

## CONVENTION BUREAUS

**Tom Kiely** has been appointed CEO of Visit West Hollywood (California), effective October 17. He will transition from his current role as executive vice-president of tourism at the San Francisco Travel Association. Kiely also has experience serving in leadership positions with the California Academy of Sciences in San Francisco, Atlantis, The Palm in Dubai and Universal Studios Hollywood in Universal City, California.



Tom Kiely

**Teresa Anderson** has been named CEO of Visit Granbury (Texas). A

30-year-veteran of the destination marketing organization industry, Anderson has served in various state and national leadership roles. She was instrumental in launching the industry's first accreditation program, and in 2007, she formed her own professional advisory services firm.

**Molly Rawn** has been appointed executive director of the Fayetteville (Arkansas) Advertising & Promotion Commission, which operates the Fayetteville Convention & Visitors Bureau, Town Center, Visitor's Center and Clinton House Museum and, in addition, grants local proposals. Rawn most recently served as director of development and communications at the Scott Family Amazeum in Bentonville, Arkansas.

**Karen Totaro** has been named senior vice-president and general manager of the San Diego Convention Center Corporation, which was created by the city of San Diego to manage, market and operate its waterfront convention facility. Totaro most recently served as general manager of the Atlantic City Convention Center in New Jersey. Before that, she served as assistant general manager of the Duke Energy Convention Center in Cincinnati.

**Michelle Revuelta** has been appointed vice-president of media relations at Choose Chicago. She most recently served as media relations director at Tourism Toronto.

**Tony Poe** has been appointed director of national accounts at the Little Rock (Arkansas) Convention & Visitors Bureau. Poe most recently served as the national sales director of Absolute Travel, a New York City-based tour operator.

The Athens (Georgia) Convention & Visitors Bureau has hired **Missy Brandt Wilson** as director of sales and **Jay Boling** as junior sales manager. Wilson previously served as the bureau's senior sales manager, and prior to that, she was the director of sales and marketing for the Village Inn & Pub in St. Simons Island, Georgia. Boling most recently served as the economic development assistant for the Oconee County (Georgia) Board of Commissioners.

**Amy Peralta** has been appointed sales manager of Gulf Shores & Orange Beach (Alabama) Tourism, where she will handle all markets in Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas. Peralta most recently served as sales manager of the Perdido Beach Resort in Orange Beach.



Amy Peralta

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## TRANSFORMATIONS

A number of hotels in New York's Times Square have recently undergone significant renovations. The **Westin/New York at Times Square** has completed a \$39 million, multiphase renovation that included a new lobby, 45th-floor Empire Suite and culinary concept. The Empire Suite, formerly the Presidential Suite, spans 1,800 square feet and provides sweeping views of Manhattan. The hotel features 873 guest rooms and a total of more than 34,000 square feet of meeting space, including three ballrooms and 32 meeting and breakout rooms.

The 193-room **Time Hotel** also completed a major renovation. The \$20 mil-

lion update introduced four new spaces for meeting and events: the Penthouse, which can accommodate up to 50 people; the Glass Pavilion, with space for up to 35; a boardroom/private dining room, which can host up to 24 people seated or up to 35 standing; and Le Grande Lounge, with space for up to 20 people seated or up to 40 standing.

The 45-room **Hotel Shocard** has unveiled two new event spaces: the Sho-Stopper Suite, which can host events of up to 50 people, and the Ensemble Suite, for up to 20 people. The Sho-Stopper Suite has a 575-square-foot rooftop terrace and 325 square feet of indoor space. The Ensemble Suite has a 300-square-foot rooftop terrace and 225 of indoor event space.



One of the new event spaces at the Time Hotel is the Glass Pavilion, which can accommodate groups of up to 35.



