We’ve only just begun
(with apologies to the Carpenters)

By Lea-Ann Tratten, CAOC Political Director

There is an old saying in the NFL: You can’t win unless you’re willing to play the big boys. That was 2012 for CAOC in the statehouse. Facing enormous odds and an uphill fight against the deep-pocketed insurance industry, CAOC introduced SB 1528, authored by Senate President Pro Tem Darrell Steinberg (D-Sacramento), a bid to lessen the harsh effects of the state Supreme Court’s decision in Howell v. Hamilton Meats. We addressed abusive, marathon depositions that are designed to run plaintiffs into the ground before they ever make it to trial. And we had unfinished business from 2011 on elder abuse and under-insured motorist coverage. In short, we had a very full plate. A tall order indeed, especially when considered against the backdrop of never-ending attempts at tort reform.

Our big victory was the depo bill, which Gov. Jerry Brown signed despite opposition by the state Chamber of Commerce. The bill was deftly negotiated by Niall McCarthy and CAOC Legislative Director Nancy Peverini. On the tort wars front, CAOC beat back attempts by the California Chamber of Commerce, the Civil Justice Assn. of California and the rest of that crowd to put further limits on class action litigation, wipe out Business and Professions Code 17200 cases, give defendants broad immunities, and allow defendants not to post bonds on appeal.

Our signature impact legislation on Howell met a disappointing defeat on the last day of session. The tough result belied the months of effort to achieve a strategic political compromise for this contentious issue. We started from a delicate position of defending a lone dissent in a 6-1 California Supreme Court decision. Dozens of organizations wrote amicus briefs in support of the ultimate decision, including the medical coalition that joined with us in 2004 and 2005 on our prior legislative efforts. With that fresh opposition looming in the path of SB 1528, we enlisted past president Bruce Brusavich to join with current leadership and our legislative team in an effort to recreate the medical coalition that worked together to clarify the proper measure of damages in a medical injury action. Despite valiant efforts, we simply could not convince the medical community that the advantages of increased lien recoveries outweighed the potential downside of increased damages as defendants. We reached a similar barrier with former allies at the UC Regents.

Adding further difficulty was sudden resistance from state health officials, despite a cogent and compelling analysis from the former director of the Medi-Cal division of the department of health care services. Try as we might, we could not convince the existing health department leader that a fair damages component in Medi-Cal cases would increase recoveries to the state.

That left us in the unenviable position of either going it alone against overwhelming odds or striking a deal with our longtime foes in the insurance industry to blunt the impact of Howell. Bringing two adversaries together isn’t easy; mutual distrust permeated discussions. Despite the obstacles, we trudged onward through the summer before finally reaching a tentative compromise as the end of the legislative session loomed in late August. The area of mutual agreement made sense. Even our longtime adversaries recognized the problems inherent in proving damages in a case against an HMO where no bill is presented and agreed a legislative standard was warranted. They also agreed that it could be of benefit to consumers to enact legislation that would permit insurers to offer “true” UIM insurance. The insurers asked us to consider amendments to legislation on aftermarket auto parts that would satisfy our concerns on safety. We offered those suggestions and discussed them with the Department of Insurance. Because of its separate political issues, the Department refused to support the changes.

For a variety of reasons, our discussions fell apart with less than a week to go in session. Faced with folding our tent or pressing on, we elected to go forward, alone. As the unfortunate vote reflected, we did not have adequate time to explain the complex legal issues to a Legislature focused on the economy, pension reform, building a case for the governor’s tax initiative and their own campaign needs heading into the November election.
Make no mistake, the defeat of the Howell bill was a difficult result. But rest assured – this defeat will not dampen our on-going fight for consumers in the statehouse. We will regroup and refine our strategies. We will hold those accountable who helped engineer our defeat. One example: Assembly Member Felipe Fuentes. After burying our elder abuse bill in his appropriations committee in 2011, Fuentes lobbied to again keep it in a committee straitjacket again this year. He worked hard against our Howell bill. The corporate interests that back Fuentes have already invested more than $300,000 in the primary election to support his chief of staff, Raul Bocanegra, for a Los Angeles seat in the Assembly. We will not allow that to happen without a fight.

