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Seeking Justice for All

Gov. Jerry Brown signs court efficiencies bill backed by CAOC and California Defense Counsel

AB 2230 gives increased flexibility and more time to rule on trial motions

SACRAMENTO (Sept. 10, 2018) – Gov. Jerry Brown has signed into law a judicial efficiencies measure backed by Consumer Attorneys of California and California Defense Counsel.

Assembly Bill 2230 by Asm. Marc Berman (D-Palo Alto) will provide courts with the flexibility to more efficiently litigate cases by giving a judge discretion regarding separate statements as well as more time to rule on new trial motions.

When parties have a discovery dispute, they file a motion that is accompanied by a separate statement detailing each outstanding discovery request, the response or objection to that request, and the reason the requesting party is entitled to the discovery. So much detail is required in these separate statements that they often amount to anywhere from fifty pages to entire reams of paper. This process is often tedious and ultimately has no benefit for judges.

AB 2230 will promote efficiency by giving judges the option to instead allow attorneys to produce a far shorter and more concise outline of the discovery issues in dispute.

Additionally the measure increases the time allowed for a court to rule on new trial motions by more than two additional weeks, boosting it from the current 60 days to a new threshold of 75 days. This increase gives parties and judges the ability to grant extensions and more efficiently navigate through the new trial process with extra time and flexibility.

The measure goes into effect on Jan. 1, 2019.

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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