

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR **September/October 2019**



I hope I will see you soon at our flagship event of the year — the 2019 BKR International Annual Worldwide Meeting — in Los Angeles, California, USA, at the Loews Hollywood Hotel, October 25-29. I am proud to be a part of this 30th anniversary celebration for BKR International. It is a promise of more great things to come for our independent member firms around the world.

I had a recent visit to the BKR Worldwide Headquarters in New York with our new Americas Region Chair, **Raymi Mejia** (Santo Domingo), and it was wonderful to experience the enthusiasm and energy at that meeting. We have worked on many initiatives over the past 12 months to support the “Firm of the Future.” Our events reflect those

efforts through the variety of presentations and professionals. The Worldwide Meeting offers even more opportunities.

Gumbiner Savett (Los Angeles) will serve as host member firm for the Worldwide Meeting. We also welcome and thank Executive Vice President of the AICPA, Mark Koziel, CPA, CGMA, as our keynote presenter at the beginning of the conference. He will provide an update on the state of the industry. Continuing this year’s “Firm of the Future” theme for all BKR meetings, overall program content in Los Angeles will include discussions on market intelligence, data analytics as applied to practice management, and how to define value in the eyes of clients.

On the social side, attendees can choose a day at Universal Studios or enjoy an historical tour of Los Angeles — sharing its 500 years of growth from a small pueblo town to a center for cultural renaissance. To celebrate 30 years as a leading international accounting association, BKR International will roll out the red carpet for “Oscar Night,” our annual gala featuring black tie and ballroom attire, as well as some surprises and famous guests!

Other upcoming meetings that I want to mention include the EMEA Tax Meeting in Amsterdam, November 25, and the concurrent EMEA Future Leaders Event from November 25-26. This event will feature a new future leaders group and an alumni group! Speaking of future leaders, you can see a video featuring BKR Asia-Pac’s Executive Director, **Salvio Valenzuela Jr.** (Manila), who summarizes their recent Future Leaders Event in July in Bangkok, Thailand, [here](#).

Also, mark your calendar for December 8-9 for the [Managing Partners Roundtable](#), held in Las Vegas, and always a favorite among our members for its valuable practice management discussions.

That summarizes our fall events. If you have questions or concerns, don’t hesitate to reach out to me or the staff and board members of your region. We are here for you.



Americas Region Chair Raymi Mejia (center left) and Worldwide Chair Manuel Rangel, Jr. (center right) paid a visit to BKR’s Executive Office on July 29, with Americas Region Executive Director Aiysha “AJ” Johnson, Helen Sztterenfeld, Belinda Rivera, and Yomayra Santiago.

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