Election 2012 is turning into “the year of the gorilla,” as one political columnist dubbed it. In this vernacular, the big apes are Super PACs. While these massive independent expenditure committees have been around in California for quite a while, they’re gaining momentum this election year like never before. Equally disturbing is the level of deception they’re utilizing to hide where they get the money. Consider the serenely named California Senior Advocacy League. For starters, it has nothing to do with senior citizens or their issues. It is nothing more than a landing spot for a campaign money laundering scheme that is so byzantine it makes the eyes roll. Much of their money comes from JobsPAC, which in turn is a funnel for corporate giving from other benigly named PACs. Where does the money trail lead? To the usual corporate interests you often oppose in court and CAOC endlessly opposes in the Capitol.

The top contributors this year include big oil ($685,000), big tobacco ($410,000) and big real estate ($525,000). Other anti-regulatory interests have contributed many hundreds of thousands of dollars more. By funneling their money into these different PACs, our foes have been able to support candidates we oppose, oppose candidates we support and do so in a clandestine way that requires individual voters to spend an extraordinary amount of time to unravel.

They are targeting Senator Fran Pavley, Assembly Member Betsy Butler and Assembly Member Michael Allen. They are supporting Raul Bocanegra, Fuentes’ heir apparent. There intent is anti-environment, anti-consumer and anti-worker. There is a reason why Chevron wants to defeat Betsy Butler, who carried legislation to call a halt to oil-industry fracking, and Pavley, who created national news with her greenhouse gas legislation.

If we do not stand up to fight for the legislators and candidates who are not afraid to cross the corporate kingpins, who will? People complain about Sacramento and Washington as dysfunctional and inept. Yet they don’t want to get involved in politics because it is dirty. Or someone else will do it. You name it. But make no mistake, we are losing our democracy to moneyed interests that will stop at nothing to threaten and intimidate elected officials who cross them. When we get involved in politics, we are doing our part to protect the very foundation of our government. It is a noble cause.

We as an organization have been the predominant force in breaking the self identified “mod” caucus, the stray moderate Democrats who routinely support corporate interests over the rights of consumers. We no longer see blocks of Democrats who vote with corporate interests to block all consumer, worker and environmental legislation. The block has now diffused. But in greater numbers, their doors are open to the interests that back these Super PACs. The wobbly economy and the “job killer” message have combined to promote a weaker regulatory environment. The Golden State’s reputation as a trend setter on environmental protection, worker safety and consumer protection is in some quarters making way to fear about jobs.

We need to continue our David versus Goliath struggle at the ballot box to hold off the deep pockets of Wall Street, big oil, big tobacco and big insurance. We need to double down on our efforts to educate legislators about access to justice. With the state’s newly modified term limits law, freshmen lawmakers elected this November will be able to serve a solid 12 years in one house. Unlike their predecessors, they will serve largely untethered from the need to constantly jockey for the next elected job. We have an opportunity to create a cadre of lawmakers dedicated to the justice system, who will speak out and lead. Our message is non-partisan. Our courts are the last hope for equal justice.

Equal justice under law is not merely a caption on the facade of the Supreme Court building, it is perhaps the most inspiring ideal of our society. It is one of the ends for which our entire legal system exists ... it is fundamental that justice should be the same, in substance and availability, without regard to economic status.

– Lewis Powell, Jr.
U.S. Supreme Court Justice (ret.)
The NLD had a very eventful September. With the impending election on November 6, it is an exciting and vital time to get involved. One of the principal goals of the NLD is to have its members actively engaged in the political arena. As part of this goal, the NLD put on a series of “Political Insiders” events around the state on Wednesday, September 19 and Thursday, September 20. These events provided a great opportunity to network and learn intimate details of the California political structure and process. The NLD also held phone-a-thons in conjunction with each event.

LA kicked off the week’s proceedings on September 19. Thank you to Girardi | Keese for hosting the eager group of attorneys that participated in the phone-a-thon. Following the events at Girardi | Keese, everyone moved over to Engine Company 28 on South Figueroa for a wonderful “Political Insiders” event featuring Assembly candidate Cristina Garcia.

On September 20, the NLD held events concurrently in San Diego and San Francisco. The NLD has been buoyed in 2012 by the continued emergence and participation of NLD members from the San Diego area. Their infectious and energetic attitude has been a strong addition to NLD. The San Diego phone-a-thon was held at Casey Gerry Schenk Francavilla Blatt & Penfield LLP. The “Political Insiders” event featuring Assemblymember Marty Block was held at Starlight Dining and Cocktails.

