



2022 Q1 CCAL Board of Governors President's Message

Dear Fellows and Community Association Law Counsel,

After the successful and engaging 2022 Community Association Law Seminar in La Quinta, California it is my pleasure to provide the following first-quarter 2022 update on behalf of the Board of Governors of CAI's College of Community Association Lawyers (CCAL): David Kaman, Brendan Bunn, David Graf, Daniel Miske, Amy Tinetti, and Augustus Shaw.

I would like to congratulate 2021 President David Kaman on all of his accomplishments with CCAL last year and to thank him for his excellent leadership and service.

I am truly honored to lead CCAL in 2022 and explore how, as an organization, we can continue to educate and support community association lawyers.

2022 Community Association Hybrid Law Seminar: My sincere thanks to everyone who gave presentations at the 2022 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.

It was wonderful to be back in person and to connect with so many of you. I'm gratified by the positive feedback that we have received about the Law Seminar, and especially the First Time Attendees/Young Lawyers Networking Event and the Women in Community Association Law Meetup.

I'd also like to acknowledge the great work of the Law Seminar Planning Committee and thank its co-chairs, Elina Gilbert, Tom Murray, and Amy Tinetti. We look forward to seeing everyone in person next year for the 2023 Community Association Law Seminar. Stay tuned for dates and location.

The Law Seminar provided the opportunity to launch my goals for CCAL in 2022: (1) focusing on our well-being as attorneys; and (2) supporting the advancement and inclusion of women and diverse attorneys.

As lawyers, we take care of others before ourselves – clients, manager contacts, employees and our families. Our profession experiences higher levels of stress, anxiety, depression and substance abuse than many other professions, including physicians. The American Bar Association has recognized the legal profession is becoming increasingly unsustainable for attorneys. CCAL needs to lead a culture shift to establish health and well-being as centerpieces of our community association attorneys' success. Now is the time to ensure that we are traveling on a path of well-being as lawyers and as human beings. For anyone who is struggling, please reach out for help. Seeking help is NOT a sign of weakness, but strength.

According to surveys conducted by the National Association of Women Lawyers, the progress women have made in law firms over the last decade has been slow and incremental at best. Law firms continue to face challenges supporting and promoting women and diverse attorneys. This year, CCAL will continue to explore how, as an organization, we can support the inclusion and advancement of women and diverse attorneys in community association law. I was proud to represent CCAL as President of the Board of Governors in CAI's Celebration of International Women's Day on March 8, 2022.



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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 2021. 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 Richard Ekimoto. It was my honor to present Richard Ekimoto 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 Richards'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 2022 Best Manuscript Award. This is the ninth 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); Elina B. Gilbert and Kevin M. Hirzel (2020); Leah K. Burton, Noelle Hicks, and Wil Washington (2021).

2022 CAI Annual Conference and Exposition: Community NOW – Save the Date! CAI is proud to announce the 2022 Annual Conference and Exposition: Community NOW, to be held in person May 4-7 at Rosen Shingle Creek in Orlando, Fla. Preconference education courses will take place May 2-3.

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 three Law Seminars within the past ten years, with one in the last three 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.

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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 lpolee@admsstirling.com.

My best wishes for a safe and healthy spring.



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Laurie S. Poole". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Laurie S. Poole, Esq., CCAL
President, College of Community Association Lawyers (CCAL)