



2021 Q1 CCAL Board of Governors President's Message

Dear Fellows and Community Association Law Counsel,

After the successful and engaging 2021 Community Association Virtual Law Seminar, it is my pleasure to provide you the following first quarter 2021 update on behalf of the Board of Governors of CAI's College of Community Association Lawyers (CCAL): Edward Allcock, Brendan Bunn, David Graf, Kevin Hirzel, Daniel Miske, and Laurie Poole.

2021 Community Association Virtual Law Seminar: My sincere thanks to everyone who gave presentations at the 2021 Virtual Law Seminar. Every individual involved with this year's event was critical to its success, and it is not lost on us that the Law Seminar would not exist without your contributions. Your time, insight, and preparation were well-received and are still being applauded by those who attended.

I'd also like to acknowledge the great work of the Law Seminar Planning Committee and thank its co-chairs, Andrew Terrell, Elina Gilbert, and Tom Murray. Andrew has passed the torch to the incredible Amy Tinetti, the committee's new co-chair. We are hopeful that we will be seeing everyone in person next year for the 2022 Community Association Law Seminar. Stay tuned for updates.

[New Resource for Attorneys.](#) During the 2021 Virtual Law Seminar, CAI and CCAL introduced our newest resource, *Guiding Principles for Community Association Governing Documents: A Resource for Lawyers*. This guide is the result of a two-year initiative by the CCAL Governing Principles Task Force co-chaired by CCAL fellows Robert M. Diamond and Laurie Poole. Robert and Laurie will present a [webinar](#) on how to best use this resource to benefit community associations on [Wednesday, March 24, at 2 p.m. ET](#). Please share a copy of these guiding principles with at least two lawyers you know who represent developers or communities in need of drafting their governing documents. [Register for the webinar today!](#)

[Case Law Update and Online Directory.](#) Many thanks to Jeffrey Kaman and all the members of the Case Law Update team for their time-consuming work throughout 2020. The team compiled community association case law from across the country that was presented at the 2021 Law Seminar and to include in CAI's online Case Law Database.

Congratulations J. David Ramsey.: It was my honor to present J. David Ramsey with the Don Buck Lifetime Achievement Award. The award recognizes community association practitioners who have made extraordinary contributions to community association law and practice. The award is a very fitting and well-deserved acknowledgement of David's significant involvement with CAI and the community association industry for so many years.

[Best Manuscript Award.](#) The Law Seminar Manuscript Committee is working to identify the 2021 Best Manuscript Award. This is the eighth year the CCAL Board of Governors will present this award, which recognizes the scholarly efforts of our talented lawyers. Past recipients include David J. Graf and Steven S. Weil (2014); James H. Slaughter (2015); Marion A. Aaron and Allen B. Warren (2016); Daniela Burg, Edward Hoffman Jr., and Gerald C. Wigger (2017); Matt Ober and Amy Tinetti (2018); Kevin Hirzel, Edward Hoffman Jr., Michael S. Karpoff, and Todd A. Sinkins (2019); and Elina B. Gilbert and Kevin M. Hirzel (2020).

[2021 CAI Annual Conference and Exposition: Community NOW – Save the Date!](#) CAI is proud to announce plans for the 2021 Annual Conference and Exposition: Community NOW, to be held in person Aug. 18–21 at the new Caesars Forum in Las Vegas. Preconference education courses will take place Aug. 16–17.

We are aware that these unprecedented times require us to reassess all aspects of planning and hosting events to ensure attendee safety. CAI moved the conference from early May to mid-August, allowing more time to plan, address new health and safety protocols, and create an approach that complies with federal, state, and local regulations, while also allowing additional time for more extensive distribution of vaccines to the general population.

[Leaders in Law.](#) Many of you have probably met retired attorney Marvin J. Nodiff and know him through reading his community association-themed novels. He is not only a talented lawyer, but an excellent writer and storyteller. Marvin has now detailed the early days of our legal field with *Creating Community Association Law: True Tales from Early Pioneers*.

This book should be required reading for every attorney practicing in our area. It also will delight, inform, and educate community association board members, managers, and business partners interested in learning more about the unique origins of community association law throughout the country. Marvin deftly captures the recollections of his fellow pioneers such as Wayne S. Hyatt, Ronald Perl, Michael Hyman, Marc Markel, P. Michael Nagle, and more. Meet the many men and women who are the true pioneers of our industry. [Download your copy today!](#)

[CCAL Fellow Applications Due June 30.](#) The next CCAL membership applications deadline is June 30. Applicants are required to have completed a minimum of eight years of legal practice with a demonstrated focus in community association law, five of which must immediately precede the date of application. They also must be a member of CAI and have attended at least one Law Seminar within the past five years, and demonstrated significant leadership and involvement in the provision of legal services to community associations through the attainment of 12 out of a possible 15 points in the evaluated application categories.

[CCAL Mentors.](#) I encourage everyone to volunteer to participate in the CCAL Mentor program. The program helps lawyers new to our industry in developing 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.

[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. If you are interested in writing an article for national exposure, please submit your topic idea to Phoebe Neseth at pneseth@caionline.org.

Tell us what's on your mind! As we progress through the year, the CCAL Board of Governors and I want to know how we are doing and any thoughts, comments, or ideas you might have. Please reach out at any time to me at dkaman@kamancus.com.

My best wishes for a safe and healthy spring,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David W. Kaman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "D" and a prominent "W".

David Kaman, Esq.
President, College of Community Association Lawyers (CCAL)