



News Release

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For Immediate Release

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SLA Elects Tom Ciardello Chair of the Board

Members Also Elect 2017 Board, Reappoint Judge Harry Low As Mediator

SAN FRANCISCO—The members of the Surplus Line Association of California (SLA) have elected **Tom Ciardello**, senior executive vice president of Worldwide Facilities, LLC, as the new chair of the SLA Board of Directors. Ciardello's election was finalized after the SLA tallied the final ballots from authorized voting representatives who were unable to attend the SLA Annual Meeting, which took place Feb. 7, 2017 and Feb. 9, 2017, in San Francisco and Los Angeles, respectively.

Also elected to leadership were **Robert Gilbert**, underwriting director, Markel West Insurance Services, as vice chair; and **Terri Moran**, senior vice president, Western Region executive, and construction practice leader, Vela Insurance Services, as secretary/treasurer.

Ciardello succeeds **Chris Houska**, California managing director of R-T Specialty LLC, who completed his 2016 term as chair and was elected to a seat on the board.

Additionally, SLA members elected **Tim Chaix** of R.E. Chaix and Associates Insurance Brokers, Inc., and **Hank Haldeman** of The Sullivan Group to the board.

Completing the 13-member board are the following individuals who were reelected after serving on the 2016 Board of Directors:

- **Janet Beaver**, Tokio Marine HCC
- **Denis Brady**, Burns & Wilcox Brokerage
- **Rupert Hall**, M.J. Hall & Company, Inc.
- **Davis Moore**, Worldwide Facilities, LLC
- **Pam Quilici**, Crouse & Associates Insurance Services of Northern California, Inc.
- **Les Ross**, Wholesale Trading Insurance Services, LLC
- **Gerald Sullivan**, The Sullivan Group

Additionally, SLA members reelected the Honorable **Harry Low**, a former insurance commissioner and retired presiding justice of the California Court of Appeal, as mediator.

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All individuals elected to the 2017 board will serve until balloting is completed following the next SLA Annual Meeting in February 2018.

"Once again, our members have elected an outstanding group of highly respected surplus lines leaders to our Board of Directors, and I look forward to working together with them to foster a fair, healthy and competitive surplus lines market for the state of California," said SLA Executive Director **Benjamin McKay**, J.D., M.P.A. "In 2016, we launched a new enterprise software system that will revolutionize the way we interact with our members and vice versa, which would not have been possible without the strong support and forward thinking of our Board of Directors. We look forward to continued innovation, evolution and service to surplus line policyholders and our members under our new chairman, Tom Ciardello, and all of these excellent industry thought leaders who have agreed to serve."

ABOUT THE SLA:

Based in San Francisco, 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 nonadmitted 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.

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