2023 Q3 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.

The board of governors reviewed the CCAL application criteria with the membership committee. We had several in-depth and spirited conversations about how to best preserve what is unique about the college, while also making it relevant to an increasingly diverse and vibrant group of potential fellows. The approved changes to the application requirements referenced below do not consider even more recent conversations, so stay tuned. Your feedback is greatly appreciated. Please let any of us know how you feel about this issue so we can have the benefit of your wisdom.

I am teaching my first "true" wellness class for CAI at the CEO-MC Retreat in Hollywood, Fla., this month. The class is entitled "Chasing Happiness and Outrunning Burnout." It outlines what I believe are the six major causes of professional burnout for those of us serving community associations. I will present solutions to professional burnout and lack of happiness. I look forward to having this conversation with my fellow practitioners in the future.

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 New CCAL fellows. The board of governors welcomed three truly outstanding CCAL fellows from the summer 2023 class of applicants to the college. Join me in congratulating Leah Burton with Steptoe & Johnson PLLC in Collin County, Texas; Mark Sahl with Carpenter, Hazlewood, Delgado & Bolen in Phoenix, Ariz.; and Jerry Wright with Chadwick, Washington, Moriarty, Elmore & Bunn, P.C. in Richmond, Va. Find a CCAL fellow in your state via CAI's CCAL Directory.

CCAL Fellow Application Requirement Updates and September 30 Deadline. The CCAL membership committee and board of governors approved the following changes to the current CCAL Application:

- CAI's Community Association Law Seminar attendance requirement has now been changed to "attendance at two (2) Law Seminars in the prior 10 years, and one (1) of which that has been in the last 5 years."

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•   A new line item in the CCAL application scoring matrix has been added. If you have attended six (6) or more Law Seminars in the last 10 years, this will be counted .5-1 point towards industry involvement.

The next CCAL membership application deadline is September 30. Applicants must complete 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, have attended two CAI Law Seminars in the last 10 years, with one having been in the last 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 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.

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 to be added into this Exchange group.

Honoring the Passing of CCAL Fellow, P. Michael Nagle. CAI Past President P. Michael Nagle, Esq., passed away in July. He was a principal of Nagle & Zaller in Columbia, Md., prior to his retirement, and was heavily involved in CAI both at the chapter and national levels. Among his many volunteer roles, he served on CAI's nominating committee, Business Partners Council, and Board of Trustees. Michael was also a faculty member for CAI's Community Association Law Seminar. Michael was previously honored as the CAI Washington Metropolitan Chapter's volunteer of the year and inducted into the chapter's hall of fame. A charter member of CAI's College of Community Association Lawyers, Michael Nagle served as CAI president in 2010.

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.

My best wishes for a safe and healthy fall.

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