



Dear Fellows and Community Association Law Counsel,

Greetings from the Desert Southwest! It is my pleasure to provide the first quarter 2026 update on behalf of the board of governors of CAI's College of Community Association Lawyers: Daniel Miske, Elina Gilbert, Scott Weiss, Amy Tinetti, Kevin Hirzel, and Harmony Taylor.

Expanding the practice of community association law

One of the primary goals of CCAL is to grow the practice area of community association law. The CCAL Board of Governors is addressing this challenge by working with law schools to introduce the community association law practice area to the future lawyers of America.



[2026 HOA/condo legal symposium](#)

To further this goal, I am proud to announce an exciting partnership between Arizona State University's Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law and CCAL. Both entities will host the 2026 HOA/Condo Legal Symposium on Monday, April 20 from 4:30 – 8:30 p.m. at the Beus Center for Law and Society at 111 E. Taylor Street, Room 644 in Phoenix. This wonderful event is designed to introduce law students, law professors, and other academics to the dynamic and growing field of community association law through a star-studded group of nationally recognized speakers, professors, and industry leaders.

Register and Learn More

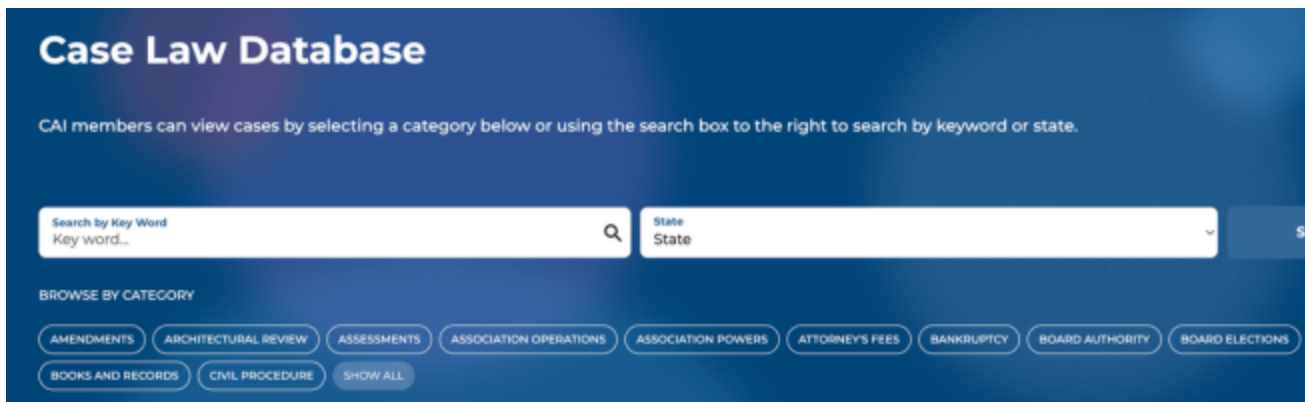


[CCAL will be at the 2026 CAI Annual Conference and Exposition](#)

CAI’s annual conference is June 3-5 at the Diplomat in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. The CCAL Board of Governors is presenting “Hot. Legal. Topics.” Please join us to learn about the current legal issues impacting – or are likely to impact – community associations. Also, members of the CCAL Board of Governors will conduct the “Shop Talk for Attorneys.” It’s a great opportunity to engage in stimulating dialogue with your legal colleagues.

Join us for the ultimate gathering of community association managers, homeowner board members, and business partners. Connect with old friends and meet new ones at spectacular networking events, inspiring education sessions, and the world-class exhibit hall showcasing the latest technology and solutions for community associations.

[**Register Today**](#)



[Case law update and online directory](#)

Many thanks to Jeffrey Kaman and all members of the Case Law Update team for their time-consuming work throughout 2025. The team compiled summaries from community association cases across the country that were presented at the Community Association Law Seminar. They are now included in CAI’s online Case Law Database. The update takes a tremendous amount of work throughout the year by the great lawyers on the team. Their efforts are invaluable to implementing a successful Law Seminar. CAI expresses its continued gratitude for the vital role they play in keeping us informed.

Programs and Opportunities

[CAI's Developing Emerging Community Association Lawyers Network.](#) Are you a community association lawyer within the first eight years of your practice? Is your law firm a member of CAI? If yes, you are invited to join CAI's Developing Emerging Community Association Lawyers Network. CAI's DECAL Network is home for the next generation of community association attorneys and provides opportunities to expand your network and resources and grow legal skills. [Join today and share with associates in your office!](#)

[CAI's amicus curiae program.](#) CAI files amicus curiae briefs for cases of significant importance in community association law. CAI's amicus efforts enable CAI to share advocacy and expertise to educate a court about the legal issues in a case from a policy perspective. If an association you represent is faced with a poorly formulated legal opinion, consider completing an amicus brief submission request. Click [here](#) for more information on submission procedures. Contact Phoebe Neseth at pneseth@caionline.org to learn more.

[CCAL mentorship opportunity.](#) I encourage everyone to participate in the CCAL mentor program. The program helps lawyers new to the industry develop 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 fellow applications due June 30.](#) Applicants are required to complete a minimum of eight years of legal practice with a focus on community association law, five of which must immediately precede the date of application. They also must be a CAI member and have attended at least two law seminars within the past 10 years, with one 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.



2026 Community Association Law Seminar recap

My sincere thanks to everyone who presented at the 2026 Community Association Law Seminar. Every individual involved with the event was critical to its record-breaking attendance and success. The law seminar would not exist without the contributions of so many talented – and busy -- lawyers. Your time, insight, and preparation were well received and applauded by attendees. This year's event enjoyed a record number of 889 attendees-- most of those were community association attorneys. Other professionals in the community association industry also attended, including 138 managers and 170 insurance professionals.

I'd like to acknowledge the diligent and inspiring work of the Law Seminar Planning Committee and thank co-chairs Anthony Rafel, Lydia Chartre, and Gabriella Comstock. **We look forward to seeing everyone next year for the 2027 Community Association Law Seminar Jan. 27 – 30 in Washington D.C. More information on this event will be released in the coming weeks.**



[Congratulations to Julie Howard, the Don Buck Lifetime Award recipient.](#) It was an honor to present Julie Howard 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 a well-deserved acknowledgement of Julie's significant involvement with CAI and the community association industry for many years.

[Best Manuscript Award.](#) The Law Seminar Manuscript Committee is working to identify the 2026 Best Manuscript Award. This is the 12th year the CCAL Board of Governors will present this award, which recognizes the scholarly efforts of talented lawyers. Past recipients include David 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), Leah K. Burton and Noelle Hicks (2022); Kayleigh Long and Nicholas Meinert (2023); and Lauren DeVoe, Maria C. Kao, and Bill Gourley (2024), and Nicholas R. Barnes, Timothy J. Krupnik, Ellen R. Schuster (2025).

[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.

Stay informed of CCAL updates by following us on [Facebook](#) and [X](#) at @CCALawyers.

What's on your mind? The CCAL Board of Governors and I want to know your thoughts, comments, and ideas. Please reach out to me at ashaw@shawlines.com with any suggestions to improve CCAL, the law seminar, or improve our visibility.

My best wishes for a safe, healthy spring season.



Augustus H. Shaw, IV, Esq., CCAL fellow
2026 President, College of Community Association Lawyers

