

Dear CCAL Fellows and Community Association Law Counsel,

On behalf of your CCAL Board of Governors—Brendan Bunn, David Graf, David Kaman, Daniel Miske, Matt Ober, and Laurie Poole—below is the mid-year update.

2020 Community Association Law Seminar

Little did we know that the 2020 Community Association Law Seminar would be one of the last in-person events of its kind for a while. I am proud to say that it was the highest attendance ever for the seminar; more than 639 attorneys, insurance professionals, CEOs, and industry leaders gathered in Las Vegas to share perspectives, experience, and knowledge. I had the honor of presenting the Don Buck Lifetime Achievement Award to Robert Diamond of Reed Smith and welcoming Ursula Burgess, Esq., of Rees Broome, president of CAI, Ellen Shapiro of Marcus Errico Emmer Brooks, PC, and Howard Perl of Becker, into the College. In addition to the attendance record, the 2020 Law Seminar received excellent reviews for its diversity of programs, speakers, and information; it will be hard to match in 2021.

Consistent with the message I delivered at that Law Seminar, the Board of Governors is in the process of making minor revisions to its standards for admittance to account for qualified applicants who might not check the traditional boxes in a point-based system. We remain committed to maintaining the highest standards for admittance into the College while recognizing that the continued success of our organization is dependent on the growth and preparation of our next generation of leaders. We are hopeful that small tweaks to the admission process, together with use of the CCAL mentoring program, will encourage applications. If you have any questions about the process, the criteria, or your application, feel free to contact me at ealcock@meeb.com.

COVID-19 Update

It has been an exhausting three months for the community association legal community. The Board of Governors, together with the CAI Government and Public Affairs team, have tried to keep our fellows and members updated on COVID-19 best practices as well as state orders and legislation regarding stay-at-home orders, reopening of common areas and amenities, and federal relief programs.

The true test of leadership is how well you react in times of crisis. The CAI Government and Public Affairs team is passing that test with flying colors. They organized numerous free webinars on a variety of COVID-19 legal topics, with the Board of Governors participating in at least one of the webinars.

The CAI Government and Public Affairs team also created resources for all state lockdown and reopening orders, which live on CAI's website. They worked tirelessly with legislative action committees across the country to deal with the flurry of state and federal legislation generated by COVID-19. They also have worked with the Board of Governors to help inform and influence CAI policy related to collections and essential workers, with an eye to protecting community association legal rights.

I cannot emphasize the tremendous initiative and leadership that the CAI Government and Public Affairs is showing during the COVID-19 pandemic and what a tremendous benefit they are to the College. Next time you communicate with them on an issue, do me a favor and thank them.

2021 Community Association Law Seminar

We are now [accepting presentation submissions](#) for the 2021 Community Association Law Seminar through June 30. Many thanks to committee chairs Elina Gilbert, Thomas Murray, and Andrew Terrell for guiding our incredible planning committee through this process. Look for updates and conference details soon. Of course, it remains to be seen how COVID-19 will impact attendance and the operation of the Law Seminar. For now, mark your calendars Jan. 27–30 in La Quinta, Calif.

Best Manuscript Award. I am pleased to announce that the [2020 Community Association Law Seminar Best Manuscript award](#) went to the team that presented “How Legal Is It Anyway? Tips for Dealing with Recreational and Medicinal Marijuana Use in Community Associations.” Kevin Hirzel of Hirzel Law, PLC, and Elina Gilbert of Altitude Community Law, put together a timely, thought-provoking, and exceptionally written manuscript that is a must-read for anyone addressing marijuana in community associations in today’s climate. The manuscript was an excellent complement to their well-received Law Seminar presentation. Congratulations!

CCAL Fellow Application Deadline is June 30. The summer deadline for CCAL membership applications is a couple of weeks away. Applicants are required to complete a minimum of eight years of legal practice with a demonstrated concentration in community association law, five of which must immediately precede the date of application; be a CAI member and have attended at least three Law Seminars within the last 10 years and one within the last three years; and have 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. An application guide along with updated evaluation criteria can be found at https://www.caionline.org/Advocacy/LegalArena/CCAL/Documents/ccal_application.pdf. If you missed this deadline, the fall deadline is Sept. 30.

Case Law Update & Online Directory: Just a reminder that CAI’s online case law database is available at <https://www.caionline.org/Advocacy/LegalArena/Pages/caselaw.aspx>. This is an incredible resource for community association lawyers.

CAI Lawyer’s Exchange: CAI developed an online community within our Exchange for community association lawyers. Please contact Phoebe Neseth at pneseth@caionline.org to be added.

What’s on Your Mind? As we move through the year, the Board of Governors and I want to know how we are doing. We want to hear your thoughts, ideas, or concerns about the College. Please reach out at any time.

Best,

Edmund Allcock, Esq.