

California Council of School Attorneys

May 19, 2011

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Dear Colleagues:

It's that time of year again! I write to urge you to renew (or if you have lapsed to reestablish) your membership in the California Council of School Attorneys ("CCSA"). In addition to the many professional benefits of membership outlined below, the Board would like you to know about two recent changes we instituted in CCSA's on-going effort to serve California's school-law bar.

Greater Access to Presenting Opportunities at CCSA and CSBA

It has always been a core value of CCSA that we share our knowledge and expertise with each other, as well as provide presenting opportunities to all active CCSA members who are qualified and willing to do so. Continuing in this tradition, the Board instituted a new process this year for securing presenters both at CCSA workshops and the CSBA pre-conference. Under this new process, conference topics are still developed by the Board, taking into consideration workshop evaluation feedback, members' suggestions and current events. However, for the first time this year, the Board announced the topics slated for each upcoming workshop and invited all interested members to submit proposals. The Board then selected presenters based on a variety of factors including expertise and distribution of presentations among our active member. Moving forward, all active members (i.e. those who have attended at least one CCSA workshop in the last two years) are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity and share their expertise.

Increased Opportunity to Join at the Associate Level—Coupled With Modest Increase in Associate Dues Only; Regular Member Dues Held at 2010-11 Rates

Last year when we wrote to you, we discussed the need to increase membership dues \$15.00 per member. This year, we need to raise rates again. However, unlike last year, we are not increasing dues for regular or public/in-house counsel memberships. All dues collected from regular members must be forwarded to our national affiliate, COSA, and thus do not assist CCSA in defraying its increased costs. Instead, we are only increasing associate membership dues, which will go up \$25.00 per associate member. All associate dues are retained by CCSA.

At the same time, we have increased from 4 to 5 the number of associate members that may join from the same firm, per regular member. Thus, for every regular member who joins, five associate members may join from the same firm. Associate members do not enjoy access to the services and resources of our national affiliates NSBA and COSA, but may attend all CCSA workshops, and receive all CCSA materials, at the members' rate.

We are hopeful that, given the many benefits of CCSA membership, the new dues and membership structure will encourage firms to expand their participation. Some of the many ways that CCSA enhances the professional life of its members include:



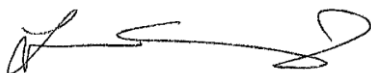
- Collegiality: CCSA promotes and fosters one of the most collegial bars in California. A member-run, non-profit organization, CCSA relies primarily on the expertise and good will of its members to function. CCSA operates on the premise that we are individually most successful when we all shine. CCSA members enjoy sharing their expertise and being affiliated with a bar that values integrity and collaboration.
- Quality MCLE-Approved Programs: CCSA programs ensure that participants receive information and materials that are current, designed for lawyers, and tailored to the practice of school law. Each of our three, annual, full-day workshops provides a combination of plenary sessions on matters of general interest to school attorneys, and break-out sessions that cover areas of specialized expertise such as special education, facilities and labor relations. Participants are asked to submit evaluations and suggestions which are utilized in planning future conferences.
- Easy and Economical MCLE Compliance: CCSA makes MCLE compliance easy and economical through programs that are also directly relevant to school-law attorneys. Through three full-day trainings per year that alternate between north and south, CCSA offers all the required hours you will need for CLE compliance—including ethics, substance abuse and bias in the legal profession. Our September and May workshops alternate between Orange County and Sacramento. We hold our annual meeting each December, in conjunction with CSBA—which alternates between San Diego and San Francisco.
- Networking: Attending CCSA conferences offers a great way to meet others in your fields of practice, or areas where you would like to develop. CCSA welcomes, and designs programs for, seasoned experts and those new to school law. It also offers a way to share your knowledge—both with your school-law colleagues and your clients. CCSA sponsors a full day of workshops for advanced and new board members each year at the CSBA conference. All active CCSA members are invited to submit proposals.
- Access to COSA Membership and Resources: Regular members also enjoy the privileges of membership in the national Council of School Attorneys (“COSA”), including subscription to the publication *Inquiry and Analysis*, membership in a nationwide e-mail group that discusses school law issues, discounts on publications and seminars, and networking nationally with school law colleagues.

Given these benefits, annual membership is very affordable:

- Regular members—\$195.00 (no increase from last year).
- Public and in-house counsel—\$125.00 (no increase from last year).
- Associate members—\$100.00 (\$25.00 increase; five associate members may join per regular member.)

The 2011-2012 membership application is enclosed and we urge you to join today—*before* this ends up in that stack of things to do later.

Sincerely,



Laura Schulkind
President Elect on behalf of CCSA 2011 Board of Directors:
Diane Marshall-Freeman, Carl Corbin, Scott Yarnell, Peter Fagen,
Grant Herndon, Lenore Silverman
Enc: 2011 Membership Application