



2020 Q4 CCAL Board of Governors President's Message

Dear CCAL Fellows and Community Association Law Counsel,

On behalf of the Board of Governors of CAI's [College of Community Association Lawyers \(CCAL\)](#), Brendan Bunn, David Graf, David Kaman, Daniel Miske, Matt Ober, and Laurie Poole, I'm pleased to provide you with a brief fourth-quarter update.

As we reflect on difficult year that just came to a close, I want to thank the Board of Governors, our committees, and CAI staff for their efforts and dedication in pivoting with alternative processes, resources, and virtual webinars in response to the impacts of COVID-19. A special thanks to Dawn Bauman, CAE, and Phoebe Neseth, Esq. for their guidance, support, and their tireless efforts in monitoring and assisting with myriad of proposed COVID-19 legislation and case law impacting community associations across the U.S.

The College continues to grow as we prepare to welcome seven new fellows at the 2021 Community Association Virtual Law Seminar. We also have appointed a task force to look into adjusting the scoring methods for admittance in a manner designed to inform all applicants of the expected requirements for admission, while permitting reasonable flexibility to allow admission of truly qualified applicants. Growth is not only necessary for CCAL's survival but can help us expand our reach and influence for the betterment of our industry.

The College is not a hall of fame for community association lawyers; induction signals the beginning of impact and service, not the end. Likewise, the College is not an organization of exclusivity. If there is one thing that 2020 taught us, is that division is the enemy of accomplishment. I believe that despite all of our differences, we have worked so hard this year as an organization because we have refused to let one another down.

That will and spirit is how great organizations happen. It has very little to do with speeches, webinars, or conferences because there is something incredibly moral that happens to an individual and an organization when you are just trying to put one foot in front of the other. I look forward to the continued growth of the College under the stewardship of our incoming president, David Kaman.

[Register Today: 2021 Community Association Virtual Law Seminar.](#) Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2021 Community Association Law Seminar is going virtual Jan. 25–29. This event will have the same great content that CAI and CCAL had planned for La Quinta, Calif., only now we will be connecting from the comfort of our homes or offices. The online program will be held a few hours every day over five days of learning and will include renowned speakers, real-time participation, continuing legal education (CLE) credits, and ample networking opportunities.

Education sessions also will focus on how community associations have navigated social justice issues and racial discrimination and encouraged their residents to practice civility during a time of unprecedented political divide. Other hot-topic education sessions include best practices on past-due assessment collections, leveraging the latest advances in technology for your law practice, free speech, and much more.

Spend around three hours each day taking a break from your current fast-paced and busy professional environment and learn about the latest issues and trends impacting the community association housing model. A special thanks to committee chairs Elina Gilbert, Tom Murray, and Andrew Terrell for their leadership throughout this unparalleled planning process.

[Register today](#) for the 2021 Community Association Virtual Law Seminar at a reduced rate for individuals and groups.

[CCAL Young Lawyers Network](#). Over the past several years, the Board of Governors has explored ways to engage the next generation of community association attorneys. To connect with this group, we created the CAI Young Lawyers Network as a way for these attorneys to network with current CCAL fellows. We will hold our annual coffee connection event at the 2021 Community Association Virtual Law Seminar for this group of lawyers.

Anyone who is in the first eight years of their practice in community association law and interested in this initiative should contact Brendan Bunn at bbunn@chadwickwashington.com.

Congratulations to Our New CCAL Fellow. The Board of Governors welcomed a new outstanding CCAL Fellow from the fall 2020 class of applicants to the College. Join me in congratulating Thomas Ware (Kulik, Gottesman, Siegel, & Ware, LLP). CCAL Fellows now total 157, a select and impressive group.

Congratulations to J. David Ramsey, the 2021 Don Buck Lifetime Award Recipient. The Board of Governors is pleased to honor J. David Ramsey, a shareholder of Becker in Morristown, N.J., 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.

Ramsey exemplifies each of these qualities and characteristics and is a most worthy recipient of CCAL's highest distinction to honor the memory of Gurdon "Don" Buck, a community association law leader, mentor, friend, and innovator. We look forward to sharing some of Ramsey's achievements and contributions on behalf of the community association industry when we present him the award at the 2021 Community Association Virtual Law Seminar.

Welcome and Farewell. We welcome Kevin Hirzel to the Board of Governors in 2021. Hirzel is no stranger to CAI leadership, as he has steadfastly served as chair of CAI's Michigan Legislative Action Committee and on the CAI Board of Trustees and will be a great addition to our Board of Governors. We also welcome back Brendan Bunn and David Graf, who were reelected to another term. Finally, we bid farewell to Matt Ober, who ended his term on the Board of Governors in 2020. Ober proudly served as CCAL's 2019 president, and we extend our sincere thanks for his commitment and many contributions to CAI and CCAL during his tenure on the board.

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 development topics. CCAL fellow Benny Kass, who passed away in March 2019, started the column in 1972, developing it into a resource for community association residents. Fellows interested in participating in this incredible opportunity should contact Phoebe Neseth at pneseth@caionline.org.

Case Law Update and Online Directory. To view CAI's case law database, visit www.caionline.org/caselaw.

What's on Your Mind? The Board of Governors and I appreciate your feedback, thoughts, ideas, or concerns about the College. Please reach out any time.

Best,



Edmund A. Allcock, Esq.
2020 President, College of Community Association Lawyers (CCAL)
eallcock@meeb.com