



News Release

For Additional Information, Contact:

Cliston Brown, Vice President, Public Affairs
(415) 434-4900, extension 1139
cbrown@slacal.org

For Immediate Release

March 9, 2020

SLA Announces Several Changes To Senior Staff

Longtime SVP McAuley retires, two new executives join team

SAN RAMON, CA—A longtime senior staff member at the Surplus Line Association of California has retired and the SLA has added two well-qualified individuals to its executive leadership.

After more than 25 years with the association, the SLA's **Pat McAuley**, who had served most recently as the senior vice president for the Education and Compliance Department, officially retired on February 28, 2020. McAuley, who had previously led the SLA's Data Analysis Department for many years, closed her career by spearheading the launch and implementation of the SLA's new online **Learning Center**, a one-stop shop broker portal where brokers can log in and manage their profiles, shop for continuing education courses, monitor their continuing education credits, and obtain quick and easy access to our most requested bulletins and frequently asked questions. It can be found at: <https://learningcenter.slacal.com/>.

"It says a lot about Pat that even as her retirement was in sight, she was still working on key initiatives to benefit our members and the California surplus lines community," said SLA CEO and Executive Director **Benjamin McKay**. "The Learning Center will be one of the many legacies she leaves behind at the SLA. She also leaves behind many of the procedures and processes that are still in place in the Data Analysis Department, and a shining example of the importance of lifelong learning. She earned her CPCU, AIM, AIS, ASLI and AINS designations, showing us all what we can do if we have high expectations for ourselves and a willingness to keep current in our fields. Most of all, she was a friend to many of our staff and a treasured leader. We will miss her, but we wish her a long, happy and well-earned retirement."

While saying goodbye to McAuley, the SLA has hired two experienced, talented executives to ensure continued improvements and operational excellence. **David Kodama** has taken on a newly created role as the SLA's executive vice president, and **JoAnn Del Gatto**, the new vice president for the Education and Compliance Department, steps into McAuley's former job.

Kodama previously worked for the American Property Casualty Insurers Association, based in Chicago. His responsibilities there included the association's policy development in surplus lines insurance. Previously, he was an actuarial manager and business operations director for CNA. In his new role at the SLA, he oversees the Education and Compliance, Financial Analysis and Digital Communications departments.

"With his deep background in actuarial science and public policy analysis, David brings some perspectives and knowledge that will be very valuable to the SLA and the California broker community," McKay said. "David's deep knowledge of surplus lines policy provides an added dimension to our ability to serve and advocate for our members, as well as a healthy, fair and competitive surplus lines marketplace in California."

Del Gatto previously worked for 14 years at AIG, where she was chief compliance officer and oversaw global compliance functions. She also recently worked as a regulatory risk and compliance consultant. Her expertise in compliance issues will add great value to her department and to members who rely on the SLA's guidance in that area.

"With JoAnn, we have someone who has been on the other end of this process and understands on a firsthand basis the challenges that our members face," McKay said. "This will be an invaluable perspective and it will help us know and anticipate those challenges, so that we can provide better education and compliance products and services to our members. We are very fortunate to welcome two talented leaders like David Kodama and JoAnn Del Gatto to our team."

ABOUT THE SLA: Headquartered in San Ramon, with offices in San Francisco and Los Angeles, the Surplus Line Association of California (SLA) operates as a self-governed private organization. Appointed by the Commissioner in 1994, the Association serves as the statutory surplus line advisory organization to the California Department of Insurance (CDI) and facilitates the state's capacity to monitor and direct surplus line brokers' placements of insurance with eligible surplus line insurers. Working with its members and the CDI, the Association assists its members' compliance with California laws and regulations; helps maintain a healthy, fair, and competitive surplus line marketplace in California; and strives to protect the interests of California insurance consumers.

###