Also on September 20, the San Francisco office of Lieff Cabraser Heimann & Bernstein hosted a phone-a-thon. The “Political Insiders” event featuring Assemblymember Roger Dickinson was then held at Aventine in Jackson Square and sponsored by the Monterey and Santa Cruz County law firm of Rucka, O’Boyle, Lombardo & McKenna.

NLD Fund
In addition to being committed to fostering further education on the political process, the NLD has established a way for new lawyers to contribute a small amount every month to make a big impact in California. NLD Fund contributors make annual or monthly contributions to one or all of the Political Action Committees (PAC) used to support our pro-consumer agenda. Please join us in this fight and contribute on the CAOC website today at: www.caoc.org/NLDfund.

Convention is Coming
The crown jewel of CAOC is the Annual Convention held every November in San Francisco. This year the 51st Annual Convention will be held November 8-11 at the Palace Hotel. In addition to the tremendous educational programs, the Annual Convention provides an unrivaled forum for networking with colleagues. As part of the many wonderful social events scheduled during the weekend of the Convention, the NLD will host an event on the Friday evening of the Convention at the posh Infusion Lounge in San Francisco. This event is always a highlight of the Convention and is a perfect opportunity for NLD members to socialize with each other as well as for all CAOC members to network in a fun and relaxed environment.

For more information about the New Lawyers Division, contact Samantha Farmer at 916-442-6902 ext 128 or newlawyers@caoc.org.
“What kind of minority are you?”

By Micha Liberty, Minority Committee Co-Chair

“What kind of minority are you?”

I have been asked this question several times since I agreed to Co-Chair our Diversity Committee; each time the question befuddles and amuses me. Having spent much of my childhood in a small predominantly ethnic Hawaiian neighborhood in Haiku, Maui, my immediate unconscious response is “I’m a Haole.” Befuddlement then becomes the questioner’s and I am left contemplating who among us has a legitimate claim to caring about diversity if they cannot identify the “kind of minority” they are.

The question is interesting on another level, as well. To me, it reveals the deep human desire to generalize, label, and categorize so that we can sort out new data and interpret it through our own lens. This makes us comfortable. The only way to broaden our perspective as an organization and create a legal environment of inclusion, however, is to change and diversify the information we receive. This means diversifying our rank and file.

As controversial as this may be, statistically speaking, the defense bar has done a better job than the plaintiffs’ when it comes to formal commitments to diversity in the legal profession. In fact, the DRI prepared and produced a Law Firm Diversity Retention Manual, which was widely distributed, in an effort to help its members increase and maintain diverse staff, and they have widely touted their successes in this regard. The same is true of the ABA. We should match these efforts in kind.

With this in mind, the Committee’s sights were set on increasing diversity in the CAOC Annual Convention. Vince Howard and I are pleased to announce that through the hard work of our Committee members, we have the most diverse list of speakers ever in the history of our Convention. Specifically, we are proud of a scheduled presentation by Craig Holden, current State Bar of California Trustee and former Chair of the State Bar’s Council on Access and Fairness. The title of his talk is “Strategies for the Elimination of Bias in the Legal Profession,” and he will be presenting data, demographics and commentary on ways to achieve diversity. By implementing these strategies for diversity, I look forward to a majority-minority CAOC membership where we can each be asked, “What kind of a minority are you?” and have an answer.

Inland Empire “beats the heat”

By Greg Rizio, CAOIE President

On July 17th, the CAOIE held a “beat the heat” summer mixer hosted by the Law Offices of Robinson, Calcagnie, Robinson, Shapiro & Davis at their San Bernardino office. The atmosphere was extremely casual allowing the participants a chance to get together over the dormant summer months and simply hang out and talk over drinks and Mexican food. The members enjoyed catching up with old friends, discussing their summer vacations, all while rubbing elbows with quite a few members of the local bench. Don’t miss the next event to be held in October.

Register for Convention at: www.caoc.org/12Convention
Women’s Caucus Report

By Clarice J. Letizia, Women’s Caucus Chair

The CAOC Women’s Caucus has been busy all year and will continue to make its record accomplishments during the final month before the annual convention.

