

The College of Community Association Lawyers

2021 Q4 CCAL Board of Governors President's Message

Dear CCAL Fellows and Community Association Law Counsel,

It has been my pleasure to serve as president of the Board of Governors this past year. I am pleased to provide the following fourth-quarter update.

2021 has been a year of significant challenges and great accomplishments. None of these achievements would be possible without the tremendous volunteer efforts of my fellow board members: Edmund Allcock, Brendan Bunn, David Graf, Kevin Hirzel, Daniel Miske, and Laurie Poole. I would be remiss if I did not also express our tremendous admiration and appreciation for Phoebe Neseth and Dawn Bauman. They are the dynamic duo who truly make our College successful.

[Register Today for the 2022 Law Seminar.](#) I am thrilled to see many of you in person at the 2022 Community Association Law Seminar, Feb. 9–12, at the La Quinta Resort and Club, a Waldorf Astoria Hotel, in La Quinta, Calif. Law Seminar is the premier continuing legal education event exploring trends and best practices in community association law.

After attending CAI's Law Seminar, you will:

- Be better prepared to manage pressing issues facing condominium and homeowners associations.
- Know how to plan for the next five years in your practice.
- Meet and collaborate with a valuable, supportive network of colleagues across the country.
- Receive a copy of the 2022 Law Seminar proceedings.

I encourage all community association attorneys, insurance professionals, management company CEOs, and industry leaders to join me and your peers and register for this one-of-kind event today!

Congratulations to Richard S. Ekimoto, the 2022 Don Buck Lifetime Award Recipient. The Board of Governors is pleased to honor Richard S. Ekimoto of Ekimoto & Morris LLC in Honolulu, Hawaii, with the Don Buck Lifetime Contribution Award. This award recognizes an outstanding attorney for his or her sustained and positive work with common interest communities, including significant drafting, lecturing, and scholarly contributions to the community association industry; service in local, regional, and/or national organizations working with common interest developments; a demonstrated commitment to the local community; and exhibiting a strong mentoring spirit.

Ekimoto exemplifies each of these qualities. The award honors the memory of Gurdon “Don” Buck, a community association law leader, mentor, friend, and innovator. We look forward to sharing some of Ekimoto’s achievements and contributions on behalf of the community association industry when we present him the award at the 2022 Community Association Law Seminar.

Congratulations to Our New CCAL Fellows. The Board of Governors welcomed three outstanding CCAL fellows this year. Join me in congratulating Adam H. Clarkson, Esq. (The Clarkson Law Group P.C.), Nathan McGuire, Esq. (Adams Stirling PLC), and Jennifer L. Wojciechowski, Esq. (Community Association Underwriters of America Inc.). Find a CCAL fellow in your state by visiting [CAI’s CCAL Directory](#).

CCAL Board of Governors Charter Update. Over the past year, we reviewed and drafted much needed updates to the CCAL Board of Governors Charter. The charter guides the Board of Governors to identify and meet the needs of CCAL fellows, recommends educational and informational programs, and develops future goals for the College. These updates include recommended procedural changes to the voting process of the president-elect position as well as the establishment of an emeritus membership category for our retired members. Our proposed updates were submitted to CAI’s Board of Trustees to consider for approval during its December 2021 meeting.

[CCAL and CAI Law School Outreach – Connect with your Alma Mater.](#) In November, CCAL Board of Governors member David Graf [sent a letter](#) to the top 200 law schools in the country promoting the practice of community association law and the College of Community Association Lawyers. Many schools replied expressing interest in learning more about the community association legal field. I encourage you to reach out to your law school’s career center over the next few weeks to further promote a career in community association law for recent graduates. Special thanks to Graf for his work on this project.

CAI’s Amicus Curiae Program. CAI files amicus curiae, or “friend of the court” briefs, for cases that address issues of significant importance in community association law. CAI’s amicus curiae efforts enable CAI to share expertise and educate a court about the legal issues in a particular case. If an association you represent is facing a poorly formulated legal opinion, consider completing an amicus brief submission request. [Click here](#) for more information on submission procedures. Please contact Phoebe Neseth at pneseth@caionline.org with questions.

Case Law Update and Online Directory. One of the most compelling reasons to attend the 2022 Law Seminar is the invaluable opportunity to learn about to dozens of appellate cases. [Click here](#) for a preview of the Case Law Update from the 2021 Law Seminar. As a CAI member, you have access to our online [case law database](#).

[CCAL Mentors.](#) I encourage you to participate in the CCAL Mentor program. The program helps lawyers new to our industry develop skills unique to the practice of community association law, provides networking opportunities, and guides lawyers toward completing their application to become a CCAL fellow. For more information or to volunteer, please contact Phoebe Neseth at pneseth@caionline.org.

[CAI Lawyers Exchange.](#) CAI has an exclusive online community within its Exchange forums for community association lawyers. Please contact Phoebe Neseth at pneseth@caionline.org to be added to this group.

[CCAL Washington Post Column](#). CCAL fellows continue to be featured in *The Washington Post's* Real Estate section, writing about a variety of common interest community topics. CCAL fellow Benny Kass, who passed away in March 2019, started the column in 1972 and developed it into a resource for community association residents. These articles focus on community association legal issues and should be presented in understandable terminology geared toward association residents and homeowners. There are two style options for the column: A question-and-answer format that should be no more than 800 words or a general content format that is informational in nature and should be no more than 500 words. If you are interested in writing an article for national exposure, please submit your topic idea to Phoebe Neseth at pneseth@caionline.org.

What's on your mind? As we end the year, the CCAL Board of Governors and I want to know how we are doing. Share thoughts, comments, or ideas you have at dkaman@kamancus.com.

My term as president of the Board of Governors ends Jan. 1, and I will be turning the reigns over to my good friend Laurie Poole, a partner at Adams Stirling in California. Laurie is not only an excellent attorney but a great communicator and consensus builder. I end my term with knowledge that our organization will have an even brighter and more successful future.

I also extend the Board's appreciation to outgoing immediate past-president Edmund Allcock. He is a true example of someone who volunteers endless hours to the College and its members. I could not have asked for a better mentor than Ed.

My best wishes to you for a healthy and happy holiday season. See you in Palm Springs in February!



David W. Kaman

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