels and resorts, airlines, cruise lines, tour operators and restaurants.

Greg has served as counsel to many of the hospitality industry's local, state and national trade associations and trade groups, including the American Hotel & Lodging Association (AH&LA), Hospitality Sales and Marketing Association International (HSMAI) and Hospitality Financial and Technology Professionals (HFTP).

Prior to his career in private practice, Greg served in-house legal and business roles with the Westin Hotel Company/Starwood

Services

Commercial & IP
Transactions
Hospitality, Travel & Tourism

Admissions

Washington, 1994
Oregon, 2012

Hotels and Resorts, Homegrocer.com/Webvan Group and Columbia Hospitality.

Greg publishes Online Travel Update, a weekly digest offering a global perspective of key trends and issues impacting the hospitality and online travel industries. His Online Travel Update posts appear on Foster Garvey's [Duff on Hospitality Law](#) blog and are syndicated by JD Supra. Since 2019, Greg has been recognized among JD Supra's Top Authors in its annual Readers' Choice Awards, and in 2021, he was recognized as the content platform's [#1 Author in the Transportation category](#).

Education

J.D., Seattle University School of Law (*magna cum laude*), 1994

- *University of Puget Sound Law Review*, Editor-in-Chief, 1993-1994

B.S., Pepperdine University (*magna cum laude*), 1991

Honors & Recognition

The Best Lawyers in America®, Leisure and Hospitality Law, 2024

Chambers USA (Nationwide) Leading Individual, Leisure & Hospitality, 2022-present; 2017

Washington Super Lawyer list

Seattle Met magazine, "Top Lawyer"

JD Supra Readers' Choice Awards, "Top Author"

Transportation, 2021-present

Airlines/Aviation, 2019-2020

Professional Activities

HSMAI's Global Distribution Advisory Board, Member

American Hotel & Lodging Association (AH&LA), Member

Foster Garvey, Firm Co-Chair, 2019-2020

Garvey Schubert Barer, Firm Chair, 2016-2019

Hospitality Sales and Marketing Association International (HSMAI), Member

Oregon Restaurant and Lodging Association (ORLA), Member

University of Washington School of Law, Hospitality Law, Part-time Lecturer

Washington Lodging Association (WLA), Member

Experience

GSB Represents Evolution Hospitality in Sale

GSB represented the sellers of Evolution Hospitality in its sale to Aimbridge Hospitality. Aimbridge is the nation's second largest independent hotel investment and management firm. GSB advised the sellers in all aspects of the transaction, including structure, documentation, buyer due diligence (purchase price included an equity component in buyer), and broad seller due diligence.

Integrated celebrity signature restaurants

Integrated celebrity signature restaurants and/or spas into existing hotel, resort and convention center facilities.

Prepared form global group sales and catering contracts

Prepared form global group sales and catering contracts and supporting materials.

Reviewed and negotiated franchise agreements

Reviewed and negotiated franchise agreements with national franchisors Hilton, Marriott, Intercontinental Hotel Group, Starwood, Carlson, Choice, Jimmy John's, Black Bear Diner and Quiznos.

Reviewed and negotiated global distribution, meta-search, daily deal/private sale and on-line marketing agreements

Reviewed and negotiated global distribution, meta-search, daily deal/private sale and on-line marketing agreements with Expedia, Priceline, Booking.com, Orbitz, Agoda, Ctrip, Alpharooms, Destinations of the World, Hotelied, Google, TripAdvisor, Kayak, Roomkey, American Express, Gullivers Travel Associates, Travelclick, Gilt/Jetsetter, Rue La La and Travelzoo.

Reviewed and negotiated global vendor agreements

Reviewed and negotiated global vendor agreements for the purchase and/or licensing of a variety of goods and services, including in-room entertainment (PPV, FTG); property-management systems (PMS), point of sale (POS), and central reservation systems (CRS); merchant card and payment processing; application development and hosting; and telecommunications (data and voice).

