



# CONSUMER ATTORNEYS OF CALIFORNIA

*Seeking Justice for All*

## Gov. Newsom signs workplace forced arbitration bill

Workers won't have to sign away their legal rights to get or keep a job

**SACRAMENTO (Oct. 10, 2019)** – Gov. Gavin Newsom has signed legislation co-sponsored by Consumer Attorneys of California that will prohibit employers from requiring workers to sign away their rights and accept forced arbitration as a condition of taking or keeping a job.

Assembly Bill 51 by Asm. Lorena Gonzalez (D-San Diego) will ensure that a worker is not required as a condition of employment to waive their right to a day in court or before a state labor agency on workplace claims involving sexual assault, harassment, discrimination, pay equity, retaliation or other labor disputes.

Under the bill, workers would still be able to freely and voluntarily enter into an arbitration agreement, but employers would be prevented from retaliating against an employee who refused to agree to such a clause.

“This is all about being fair, reasonable and giving workers a choice, not putting them in a take-it-or-leave-it situation to get or keep a job,” said Consumer Attorneys of California president Mike Arias. “If they have trouble at work, they can choose to take it to arbitration if they wish, or they can take a labor claim to court. But it needs to be a choice, not something forced on them.”

AB 51 is co-sponsored by the California Labor Federation AFL-CIO and backed by three dozen other groups ([access a full list of supporters here](#)). It becomes law Jan. 1, 2020.

*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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