



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Christina Pappas  
1-617-536-0590

## **PAUL J. SACCO NAMED TO NATIONAL LODGING ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

(Boston, MA), February 25, 2014 – Paul J. Sacco, President & CEO of the Massachusetts Lodging Association has been named to the American Hotel & Lodging Association (AH&LA) 2014 board of directors, representing the Partner State Association segment. The new board of directors is comprised of C-level lodging executives representing the full scope of the lodging sector, including brands, owners and REITS, management companies, independents, and state associations. A new board was selected to reflect the completely new strategic direction and membership model passed last June by a vote of association members.

Serving the hospitality industry for more than a century, the American Hotel & Lodging Association (AH&LA) is the sole national association representing all segments of the 1.8 million-employee U.S. lodging industry, including hotel owners, REITs, chains, franchisees, management companies, independent properties, state hotel associations, and industry suppliers. Headquartered in Washington, D.C., AH&LA provides focused advocacy, communications support, and educational resources for an industry generating \$155.5 billion in annual sales from 4.9 million guestrooms.

Paul J. Sacco is President and CEO of the Massachusetts Lodging Association, a statewide trade association representing and promoting the Massachusetts' lodging industry. He is the former Executive Director of the Massachusetts Office of Travel & Tourism. Previously, he served as Chief Executive Officer of the Belvedere Hotels Ltd., Senior Vice President of Sales and Marketing and as a Vice President for regional operations for Omni Hotels. He has also managed a number of hotels in his extensive career including Managing Director of the Omni Parker House Downtown Boston, the Shoreham Hotel in Washington, DC and The Netherland Plaza – Cincinnati. He has been actively involved with AH&LA for a number of years, serves on the board of the Massachusetts Convention Center Authority, as Vice Chair of the Board of the Greater Boston Convention & Visitors Bureau and has served as Chair of the Board of Historic Hotels of America.

"AH&LA now begins a new chapter, bringing together the entire industry under one national umbrella, focusing the association on proactive and effective advocacy, and allowing the industry to speak with one voice," said AH&LA President/CEO Katherine Lugar. "We are thrilled that our new board is comprised of dynamic group of senior industry leaders who will lead the AH&LA's future strategic direction. I'm confident Paul will be a valuable contributor of the thought leadership and direction crucial to ensuring AH&LA and the industry are best-positioned to tackle the challenges and meet the objectives of the future."

For a complete list of board members, click here, [www.ahla.com](http://www.ahla.com).

# # #

#### About the Massachusetts Lodging Association

The Massachusetts Lodging Association is a trade association representing and promoting the lodging industry in Massachusetts. The goal of the MLA is to create and implement an aggressive program to develop the business and leisure travel industry in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, as well as to create a better business environment through legislative efforts and networking with related associations. The MLA is dedicated to providing professional education to members, recognizing excellence among members and actively participating in members' communities. For more information on the Massachusetts Lodging Association, go to [www.masslodging.com](http://www.masslodging.com).