

Thank you

By Lee S. Harris



It has been a tremendous honor to serve as President of Consumer Attorneys of California. We have been fortunate to have a year of success. It is clear to me that the success we achieved was accomplished by the efforts of many people working for a common purpose over many years. I am eternally grateful to each of you for your efforts and for allowing me the opportunity to assist as we worked toward our common goal: Ensuring justice for all.

When I started my year I stated my opinion that by standing together we had the power to improve civil justice, better protect our fellow citizens and promote common human decency. In the process of achieving those goals, we have demonstrated that CAOC is one of the most powerful and effective forces in making change happen in California.

We were victorious in our efforts to protect those who often cannot speak

up for themselves. We worked with the Legislature to stop harassment and add an exclamation mark to #MeToo. We protected children and medical patients. We shepherded into law a landmark data protection bill that combines real protection with teeth to ensure compliance. We improved the civil justice system by championing court funding and allowing courts to simplify paperwork in discovery disputes. And we beat back multimillion-dollar corporate campaigns to steal justice from victims.

Our members are a foundation of our success. Their involvement has made a critical difference in many of our most important battles. Word of mouth of our continuing successes has helped grow our membership to record numbers and strength. During this time our outreach in elections has continued to grow to include strong relationships with legislative

members and state leaders. We have also grown programs with our business friends to provide information to our members and greater financial stability for CAOC.

The great progress on all of these fronts has happened in large part because of the efforts of the amazingly talented and dedicated people who work at CAOC. Quite frankly, I have been blown away by the talent and wisdom I see exhibited on regular basis by the people “at the office.” Chief Executive Officer Nancy Drabble, Legislative Director Nancy Peverini, Political Director Lea-Ann Tratten, Chief Operating Officer Laurie Klimchock, Education Director Lori Sarracino, Communications Director Eric Bailey, Forum Managing Editor Sharon Scott, Press Secretary J.G. Preston, Development Manager Darlene Golladay, Grassroots Manager Paul Woods, Legislative Counsel Jacqueline Serna, Staff Counsel Saveena Takhar, PAC Manager Samantha Helton and Finance Director Marina Ewald head up the list of incredible people at CAOC. I have worked closely with each one of these people over many years. To say I am impressed would be an understatement. I have included a web link that I hope anyone who doesn't know them will click to get a fuller picture of depth of talent at CAOC (www.caoc.org/staff). Individually and collectively each of these people are an inspiration to me and I am deeply thankful for the opportunity to have worked with them.

With all of your help we have laid a solid foundation for continued success. I look forward to the future. Thank you. ■

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