



May 23, 2017

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Greetings Colleagues:

It's that time of year, again! I write to encourage you to renew or re-establish 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 to remind you of CCSA's on-going effort to serve California's school-law bar.

***Enjoy Presentation Opportunities at CCSA and CSBA!***

Membership in CCSA provides great opportunities to share your knowledge and expertise with our colleagues and clients. The resulting presentations and materials benefit the entire school law bar and the clients that we serve. Each year, we solicit active member presenters for both CCSA workshops and the CSBA's Annual Education Conference and Trade Show ("CSBA's AEC") pre-conference Legal Symposium for Experienced Board Members.

Conference topics may be suggested by the Board, taking into consideration workshop evaluation feedback, members' suggestions and current events. However, the Board invites all interested members to submit topics and presentation proposals. The Board selects presenters based on a variety of factors and attempts to distribute presentation opportunities equitably among our active membership. All active members (i.e., those who have attended at least one CCSA workshop in the last two years) are strongly encouraged to take advantage of these opportunities to share with their peers.

***Increase in Regular, In-House Counsel and Associate Membership Dues***

Last year we were able to maintain membership dues without any increase. However, this year, our national affiliate, NSBA/Council of School Attorneys (COSA) increased its Regular and In-House Counsel dues \$15. Currently 100% of all Regular and In House dues collected from members must be forwarded to COSA, and thus do not assist CCSA in defraying its increased costs. The CCSA Board of Directors, this year, voted to increase the dues to encompass the COSA increase and to allow some of the dues to remain at CCSA to defray the costs associated with maintaining the program.

Please be reminded that for every Regular or In House member who joins, five Associate members may join from the same firm. Although Associate members do not have access to the services and resources of our national affiliate COSA, they are able to attend all CCSA workshops, and receive all CCSA materials, at the members' rate.

Given the many benefits of CCSA membership, we are hopeful that firms will 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 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 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 four 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 southern and northern California. We hold our annual 2-day meeting each December, in conjunction with CSBA's AEC — which generally alternates between San Diego and San Francisco. We hope to see you in San Diego this coming December!
- **Networking Opportunities:** Attending CCSA conferences and receptions 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's AEC. All active CCSA members are invited to submit proposals.
- **Outreach to future school lawyers:** We believe in promoting the value of education law as an important and growing practice area and the source of satisfying career options. Among other things, we typically hold at least one workshop each year at a university with a law school and encourage law students to attend.
- **Access to COSA Membership and Resources:** Regular members also enjoy the privileges of membership in the national COSA, including subscription to the publication *Inquiry and Analysis*, membership in a nationwide e-mail group (listserve) 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 — \$250 (\$25 increase from last year)
- In-House Counsel members — \$170 (\$15 increase from last year)
- Associate members — \$140 (\$25 increase from last year; five associate members may join per Regular or In House Counsel member.)

The 2017-18 membership application is enclosed and we urge you to join/renew today—*before* this ends up in that stack of things to do later.

Sincerely,



Namita S. Brown  
President-Elect

On behalf of CCSA 2017 Board of Directors: Bridget Cook, Namita Brown, Loren Soukup, Anthony De Marco, Bill Schuetz, Robert Jacobson and Grant Herndon

Enclosure: 2017-18 Membership Form