



## CONSUMER ATTORNEYS OF CALIFORNIA

*Seeking Justice for All*

### Gov. Brown signs CAOC-backed bill boosting fair treatment of immigrants in civil court

AB 1690 prevents queries of immigration status in most liability cases.

**SACRAMENTO (July 31, 2017)** – A measure sponsored by Consumer Attorneys of California that ensures fair and equal treatment in civil liability cases regardless of a plaintiff's immigration status has been signed by Gov. Jerry Brown.

Assembly Bill 1690, authored by Assembly Judiciary Chairman Mark Stone (D-Scotts Valley) and other members of the Assembly Judiciary Committee, will halt inquiries into immigration status during most civil liability proceedings involving consumer protection, civil rights, labor and other laws.

The measure received unanimous approval at each step through the legislative process. It goes into effect Jan. 1, 2018.

California's Legislature and state courts have consistently recognized that legal discovery aimed at immigration status violates public policy. But attempts to use inquiries into immigration status persist in civil cases and can act to deter plaintiffs from meritorious claims. That fear factor among immigrants about seeking accountability and damages in state courts has only been amplified by the Trump Administration's hard-line stand on immigration.

AB 1690 will prevent such inquiries by declaring that a plaintiff's immigration status is irrelevant to the issue of liability under the state's consumer protection, labor, employment, civil rights and housing laws, unless necessary to comply with federal immigration laws.

*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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