



CALIFORNIA DISABILITY LAWS AND YOU

Consumer and Small Business Information on Disability Access Suits

CAOC believes that California's disability access laws are critical to ensuring equal access to business establishments for persons with disabilities. But we also are very troubled by lawsuits brought by a handful of attorneys against small businesses where fees are sought and compliance is not the goal.

- **Are you a business?** If you are a business and want to know what you can do to ensure compliance and avoid a claim, [click here](#). Many businesses are unaware that [an important law went into effect in 2009](#) that gives you a concrete way to avoid and/or address a claim. Every business in the State of California should get a Certified Access Specialist evaluation. [Doing so will help you become compliant and will give you special legal protections should you be sued.](#)
- **Are you an attorney?** Attorneys who send a business a legal letter alleging a physical access violation and demanding money must also send a specified explanatory notice explaining a building owner's legal rights and obligations. [You can find the form at the Judicial Council website.](#) CAOC believes the goal of any disability access suit should be compliance and we will work with the [State Bar of California](#) to pursue any attorneys who are violating ethics rules.