



## 2024 Q4 CCAL Board of Governors President's Message

Dear Fellows and Community Association Law Counsel,

It is my pleasure to provide the fourth quarter 2024 update on behalf of the Board of Governors of CAI's College of Community Association Lawyers: David Graf, Elina Gilbert, Daniel Miske, Scott Weiss, Augustus Shaw, and Amy Tinetti.

Please accept my gratitude for allowing me to serve the college as president for this year. The support of my fellow governors and our amazing staff at CAI were invaluable, especially given my time as president essentially morphed into the year of the Corporate Transparency Act (apologies to Al Stewart). Appearing before the board of trustees to seek funding for an aggressive response to the act's burdensome requirements was a moment I did not anticipate. I was rewarded with the unwavering support of CAI as we decided to take on the challenge.

Even though we still don't know the final outcome of the suit, the journey itself illustrates what our organization is capable of when we decide to mount a challenge. At every turn, CCAL fellows helped, whether drafting amici or weighing in on our strategy in pursuing the lawsuit in federal court. The generosity and expertise of CCAL members is impressive and inspiring.

**Corporate Transparency Act Federal Lawsuit:** At the beginning of November, CAI appealed the federal District Court's denial of our motion for preliminary injunction to the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit. Unfortunately, the Fourth Circuit denied CAI's request for expedited scheduling, which means our appeal will not be considered by the court until 2025. CAI continues to advocate on Capitol Hill to either delay the act or exempt community associations from the act through the end of 2025.

As we reported elsewhere, a challenge filed by another trade group (filed suit in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Texas) resulted in **a nationwide stay of the act's reporting requirements**. The decision demonstrates that CAI's challenge – while not initially successful– added to the many voices resisting the act and helped add momentum where needed. CAI will surely persevere to protect the interests of community associations nationwide and continue these efforts. More information on CAI's suit and its status is available [here](#). I encourage you to [contact your members of Congress](#) to urge a delay of the act and an exemption for community associations, and [share this call to action](#) with your clients.

**2025 Community Association Law Seminar.** Excitement is building to see our CAI colleagues at the 2025 Community Association Law Seminar, Jan. 29 -Feb. 1, for the first time in San Antonio at the San Antonio Marriott Rivercenter. Our annual Law Seminar is the premier continuing legal education conference exploring trends and best practices in community association law. Keeping it fresh is easy in this constantly evolving practice area.

**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 and materials.

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



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**Congratulations to Steve Weil, the 2024 Don Buck Lifetime Award Recipient.** The board of governors is pleased to honor Steve Weil of Berding & Weil in Walnut Creek, Calif., with the Don Buck Lifetime Contribution Award. This award recognizes an outstanding attorney for sustained and positive work with common interest communities. Work includes 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.

Weil 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 Steve's achievements and contributions on behalf of the community association industry when we present him with the award at the 2025 Community Association Law Seminar.

**2025 CCAL Board of Governors.** It is my pleasure to announce that Elina Gilbert was reelected to the CCAL Board of Governors, and Kevin Hirzel was elected to serve on the board of governors. Beginning in January, the CCAL Board of Governors will consist of President Daniel Miske, President-Elect Augustus Shaw, Immediate Past-President Brendan Bunn, and governors Amy Tinetti, Elina Gilbert, Scott Weiss, and Kevin Hirzel.

**Congratulations, New CCAL fellows.** The board of governors welcomed five truly outstanding CCAL fellows from the summer 2024 class of applicants to the college. Join us in congratulating Sara A. Austin with Austin Law Firm, in York, Pa., Tiago D. Bezerra with Chadwick Washington Moriarty Elmore & Bunn in Fairfax, Va., and Cyrus Koochek with SwedelsonGottlieb in Los Angeles. These are outstanding lawyers. Find a CCAL fellow in your state via [CAI's CCAL Directory](#).

**[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 particular case, particularly 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](mailto:pneseth@caionline.org) for questions.

**[CCAL Mentorship Opportunity.](#)** I encourage everyone to participate in our CCAL mentor program. The program helps lawyers new to our 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](mailto:pneseth@caionline.org).

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



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**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 [pbunn@chadwickwashington.com](mailto:pbunn@chadwickwashington.com).

My best wishes for a safe and healthy holiday season.



Brendan Bunn, Esq., CCAL fellow  
President, College of Community Association Lawyers