



CONSUMER ATTORNEYS OF CALIFORNIA

Seeking Justice for All

CAOC-backed bill protecting victims of workplace sexual misconduct advances at Capitol

AB 51 will prevent sexual predators from hiding their misconduct

SACRAMENTO (March 19, 2019) – A bill sponsored by Consumer Attorneys of California that will prevent employers from keeping sexual harassment and other misconduct out of the public eye was approved by the Assembly Judiciary Committee today.

Assembly Bill 51 by Asm. Lorena Gonzalez (D-San Diego), co-sponsored by the California Labor Federation AFL-CIO, would guarantee workers the choice of taking claims of workplace sexual misconduct or other labor violations to a public forum, such as a court or state agency, rather than being forced to resolve those claims through a secret arbitration proceeding as a condition of employment. Employers would be prevented from retaliating against an employee who refused to agree to such an arbitration clause.

“Workers would still be able to freely and voluntarily enter into an arbitration agreement under AB 51, but it would be their choice and not forced upon them,” said Consumer Attorneys of California president Mike Arias. “Because arbitration proceedings and outcomes are secret, some serial sexual harassers have been able to continue their misconduct, putting other potential victims at risk.”

AB 51 will next be heard by the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

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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