Our Membership Committee held another phone bank on Tuesday, September 18, in Orange County, at the offices of Bisnar | Chase. The committee also offered a membership challenge to the Women’s Caucus members, and our membership has increased due to the efforts of the Women’s Caucus Membership Committee. Thank you to our Membership Committee Chairs: Anne Marie Murphy and Kim Valentine.

The Women’s Caucus Political Outreach Committee has also been busy assisting the leadership of CAOC with fund raising for various political candidates. The Committee out-did itself in the Spring, meeting its goals for the June primary. The Committee is currently working on fall fund raisers to assist with fund raising for the November election. A huge thank you to the Political Outreach Committee Chairs: Valerie McGinty and Ashleigh Aitken.

The Education Committee Chairs, Alexander Djivre and Gerri Colton, have also been very busy planning and coordinating our educational program for the annual convention. The theme of the program is Finding and Telling Your Story, and incorporating the story throughout all aspects of the trial.


Tammy Wood, our Social Committee Chair, has been working hard with the Social Committee, to plan the “Pink and Red Party.” This is the traditional Women’s Caucus party that kicks off the annual convention. This year it will be held on Thursday evening, November 8, at the Palace Hotel. In addition to being a great social event, this is also a fund raising event, to raise funds for the Avon Breast Cancer Crusade and the American Heart Association. A BIG THANK YOU to our sponsors: Geragos & Geragos; Khorrami, LLP; Garretson Resolution Group, and Esquire Bank.

For more information on the CAOC Women’s Caucus events and how to get involved, visit our website at www.caoc.org/WomensCaucus.
Although some members may not know, CAOC has an Amicus Curiae Committee that vindicates consumer rights and protections in the appellate courts. This introductory column outlines what the committee does and surveys recent successes where CAOC helped make good law.

How the Committee Operates
The committee files amicus curiae letters and briefs in the appellate courts, most frequently the California Supreme Court but also the state Courts of Appeal and occasionally the federal appellate system. Because only reviewing courts make precedent, the committee generally does not participate in trial proceedings.

Counsel may seek the committee’s assistance by submitting an “Amicus Request Intake Form” providing basic information about the case and the issue that CAOC is being asked to address. The intake form is available at CAOC’s website: www.caoc.org/Amicus.

Several dozen CAOC member attorneys, many long active in the organization, serve on the committee. They consider all requests for amicus curiae assistance and vote as a group on whether to provide CAOC’s support. Several committee members are extremely generous with their time in authoring the briefs and letters – to name a few, Sharon Arkin, David Arbogast, Daniel Smith, Gretchen Nelson, Scott Sumner, Kimberly Kralowec, Matt Bailey, Steven Stevens and Gary Simms.

The touchstone for CAOC’s participation is whether the question raised by the appellate (or writ) proceeding impacts significant consumer rights and protections. To avoid diluting CAOC’s influence, amicus requests are carefully screened. Not all are approved. Priority is given to CAOC member attorneys, but other plaintiff-side lawyers may seek amicus support.

The committee also monitors appellate decisions and other legal developments for matters where CAOC’s involvement, apart from a request for assistance, may be warranted. In addition to amicus work, the committee seeks publication of favorable, but unreported, Court of Appeal decisions. Conversely, the committee urges depublication at the California Supreme Court level of particularly dangerous opinions certified for publication by the appellate courts.

Top-Notch Amicus Insight Where Law Is Made
Some courts, understandably, have developed a skeptical view of amicus submissions. At its genesis, an amicus curiae was a true “friend of the court” who broadened the judicial perspective beyond the issues and parties in the lawsuit at hand. An amicus curiae highlighted how a particular holding might impact the next case and future litigants, along with key policy considerations bearing on how legal precedent should be developed.

This ideal, though, has gone largely by the wayside. Especially over the past decade, the original concept has morphed into coordinated amici curiae campaigns where the filer is really just a “friend of a party.” Judges and their law clerks (in federal court) or research attorneys (in the state system) can spot the difference right away. A “me, too” amicus brief, doing little more than urging a favorable ruling for one party, is given virtually no weight. Instead the appellate panel is likely to give it a quick skim and set it aside.

The CAOC Amicus Curiae Committee strives to play the role that amici curiae initially filled, before coordinated campaigns and “me, too” briefs. We support the plaintiffs’ side (of course, courts know this) but the committee will not file amicus submissions that merely duplicate a party’s arguments. Authored by some of the sharpest writers in the plaintiffs’ bar, the committee’s letters and briefs bring keen analysis to cutting-edge issues. The committee’s amicus submissions also take appellate judges beyond abstraction to understand how their rulings impact the lives of real people.

