



# CONSUMER ATTORNEYS OF CALIFORNIA

*Seeking Justice for All*

## CAOC president responds to May budget revision

Hit on civil courts threatens justice, underscores need for web hearings

**SACRAMENTO (May 14, 2020)** – Consumer Attorneys of California President Micha Star Liberty today issued the following statement responding to the May budget revision by Gov. Gavin Newsom and its impact on civil court operations:

“Civil court operations have already been crippled by the closures caused by the coronavirus pandemic. The governor’s proposed budget cuts to trial courts threaten to further undermine a cornerstone of our democracy. We remain hopeful that Congress will step up with aid to states that could help on that front. In the meantime, we are gratified that special funding was included to tackle the mounting backlog of cases and address a shift to available online operations that will allow civil courts to function even during a health emergency that literally has closed the courthouse doors. COVID-19 has laid bare the severe deficiencies of our civil courts to operate during a crisis. Our hope going forward is that our elected leaders will seize on this moment to push civil court operations into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century by embracing a shift to online hearings and other electronic solutions today and to be prepared for future crises.”

*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.*

**For more information:**

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