



CONSUMER ATTORNEYS OF CALIFORNIA

Seeking Justice for All

#MeToo-inspired bill protecting victims of sexual predators is signed by Gov. Newsom

AB 9 extends time to file claims of harassment and discrimination

SACRAMENTO (Oct. 10, 2019) – Legislation inspired by the #MeToo movement that will give victims of workplace sexual harassment and discrimination more time to file claims has been signed into law by Gov. Gavin Newsom.

Assembly Bill 9, the SHARE (Stopping Harassment and Reporting Extension) Act, by Asm. Eloise Gómez Reyes (D-San Bernardino), Asm. Laura Friedman (D-Glendale) and Asm. Marie Waldron (R-Escondido), will extend the time to file claims of harassment and discrimination under California’s Fair Employment and Housing Act (FEHA) from the current one year to three years, giving victims a better chance of holding sexual predators accountable. Several other states already allow anywhere from three to six years to file such claims.

The bill is sponsored by Consumer Attorneys of California, the California Employment Lawyers Association and Equal Rights Advocates.

An extended filing deadline would be especially important for low-wage workers, who often are initially unaware of their legal rights and don’t know that they are barred from filing a claim after one year. Many times victims of harassment or discrimination are dealing with trauma or pressure in the workplace that keep them from beating the one-year deadline to file a claim. It also allows more time to settle a case out of court, saving taxpayer dollars.

A nearly identical bill won broad legislative approval last year but was vetoed by former Gov. Jerry Brown.

“We’re grateful to Gov. Newsom for seeing the wisdom in this legislation,” said CAOC president Mike Arias. “It will give victims a better chance to hold sexual predators accountable and in the process reduce the number of repeat offenders. Along with other #MeToo legislation, it will help create a better workplace for all Californians.”

AB 9 goes into effect 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.

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