



CONSUMER ATTORNEYS OF CALIFORNIA

Seeking Justice for All

Governor signs bill to streamline demurrer process

CAOC-sponsored SB 383 will help boost efficiency and move cases quicker

SACRAMENTO (Oct. 1, 2015) – Gov. Jerry Brown has signed legislation sponsored by Consumer Attorneys of California that will reduce costs and improve the efficiency of California’s trial courts.

SB 383, authored by Sen. Bob Wieckowski (D-Fremont) and co-sponsored by the California Defense Counsel and California Judges Association, will streamline the lengthy demurrer process so that cases can move efficiently through the judicial system. The bill’s provisions will help California’s courts deal with the overloaded dockets they face due to budget cuts by enabling parties to resolve some of the demurrer objections out of court.

A demurrer (an objection by the defendant that the plaintiff’s allegations do not state a legally valid claim) can take months to be heard, leading to delays in justice for the plaintiff, additional costs for the defendant and extra work for already overburdened judges. SB 383 will encourage out-of-court resolutions by requiring the parties meet to discuss the merits of their arguments before a demurrer can be filed. The bill will also streamline the process by enacting strict deadlines and creating standards that encourage both sides to efficiently file demurrers and amend complaints.

“SB 383 will boost efficiency and move cases more swiftly,” said CAOC president Brian D. Chase. “That is a good result for all concerned – attorneys, judges and, most importantly, the public who utilize our civil justice system.”

Consumer Attorneys of California is a professional organization of plaintiffs’ attorneys representing consumers seeking accountability against wrongdoers in cases involving personal injury, product liability, environmental degradation and other causes.

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