In California, we are blessed with a proud legal legacy of consumer protection. But now more than ever, consumer rights cannot be taken for granted. Many have been eroded, even wholly discarded, under the phony banner of “tort reform” that has run roughshod over the rights of ordinary citizens – our clients. The committee therefore seeks to ensure that consumer protections are honored in specific cases, often against powerful interests represented by preeminent defense counsel. Ultimately the committee seeks to convince appellate courts why, in so many cases, the consumer’s position on the law is correct and fortified by sound public policy.

Kevin K. Green is a partner in the Appellate Practice Group at Robbins Geller Rudman & Dowd LLP in San Diego (www.rgrdlaw.com). He is, along with Sharon J. Arkin and Lee S. Harris, Co-Chair of CAOC’s Amicus Curiae Committee.
A Formidable Track Record With More to Come

The work of CAOC’s amicus committee has generated many positive results. The outcomes include these published California precedents in just the past few years:

**California Supreme Court**
- *Brinker Restaurant Corp. v. Superior Court* (2012) 53 Cal.4th 1004 [clarifying employees’ right to meal and rest breaks]
- *Cabral v. Ralphs Grocery Co.* (2011) 51 Cal.4th 764 [rejecting categorical rule of no duty owed to decedent of plaintiff who recovered wrongful death damages]
- *Kwikset Corp. v. Superior Court* (2011) 51 Cal.4th 310 [consumers had UCL standing in false advertising suit]
- *In re Tobacco II Cases* (2009) 46 Cal.4th 298 [only class representative, not all unnamed class members, must prove UCL standing after Proposition 64]

**California Court of Appeal**
- *Collins v. eMachines, Inc.* (2011) 202 Cal.App.4th 249 [granting CAOC’s request to publish reversal of judgment on pleadings in UCL and CLRA action]
- *Brown v. Ralphs Grocery Co.* (2011) 197 Cal.App.4th 489 [U.S. Supreme Court’s controversial Concepcion decision does not mandate arbitration of PAGA claims]

**And Going Way Back**
California plaintiffs’ lawyers have a long and distinguished history as genuine friends of the judiciary in helping get the law right. Decades ago, members of the California Trial Lawyers Association had a hand in many landmark decisions. The “oldie but goodie” category includes:
- *Ducey v. Argo Sales Co.* (1979) 25 Cal.3d 707 [allowing liability for dangerous condition of public property and failure to provide highway median barrier]
- *De Cruz v. Reid* (1968) 69 Cal.2d 217 [upholding collateral source rule and disapproving introduction at trial of workers compensation payments as evidence]
- *Beagle v. Vasold* (1966) 65 Cal.2d 166 [endorsing per diem arguments to jury for pain and suffering]

**Conclusion**
Plaintiffs’ attorneys should keep the Amicus Curiae Committee in mind for issues going up on appeal. CAOC’s multifaceted approach to advocacy extends not just to legislative corridors, but also the rarefied realm of appellate courts. Getting the law right on appeal will help win your case and similar ones down the road.

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AAJ Update
By Ingrid M. Evans

Chicago welcomed more than three thousand attendees for the 2012 Annual Convention of the American Association for Justice (AAJ). The 2012 Annual Convention in July was the largest AAJ convention in 10 years, and featured a private opening reception at the Field Museum, a river cruise, and events at other marquee Chicago locations, including the House of Blues, Union Station, and the Navy Pier (for AAJ Incoming President Mary Alice McLarty, aka Mary Alice from Dallas).

The convention had a number of programs, including business and informational meetings on various areas of law, exhibit sponsor booths, CLE programs, and events with well-known speakers including Vice President Joe Biden and federal procedure expert Arthur Miller. We also heard from Senators Dick Durbin, Harry Reid, Charles Schumer, and Senate candidate Elizabeth Warren, among others. Each night was capped off with multiple social networking events, a critical part of the convention and one of the best ways to meet attorneys in other jurisdictions where you may need local counsel to enforce a subpoena, depose witnesses, or file a case. AAJ also honored outgoing AAJ President Gary Paul (also a CAOC past President) for his successful year and dedication to AAJ.

