

WASHINGTON STATE CA LAW DAY EXCEEDS EXPECTATIONS

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Far from the marbled halls of Congress, Andrew Fortin, Esq., CAI's National VP of Government and Public Affairs, surveyed the scene before him in the sleek, spacious Lynnwood Convention Center on Saturday, June 6, 2009.

A sea of participants braved an overcast weekend to attend Washington State CAI's (WSCAI's) first annual CA Law Day, exceeding both attendance and fundraising goals. The groundbreaking event garnered 225 registrants, (including 70 non-members), and netted \$10,400 (\$1,500 of that from the silent auction) for WSCAI's Legislative Action Committee.

Fortin underlined the significance of CA Law Day: "The role of CAI and its members is to build community," explained Fortin. "I can think of no better example of that than the efforts of the Washington Chapter and Legislative Action Committee (LAC) in facilitating a Law Day to benefit our members." Continuing, Fortin added: "Community Associations are driven by rules which, in turn, are shaped by laws made in Olympia and in Washington, DC. Understanding the legal framework that shapes community associations is critical to ensuring the development of well-run, harmonious neighborhoods."

Fortin stressed: "The Law Day program was focused on empowering CAI members with knowledge to deal with the many challenges our communities are facing: foreclosures, reserves, conflicting personalities, rental issues and protecting association assets in a recession. The efforts, which were well received by CAI members, show that the Washington Chapter and LAC continue to be thought leaders and innovators in CAI's national family and an example for other states to follow."

Seminars and Attendees

The day-long event featured an array of industry legal experts offering nine different seminars on topics ranging from "Protecting the Value of Your Investment in a Fluctuating Market", and "Foreclosure 101", to "Don't Shoot the Messenger: Effectively Communicating Bad News to Your Membership."

Attendees included a broad spectrum of community managers, board members, and homeowners, as well as exhibitors, sponsors, and Legislative Action Committee members. Undoubtedly, the most unusual non-member attendee was Edward, a service-dog-in-training learning to navigate the vagaries of public events with aplomb.

The day's highlight included a luncheon with remarks by Andrew Fortin from National, and Margo Keller, Co-Chair of Washington State's Legislative Action Committee (LAC).

Added LAC Co-Chair Keller: "The CA Law Day was really important, because it gave CAI members a chance to learn firsthand about the issues that arose this year in the legislature, to meet some of the LAC members, and for some, it gave them an opportunity to volunteer their services. I had at least three people come up and volunteer to serve on the LAC!"

Keller also touted the attendance of Andrew Fortin, adding, "...it gave us an opportunity to network with him and find out what is happening in other states..."

The day concluded with a 2:30 p.m. social, raffle, and silent auction. Auction items included a gift package of wine, finishing salt, and dinner for two at Seattle Art Museum's TASTE restaurant, a gift certificate of color installation from Pacific Landscaping, a foursome golf package at Glen Acres, and wine from local boutique winery Januik. Gil Price's offerings stole the show: A Seafair party at his home overlooking Lake Washington, and a poker night and gourmet dinner for six, also at Chez Price.

Co-Chair Keller explained the significance of the funds raised: "... We pay our lobbyist, but everything else is done through volunteer hours – a lot of them. It would be great if we had the opportunity to hire some legal research or drafting when an emergency arose and these funds may help with such an effort. So the financial support is really appreciated."

A tired but happy WSCAI Executive Director Michelle Medlock summed it up best: "See you all next year!"

To learn more about the WSCAI Legal Action Committee (LAC), go to: www.wscai.org, and click on the "Legislative" link.

To learn more about national legislative issues: go to: www.caionline.org, and click on the "Issues and Advocacy" link, and also [Heads-Up](#).

WSCAI Legislative Action Committee

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CA Law Day Committee

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CA Law Day Sponsors

Coffee Service: AAMC, Barker Martin P.S., PRIME

Luncheon: The CWD Group, Inc., AAMC

Table Sponsors: Cagianut & CO, CP, Levin & Stein, PRIME, The Unity Group

Reception: National CAI, AAMC, The CWD Group, Inc.