



# CONSUMER ATTORNEYS OF CALIFORNIA

*Seeking Justice for All*

## Three bills backed by CAOC approved by Assembly Judiciary Committee

AB 3262 levels playing field between online sellers and traditional stores

**SACRAMENTO (May 11, 2020)** – The California Assembly Judiciary Committee, meeting today for the first time since its return from a coronavirus pandemic shutdown, passed three bills supported by Consumer Attorneys of California.

Assembly Bill 3262 by Asm. Mark Stone (D-Monterey Bay) holds online marketplaces like Amazon to the same legal standard as traditional brick-and-mortar businesses when internet retailers place dangerous products in the stream of commerce. This bill will ensure that California law does not continue to subsidize online commerce, which has a spotty product safety record, at the expense of injured Californians. AB 3262 is sponsored by Consumer Attorneys of California, California Teamsters Public Affairs Council and United Food and Commercial Workers Union Western States Council.

“AB 3262 is particularly relevant and necessary in light of the COVID-19 crisis, as most consumers are now purchasing most products online and safety is critical,” said CAOC President Micha Star Liberty.

CAOC also sponsors, along with the California Defense Council, Assembly Bill 2723 by Asm. David Chiu (D-San Francisco). AB 2723 will streamline settlement procedures by allowing a settlement agreement reached at mediation to be enforceable by the court, even if one or more of the parties is not present, by allowing an attorney who represents a party, or, if a party is an insurer, an agent who is authorized in writing by the insurer to sign on the insurer’s behalf.

AB 2723 won approval on the committee’s consent calendar, along with Assembly Bill 3062 by Asm. Jay Obernolte (R-Hesperia). This bill removes the sunset provision on Senate Bill 383 (Wieckowski), a measure signed by Gov. Jerry Brown in 2015 that was co-sponsored by CAOC, the California Defense Council and the California Judges Association. The goal of SB 383 was to improve trial- and court-related efficiencies by providing procedures and deadlines to streamline the lengthy demurrer process so that cases can move efficiently through the judicial system. SB 383 has enabled parties to resolve some of the demurrer objections out of court.

Also approved by the Judiciary Committee was CAOC-backed AB 3092 by Asm. Buffy Wicks (D-Oakland) that would give sexual harassment victims of UCLA gynecologist James Heaps a one-year window to seek justice in a civil court. Last year, CAOC championed a bill to allow the thousands of molestation victims of a USC campus gynecologist to seek justice.

*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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