Reviewed and negotiated management contracts

Reviewed and negotiated management contracts for full service, select service, limited service and extended-stay hotels, condominium hotels, resorts, conference centers, timeshare resort homeowners' association, golf courses and restaurants in Arizona, Washington, Oregon, Nevada, California, Colorado, Montana, Hawaii, New York, Louisiana, Nebraska, Tennessee, Massachusetts, Ohio and Texas.

News

Greg Duff Named 'Top Author' in 2024 JD Supra Readers' Choice Awards
Foster Garvey Newsroom, 3.4.24

57 Foster Garvey Attorneys Recognized Among the 2024 Best Lawyers in America; Two
Portland Attorneys Named 'Lawyer of the Year'
Foster Garvey Newsroom, 8.17.23

Foster Garvey Receives Honors in 2023 *Chambers USA* Guide; 21 Attorneys and 10 Practices
Featured
Foster Garvey Newsroom, 6.1.23

Greg Duff Awarded Top Honor at 2023 Readers Choice Awards
Foster Garvey Newsroom, 3.7.23

Foster Garvey Recognized Among Nation's Leading Law Firms in 2022 *Chambers USA* Guide;
21 Attorneys and 10 Practices Featured
Foster Garvey Newsroom, 6.1.22

Larry Brant, Greg Duff and Josh Bloomgarden Named 'Top Authors' in 2022 JD Supra Readers'
Choice Awards
Foster Garvey Newsroom, 3.7.22

Greg Duff Discusses the State of Face-to-Face Meetings in Insurance & Financial Meetings
Management
Insurance and Financial Meetings Management, 2.24.22

Foster Garvey Named 'Top Firm' in 2021 JD Supra Readers' Choice Awards; Greg Duff, Larry
Brant and Peter Evalds Selected as 'Top Authors'
3.31.21

Greg Duff Shares Post-COVID Insights for Planners in *Insurance & Financial Meetings
Management*
Insurance & Financial Meetings Management, 3.2.21

Greg Duff and Ruth Walters Highlight Potential Legal Issues of Post-COVID Social Media Efforts
in *Hotel Executive*
Hotel Executive, 2.7.21

Greg Duff Quoted in *Hospitality Upgrade* About Security of Hotel Guest Data
Hospitality Upgrade, 12.11.20

Greg Duff Shared Important Best Practices on Hotel Guest Communications in the COVID-19 World at the Virtual Hospitality Law Conference
Hotel News Now, 10.9.20

Foster Garvey Recognized as 'Top Firm' in 2020 JD Supra Readers' Choice Awards; Greg Duff and Larry Brant Named 'Top Authors'
Foster Garvey Newsroom, 4.29.20

Greg Duff Quoted in *Hotel News Now* on Hoteliers Seeking to Make Up Revenue Losses from COVID-19
Hotel News Now, 3.27.20

Greg Duff Quoted in *Hotel News Now* on Indie Hotel Response to COVID-19 Fallout
Hotel News Now, 3.25.20

Foster Garvey and COVID-19 - Safety and Service
Foster Garvey Newsroom, 3.13.20

Lynn and Mike Garvey Donate \$50 Million Toward Brain Health Research to the University of Washington
Foster Garvey Newsroom, 10.3.19

Foster Pepper and Garvey Schubert Barer Combine to Create Mission-Driven Firm, Expand Reach and Services
Foster Garvey Newsroom, 10.1.19

Foster Pepper and Garvey Schubert Barer Announce Combination to Create Mission-Driven Firm, Expand Reach and Services
Foster Garvey Newsroom, 6.17.19

"Northwest Firms Combine To Create Regional Powerhouse," Law360
Foster Garvey Newsroom, 6.17.19

Greg Duff and Larry Brant Recognized for Thought Leadership Achievement; Named 'Top Authors' in 2019 JD Supra Readers' Choice Awards
Foster Garvey Newsroom, 4.2.19

Stacy Marchesano and Greg Duff Moderated Two Panel Sessions at Bisnow Summit on How the Hot Seattle Tourism Market Is Impacting the Hotel Industry
Foster Garvey Newsroom, 2.25.19

Greg Duff Quoted in *HowStuffWorks* About the Limits of Guest Privacy in Hotels and Motels
HowStuffWorks, 1.17.18

