



News Release

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SLA Earns Certification as a “Great Place To Work”

SAN RAMON, CA—The Surplus Line Association of California (SLA) has earned a certification by the organization “Great Place To Work®,” a global authority on workplace culture, after a comprehensive survey of SLA staff.

The Great Place To Work survey was distributed to all 140 SLA employees and returned by the overwhelming majority of the staff. The survey measured employee satisfaction, camaraderie, trust in management, and several other benchmarks that provided an objective analysis of our corporate culture. The results were overwhelmingly positive, with staff responding very favorably (90% or better) to most measurements, including but not limited to: workplace safety; fair treatment of employees; and educational opportunities for staff, to name a few key measurements.

“The SLA’s designation as a Great Place to Work is not just a reflection of our commitment to our employees, but also gives us another tool to bring top recruits to our association,” said Benjamin J. McKay, J.D., M.P.A., the SLA’s CEO and executive director. “Being on this prestigious list is something we can point to in a youth professional culture where workplace satisfaction is a paramount consideration for prospective employees. The designation will send the SLA to the top of online search results for job searches, and the SLA is in the process of branding sites like LinkedIn and Glassdoor with the new honor we have received. But beyond the practical applications of this honor, we also take tremendous pride in knowing that we are providing a great workplace for our valued team members, who go above and beyond every day to help ensure a healthy, fair and competitive surplus lines marketplace in California.”

McKay credits the SLA’s Board of Directors, and particularly past chair Terri Moran, for setting the tone and the expectation that employee health and wellness should be paramount. During her tenure as chair, when the COVID-19 pandemic hit, Moran emphasized the need for the SLA to look after its employees in a time of isolation and uncertainty. Employee health and wellness, along with 100% compliance and providing value to members, is among the SLA’s three superordinate goals.

“We are fortunate that our board and its chairs have always understood that it is our people who make this association function well, and that they should have a safe, stable and rewarding workplace,” McKay said. “This recognition by Great Place To Work tells us that we are on the right track, but we cannot be complacent. Just as our team members strive to do better every day, we as an organization must also continue to ensure that we serve our employees well.”

Current board chair Janet Beaver has continued her predecessors’ emphasis on ensuring that the SLA’s employees are served well.

“A happy workforce is vital to performing the role that we have in our marketplace, which is to ensure that our members, our many stakeholders, and most importantly, California surplus lines consumers are well-served,” Beaver said. “I am grateful to Terri Moran and the chairs who came before her for their emphasis on employee satisfaction, and also to Ben McKay for always having a strong focus on workplace culture. Ben is fond of quoting Peter Drucker, who said ‘Culture eats strategy for breakfast every day.’ Ben and his senior management team don’t just talk the talk; they walk the walk. I am very proud of the recognition that the SLA has earned for its efforts, and I know they will keep up the good work going forward.”

ABOUT THE SLA: 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.

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