



# CONSUMER ATTORNEYS OF CALIFORNIA

*Seeking Justice for All*

## CAOC leader calls \$50M fee increases a short-term fix McCarthy warns that "we cannot privatize the judicial system."

**SACRAMENTO (May 31, 2012)** – Consumer Attorneys of California has reached agreement in negotiations that also involved the defense bar on a package of civil fee increases that would produce more than \$50 million for the court system in Gov. Jerry Brown's proposed state budget for the next fiscal year.

But a key participant in the negotiations, CAOC President Niall McCarthy, made it clear the higher fees should not be considered a permanent solution to the court funding crisis.

"At some point in time the burden is going to have to shift back from the litigants to the general fund where it belongs," McCarthy said. "We cannot privatize the judicial system."

Among the fee increases that would hit the plaintiffs' bar are a hike of more than 10 percent in the cost of first-paper filing fees in unlimited civil cases (from \$395 to \$435), a 50 percent increase in the fee for filing a motion (from \$40 to \$60), and a boost of more than 80 percent in the filing fee for complex cases (from \$550 to \$1,000).

The fee increases are being considered as part of a solution to a proposed \$544 million reduction in the state's funding of the judicial branch from the general fund.

To see all of the proposed changes in the schedule of court fees and penalties, go to the [proposed trailer bill language](#) from the state Department of Finance.

*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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