



## 2023 Q4 CCAL Board of Governors President's Message

Dear Fellows and Community Association Law Counsel,

It is my pleasure to provide an update on behalf of the Board of Governors of CAI's College of Community Association Lawyers (CCAL): Brendan Bunn, Elina Gilbert, Daniel Miske, Laurie Poole, Augustus Shaw, and Amy Tinetti. As we close out 2023, the College had several successes. The annual law seminar in New Orleans was a smash hit with several excellent classes and great opportunities for us to reconnect. The College was represented at the CEO-MC Retreat with a class presented by a fellow. With a goal of increasing the presence of the College at CAI events, at least two classes were submitted by fellows to teach at the 2024 CAI Annual Conference and Exposition. CCAL Fellow Augustus Shaw became an adjunct faculty member at Arizona State University's Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law and is teaching a credit course on community association law.

But perhaps the most inspiring victory for the College is the admittance of eight new fellows. The membership committee was graced with an abundance of outstanding applications this year. These fellows have presented, written, advocated, and otherwise contributed enormously to advance the practice of community association law. I don't see the College as a castle where we on the inside have the ability to raise the drawbridge and keep great people out. I see the College as an airport, where anyone with the proper ticket (in the form of professional expertise, scholarship, and industry contribution) can come in and continue on their journey of excellence with our support. For the eight fellows listed below, and for the rest of us, being admitted to the College is not the finish line— it is the starting line of a journey we'll take together.

[2024 Community Association Law Seminar](#). I am beyond excited to see my CAI colleagues at the 2024 Community Association Law Seminar, Feb. 14–18, in Las Vegas, at the Aria Resort and Casino. The annual law seminar is the premier continuing legal education conference exploring trends and best practices in community association law.

**After attending CAI's law seminar, you will:**

- Be better prepared to deal with the pressing issues facing condominium and homeowners associations
- Know how to plan for the next five years in the practice of association law
- Have a valuable, supportive network of colleagues across the country
- Receive a copy of the law seminar proceedings

I encourage all community association attorneys, insurance agents, CEOs, and industry leaders to join me and your peers in Las Vegas for this one-of-a-kind event. [Register Today!](#)

**Congratulations to Jim Slaughter, the 2024 Don Buck Lifetime Award Recipient.** The Board of Governors is pleased to honor Jim Slaughter of Greensboro, N.C., with the Don Buck Lifetime Contribution Award. This award recognizes an outstanding attorney for their 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.

Slaughter exemplifies each of these qualities and characteristics. He 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 Jim's achievements and contributions on behalf of the community association industry when we present him with the award at the 2024 Community Association Law Seminar.



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**2024 CCAL Board of Governors.** It is my pleasure to announce that Amy Tinetti was re-elected to the CCAL Board of Governors, and Scott Weiss was elected to serve on the Board of Governors. Beginning January 2024, the CCAL Board of Governors will consist of President Brendan Bunn, President-Elect Daniel Miske, Immediate Past-President David Graf, and governors Amy Tinetti, Augustus Shaw, Elina Gilbert, and Scott Weiss.

**Congratulations to New CCAL fellows.** The Board of Governors welcomed eight truly outstanding CCAL fellows from the summer 2023 class of applicants to the college. Join me in congratulating M. Katherine Bushey with Kaman & Cusimano, LLC in Ohio; G. Lanier Coulter, Jr. with Coulter & Sierra, LLC in Georgia; Bruce Easmunt with Chadwick, Washington, Moriarty, Elmore & Bunn, P.C. in Richmond, Va.; Alexis Firehawk with Carpenter, Hazlewood, Delgado & Bolen in Phoenix, Ariz.; Chad M. Gallacher with Maxwell & Morgan, P.C. in Ariz.; Cheri A. Hauer with Leach Kern Gruchow Anderson Song in Nev.; Phaedra Howard with Hellmuth & Johnson, PLLC in Minn.; and Harmony Taylor with Law Firm Carolinas in Charlotte, N.C. Find a CCAL fellow in your state via [CAI's CCAL Directory](#).

**\*NEW\* [CCAL State Bar Association Mental Health and Assistance Program Resources](#).** CAI and the College are pleased to present a new resource platform for attorneys, which showcases each state bar association's program and resources for mental health assistance. This resource map is the product of information presented at the 2022 CAI Law Seminar by Bruce C. Jenkins, Esq., CCAL, and Susan Bradford Tarley, Esq., CCAL. Read their "Better Lawyering by Taking Care of Yourself First" manuscript [here](#). Acknowledgments to Laurie S. Poole, Esq., a CCAL fellow, for data collection.

**[CCAL Mentors](#).** I encourage everyone to volunteer to participate in the CCAL Mentor program. The program helps lawyers new to our industry develop skills unique to 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](mailto:pneseth@caionline.org).

**[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 being faced with a poorly formulated legal opinion, consider completing an amicus brief submission request.

**[CAI Lawyer's Exchange](#).** CAI developed an online community for participation by all community association lawyers. Please contact Phoebe Neseth at [pneseth@caionline.org](mailto:pneseth@caionline.org) to be added into this group.

**What's on your mind?** The CCAL Board of Governors and I want to know how we are doing and any thoughts, comments, or ideas you have. Please reach out at any time to me at [dgraf@moellergraf.com](mailto:dgraf@moellergraf.com).

My best wishes for a safe and healthy holiday season. See you in Las Vegas in February!

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