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Seeking Justice for All

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Consumer Attorneys of California, its Women's Caucus and Diversity Committee applaud Judge Baer of the United States Southern District of New York, who understands that the attorney leadership involved in mass torts and class action cases often fails to mirror the consumer clients they represent. Judge Baer astutely recognizes that the leadership in these cases should include qualified and experienced attorneys of diverse background and that women should be equally assigned leadership roles.

Unfortunately, Justice Alito chose to gratuitously criticize a practice that should merit praise. Justice Alito issued a statement in the denial of a petition for writ of certiorari in *Martin v. Blessing*, 134 S.Ct. 402 (2013), claiming that Judge Baer engaged in "court-approved discrimination based on gender." *Id.* at 403.

As an organization protecting the rights of consumers throughout the state, Consumer Attorneys of California strives to promote leadership and representation by women and minorities and ensure that consumers are justly represented.

We thank Judge Baer for striving to ensure that women lawyers and lawyers of diverse backgrounds hold leadership positions in class action and mass tort cases. We urge all judges to follow suit.

Nancy Drabble, CAOC Chief Executive Officer

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