Greg Duff Quoted in *The Wall Street Journal* Regarding Hotel Guest Privacy
The Wall Street Journal, 1.3.18

Speaking Engagements

"Headlines & Headwinds: Navigating the Legal & Regulatory Currents," HSMIA Commercial Strategy Conference
Speaking Engagement
Charlotte, North Carolina, 6.25.24

"Legal Focus: Key Topics Shaping the Venue Industry Landscape," International Association of Venue Managers Region 4 Conference
Speaking Engagement
Tacoma, WA, 4.30.24

"Legal Views on Distribution," HEDNA Global Distribution Conference
Speaking Engagement
New Orleans, LA, 1.17.24

Greg Duff Speaks at HSMIA Chief Sales Officer Executive Roundtable
Speaking Engagement
Long Beach, CA, 11.8.23

"Hospitality Mergers and Acquisitions Marketplace," Oregon Restaurant and Lodging Association Webinar
Speaking Engagement
Webinar, 7.18.23

"Legal Lens: Building a Future Proof and Compliant Distribution Strategy" HEDNA Global Distribution Conference 2023
Speaking Engagement
Seattle, WA, 1.25.23

"Headlines & Headwinds on the Legal & Regulatory Landscape," 2022 HSMIA Revenue Optimization Conference (ROC) Americas
Speaking Engagement
Orlando, FL, 6.29.22

"Contracts: Tales from the Trenches," MPI Cascadia Educational Conference
Speaking Engagement
Virtual Event, 3.8.22

"Food Service Contracting 101," Hospitality Lawyer's Legal & Risk Challenges in Contract Food Service Management Virtual Seminar

Speaking Engagement

Virtual Event, 12.8.21

"Contracts: Tales From the Trenches," MPI Oregon Chapter November Education Program

Speaking Engagement

Portland, OR (In-Person & Virtual Event), 11.2.21

"Avoiding Post-Pandemic Legal Landmines," 2021 HSMIAI Marketing Strategy Conference

Speaking Engagement

Dallas, TX, 9.28.21

"The New Paradigm – Vaccines, Health Passports and other COVID-Related Operational and Contracting Challenges," The CIO Summit

Speaking Engagement

Atlanta, GA, 9.9.21

"Legal & Privacy," Executive Vendor Summit by Hospitality Upgrade

Speaking Engagement

Nashville, TN, 6.10.21

"The Post Pandemic Legal Landscape," HSMIAI Industry Webinar

Speaking Engagement

Virtual Event, 5.25.21

"Traveler Expectations for Post-Pandemic Travel," Puget Sound Chapter Business Travel Association's April General Meeting

Speaking engagement

Virtual Event, 4.21.21

"Chief Digital Officer (CDO) Management Company Roundtable," HSMIAI Executive Roundtable

Speaking Engagement

Virtual Event, 2.25.21

"Chief Digital Officer (CDO) Brand Roundtable," HSMIAI Executive Roundtable

Speaking Engagement

Virtual Event, 2.23.21

"Chief Sales Officer (CSO) Roundtable," HSMIAI Executive Roundtable

Speaking Engagement

Virtual Event, 2.11.21

"Hotel Management Company (HMC) Sales & Marketing Executive Roundtable," HSMIAI
Executive Roundtable
Speaking Engagement
Virtual Event, 2.4.21

"COVID-19 Communications: Necessary Changes in Guest Communications," The Virtual
Hospitality Law Conference
Speaking Engagement
Virtual Event, 10.7.20

"Legal Headlines or Headwinds for Digital Marketers," HSMIAI Virtual Chief Digital Officer
Executive Roundtable
Speaking Engagement
Virtual Event, 10.7.20

"Behind the Scenes of Group Contracting," Puget Sound Economic Summit
Speaking Engagement
Virtual Event, 9.16.20

Bi-Weekly COVID-19 Conference Call, HospitalityLawyer.com
Speaking Engagement
Virtual Event, 9.14.20