The next AAJ convention will be in Miami, Florida, February 9-13, 2013. You can register online at www.justicewinterconvention.org.

Your support for AAJ is crucial. AAJ is the only national advocacy organization...
working to preserve the 7th Amendment and prevent “tort reforms” from becoming law. AAJ sends its members monthly legislative and regulatory updates on the critical work it is doing to protect our practices.

For example, AAJ is watching for any movement of legislation such as H.R. 35 – an overly broad bill that would cap damages, limit attorney fees, and affect medical negligence law, nursing home cases, medical device and pharmaceutical cases, and bad faith cases against health insurers. Republican leadership continues to find ways to push this kind of legislation as they look for scraps to fix the deficit. When H.R. 5 was debated and voted on, AAJ provided key arguments against the legislation and details of AAJ members’ cases. The result was one of the best votes ever with 23 Republicans either refusing to vote – on state’s rights grounds – or voting with AAJ.

In addition, this congressional session, AAJ continues to make progress in the following areas:

**Federal Judicial Appointments:**
There are approximately 20 federal judicial nominees who are ready and waiting for a Senate floor vote. There have been a few roadblocks that AAJ continues to work on: Senators have been slow to respond to the White House once they have been notified of vacancies, and the American Bar Association has a vetting process that does not seem favorable for women, minorities, and trial lawyers.

AAJ is working with a coalition to increase the presence of public interest, civil rights, and plaintiff trial lawyers on the federal bench. We must continue to let the public know that the U.S. Supreme Court has ruled consistently in favor of big business at the expense of everyday people.

**Forced Arbitration:**
AAJ is advocating for the elimination of forced arbitration in consumer, employment, and civil rights disputes. AAJ continues its advocacy for the “Arbitration Fairness Act” which was introduced in both chambers and would prohibit forced arbitration clauses in all consumer (including nursing home and long-term care consumers), employment, and civil rights cases. AAJ’s hard work has resulted in 85 House cosponsors and 17 in the Senate.

**Medicare Secondary Payer:**
AAJ is aggressively advocating in the legislative and regulatory arenas to streamline the Medicare Secondary Payer system. AAJ filed comments in August with CMS on its draft proposal on reimbursing future medical costs to Medicare in cases involving liability insurance. The proposal presents seven options for how CMS believes parties can meet the requirements for reimbursement under the Medicare Secondary Payer (MSP) Act. AAJ has consistently advocated against adding additional onerous MSP requirements. AAJ will continue to be heavily involved in the negotiations.

AAJ is also vigorously advocating for H.R. 1063, the SMART Act, a bipartisan bill that streamlines the MSP system, and now has 125 House cosponsors.

**FDA User Fee Acts**
AAJ succeeded in extracting preemptive language that had been included in FDA user fee bills. The House and Senate passed separate versions of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) User Fee Authorization bills (UFAs), proposals that would reauthorize the user fee program for FDA review of pharmaceutical drug, generic drug and medical device applications.

AAJ Public Affairs improved the language in the Senate bill and encouraged lawmakers to drop an immunity provision in their conference negotiations. This work paid off. House and Senate leaders finished their conference committee negotiations, and the small immunity provision contained in the Senate passed bill was not included in the final FDA UFA bill.

This latest FDA UFA reauthorization will extend the program for another five years. In previous Congresses, the FDA UFA reauthorizations have been breeding grounds for tort reforms related to pharmaceutical drugs and medical devices.

**You can participate**
AAJ’s strong advocacy depends upon your continued support through your membership or participation in Leaders Forum. In addition, AAJ members and CAOC members may make voluntary contributions of $365, $500 or $1000 (or more, up to $5000 annually) to the AAJ PAC (political action committee) to help elect pro-civil justice lawmakers. I hope you will support AAJ PAC. To become an AAJ member or renew your membership now, please go to www.justice.org/membershiprenew.aspx or email membership@justice.org. I personally encourage all of my employees to join the organization and I ask you to do the same so that we can achieve 100 percent participation in AAJ among all our attorneys.

Ingrid M. Evans of the Evans Law Firm in San Francisco (www.evanslaw.com) focuses on elder financial and physical abuse, consumer fraud class actions, qui tam and personal injury cases. Ms. Evans is on the Executive Committee for Consumer Attorneys of California (CAOC). She is also on the Board of Governors for the American Association for Justice and Public Justice.

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