"Vendors, Distributors and Celebrity Chefs 101," Hospitality and Tourism Law Program at
American University Washington College of Law
Speaking Engagement
Virtual Event, 6.20

"Hospitality Employment Law Challenges: Returning Employees to the Workplace"
Webinar
Virtual Event, 5.27.20

"Legal Headlines or Headwinds for Digital Marketers," HSMIAI Chief Digital Officer Executive
Roundtable
Speaking engagement
New York, NY, 1.23.20

"Managing Hospitality Contracts for Compliance," Greater Puget Sound Hospitality Finance and
Technology Professionals' November Meeting
Speaking engagement
Seattle, WA, 11.19.19

"Distribution Update," American Hotel & Lodging Association's General Counsel Meeting
Speaking engagement
Washington, D.C., 11.14.19

"Best Practices in Contracting," Seattle Southside Regional Tourism Authority
Speaking engagement
SeaTac, WA, 10.28.19

"Distribution 101," Academy of Hospitality Industry Attorneys Fall Meeting 2019
Speaking engagement
St. Louis, MO, 10.17.19

"A Focus on Privacy – California Consumer Privacy Act and GDPR," The CIO Summit
Speaking Engagement
Cambridge, MA, 9.5.19

"Key Legal Issues in Hospitality," 2019 Visit Seattle Hotel Symposium
Speaking Engagement
Seattle, WA, 6.17.19

"The Digital Marketing Legal Landscape," The Hospitality Law Conference Series 2.0 - Houston
Speaking engagement
Houston, TX, 4.9.19

"Lessons Learned: Experiences from the Group Sales Trenches," MPINCC Annual Conference
& Expo
Speaking engagement
San Francisco, CA, 2.26.19

"Portland & Puget Sound's Increase In Development, Investment, & Supply," Bisnow's 2019
Pacific Northwest Hotel Summit
Panel Discussion
Seattle, WA, 2.19.19

"Industry Challenges Panel," HEDNA Global Distribution Conference
Moderator
Los Angeles, CA, 1.30.19

"Legal Headlines and Headwinds for Digital Marketers," HSMAI Digital Marketing Strategy
Conference
Speaking engagement
New York, NY, 1.23-24, 2019

"Dealing with the Unexpected," The CIO Summit

Panel discussion

Seattle, WA, 9.6.18

"Key Legal Issues in Hospitality," 2018 Visit Seattle Hotel Symposium

Speaking Engagement

Seattle, WA, 7.31.18

"Distribution 201: An Update on the Changing Distribution World," HLC Series 2.0 - Houston
(The Hospitality Law Conference)

Speaking engagement

Houston, TX, 4.13.18

"Kitchen Confidential: Structuring the Celebrity Chef Relationship," HLC Series 2.0 – Houston
(The Hospitality Law Conference)

Speaking engagement

Houston, TX, 4.12.18

"Headlines or Headwinds: Legal Lessons for Every Digital Marketer," HSMIA Chief Digital
Marketing Officer Roundtable

Speaking engagement

New York, NY, 2.22.18

"Slips, Trips and Falls: Managing the Inevitable Risks of Any Sports Event," Oregon Sports
Summit

Speaking Engagement

Eugene, OR, 2.2.18

"Governmental Regulation – a blessing or a curse for innovation," HEDNA Global Distribution
Conference 2018

Speaking Engagement

Austin, TX, 1.31.18

"December Breakfast: Tourism & Hospitality," The Commercial Real Estate Development
Association, NAIOP Washington State

Panel Discussion

Seattle, WA, 12.13.17

"The War Rages: Hotels vs. The Distribution Disruptors," Washington Lodging Convention

Speaking engagement

Seattle, WA, 10.22-10.24.17

"Hey Alexa, book me a room at..." 2017 CIO Summit by Hospitality Upgrade
Speaking Engagement
Denver, CO, 9.7.17

"Key Legal Updates and Issues," 2017 Visit Seattle Hotel Symposium
Speaking Engagement
Seattle, WA, 7.18.17

Tackling New Challenges in Asset Management While Maximizing Property Values
Panel Discussion
Seattle, WA, 6.8.17

"Unintended Consequences," 2017 Choice Hotel Convention
Speaking Engagement
Las Vegas, NV, 5.9.17 - 5.11.17

"Unintended Consequences," The Hospitality Law Conference 2017
Speaking Engagement
Houston, TX, April 24-26, 2017

"The Evolution of Contract Negotiations," PCMA/PNW Chapter
Speaking Engagement
Seattle, WA, 5.18.16

"Nuts and Bolts of Drafting Management and Franchising Contracts," Hospitality & Travel Law
Symposium
Speaking Engagement
Seattle, WA, 4.15.16

"Keeping Things on the Down Low: Evolving US and EU Privacy Laws", Executive Vendor
Summit
Seminar
March 30-April 1, 2016

"Distribution and the World of Parity," and "Service Charges," Hospitality Law Conference 2016
Speaking Engagement
Houston, TX, 2.22.16

"Rate Parity," Digital Marketing Strategy Conference
Speaking Engagement
New York, NY, 2.17.16

"HSMIA Lodging Chief Digital Officer Executive Roundtable," The Hospital Sales and Marketing Association International (HSMIA)

Speaking Engagement

Washington, D.C., 12.8.15

"What's Hot and What's Not in Group Contracting," MPI Oregon Chapter

Speaking Engagement

Oregon Convention Center, Portland Ballroom 251, 10.20.15

"Lodging Law Forum," Wyndham World Conference

Speaking Engagement

Las Vegas, NV, 4.1.15

"Why You Should Care About Distribution," Hospitality Law Conference

Speaking Engagement

Houston, TX, 2.10.15

"Contract Review for IT," HITEC 2014 Conference

Speaking Engagement

Los Angeles, CA, 6.23.14

"Legal Corner: Successful Contracting in the Lodging Industry," Hospitality Upgrade's Executive Vendor Summit 2014

Speaking Engagement

New Orleans, LA, 3.25.14

"Hotel & Restaurant Relationships," Hospitality Law Conference

Speaking Engagement

Houston, TX, 2.10.14

Group Sales Contracts: Critical Contract Principles

Speaking Engagement

Portland, OR, 12.16.13

"On-Line Distribution: Overview, Issues, Tips," AHIA Fall Meeting

Speaking Engagement

Los Angeles, CA, 11.8.13

"Do You Know What Your People Are Signing When You Are Sleeping?" HFTP Finance Exchange

Speaking Engagement

Dallas, TX, 10.16.13

"The Shifting Landscape in Hotel Management Contracts," Choice Webinar Series Presentation
Speaking Engagement
Seattle, WA, 10.9.13

2013 TNT - Travel & Technology Conference
Seminar
Bell Harbor International Conference Center, Seattle, WA, 10.1.13

Best Western Owners' Fall Marketing Meeting
Speaking Engagement
Silverdale, WA, 9.17.13

"Legal Corner: Do You Know What Your People Are Signing When You Are Sleeping?"
Hospitality Upgrade's CIO Summit
Speaking Engagement
Washington D.C., 9.5.13

"The Shifting Landscape in Hotel Management Contracts," Choice Hotels International Annual
Conference 2013
Speaking Engagement
Los Angeles, CA, 5.15.13

"Hotel Management Agreements," 32nd Annual Real Property Law Section Retreat
Speaking Engagement
Napa, CA, 4.27.13

2013 Northwest Hospitality Forum: Time to Build
Seminar
Seattle, WA & Portland, OR, 3.5.13

"The Rising Significance of Guest Information," MPI Cascadia Educational Conference 2013
Speaking Engagement
Portland, OR, 3.3.13

"Perspectives on Non-Traditional Online Distribution Channels," 2013 Hospitality Law
Conference
Speaking Engagement
Houston, TX, 2.12.13

TNT-Travel & Technology Conference
Seminar
Four Seasons Hotel, Seattle, WA, 10.24.12

"Contracting in the 21st Century: The Rising Significance of Guest Information and Intellectual Property," HFTP's Annual Convention & Trade Show
Speaking Engagement
Orlando, FL, 10.18.12

"The Power of Brands," Washington Lodging Association's Annual Convention & Trade Show
Speaking Engagement
Tulalip, WA, 10.1.12

"Contracts: The Current Trend, Interesting Case Studies and Looking Ahead," 11th Annual PCMA/MPI 2012 Industry Summit
Speaking Engagement
Seattle, WA, 9.27.12

"Group Sales Contracts: Current Trends and Interesting Case Studies," 2012 MPI World Education Congress
Speaking Engagement
St. Louis, MO, 7.28.12

"The Evolution Continues: Contracting in the Cloud," The Vendors Summit
Speaking Engagement
Scottsdale, AZ, 4.12.12

Hospitality Forum: Playing Your Cards in 2012 - Portland, OR
Seminar
Garvey Schubert Barer, Portland, OR, 3.1.12

Hospitality Forum: Playing Your Cards in 2012
Seminar
Garvey Schubert Barer, Seattle, WA and Portland, OR, 2.29.12

"Group Sales Contracts: Current Trends and Critical Contract Principles," Smart Fam Tulalip Resort Casino & Spa
Speaking Engagement
Seattle, WA, 12.1.11

"Venue Contracts: The Current Trend, Interesting Case Studies, and Looking Ahead," MPI-OC November Monthly Meeting
Speaking Engagement
North Plains, OR, 11.15.11

"Hotels and Resorts: Time to Check In?," Appraisal Institute's Fall Real Estate Conference
Speaking Engagement
Seattle, WA, 10.27.11

"State of the Industry: Benchmarks and Trends," Washington Lodging Association
Speaking Engagement
Seattle, WA, 10.3.11

"Whose Property Is It? Practical Guidance for Handling Third Parties' Music, Images and Brands," Oregon Restaurant & Lodging Association
Speaking Engagement
Portland, OR, 9.25.11

"Hospitality, Food and Travel Panel," ZINO Zillionaire Investment Forum
Speaking Engagement
Seattle, WA, 9.13.11

"Understanding and Negotiating Leisure Sales Agreements," The 2011 Hospitality Law Conference
Speaking Engagement
Houston, TX, 2.9.11

"Where Do We Go From Here? Event Contracting in the New Norm," MPIWSC and PCMA Northwest 9th Annual Meetings Industry Summit
Speaking Engagement
Seattle, WA, 2011

"Group Sales," the Hyatt Team at the Grand Hyatt
Speaking Engagement
Seattle, WA, 2009

"Where Do We Go From Here? Group Contracting for a Challenging Economy"
Speaking Engagement
Seattle, WA, 2009

"Thriving in the Recession," NEWH, Inc. Northwest, the Hospitality Industry Network
Speaking Engagement
Seattle, WA, 2009

"Survival of the Fittest - Preparing to Thrive in the New Economy," Washington State Hotel & Lodging Association
Speaking Engagement
Seattle, WA, 2009

"Contracting 101 for People with Better Things to Do," Greater Puget Sound Chapter of Hospitality Financial & Technology Professionals
Speaking Engagement
Seattle, WA, 2009

"Contracts Revealed: Understanding Your Event Contract," International Association of Conference Centers 28th Annual Conference
Speaking Engagement
Braselton, GA, 2009

"Mixed-Use Components of Hospitality Development," The Annual Hospitality Construction Expo
Speaking Engagement
Orlando, Florida, 2009

"Buying & Selling Hotels; Successfully Navigating the Landscape of Hotel Deals,"
Speaking Engagement
Seattle, WA, 2008

Legal Alerts

FTC Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking Regarding Junk Fees and Drip Pricing; January 9, 2023 Comment Deadline
Client Alert, 11.22.22

City of Seattle Releases Rules for Hotel Employee Protections
5.18.20

Congress Passes CARES Act: Stimulus Package Includes \$349 Billion for SBA Guarantees of Forgivable Loans for Small and Medium Sized Businesses
3.27.20

Publications

Minimizing Hotel Liability in a COVID-19 World
Today's Hotelier, January 2021

The Potential New Normal for Restaurants
Cheers, 5.13.20