



# CONSUMER ATTORNEYS OF CALIFORNIA

*Seeking Justice for All*

## Bills targeting forced arbitration advance

Four CAOC-backed bills passed out of legislative committees

**SACRAMENTO (April 26, 2016)** – Four bills supported by Consumer Attorneys of California that would protect Californians’ legal rights by restricting the use of forced arbitration were passed out of legislative committees today.

This morning the Assembly Judiciary Committee approved [AB 2667](#) by Asm. Tony Thurmond (D-Richmond) and co-sponsored by CAOC and the NAACP. The measure would prohibit forced arbitration in alleged violations of the Unruh Civil Rights Act, the state law that protects Californians from discrimination on the basis of race, gender, sexual orientation, religion, age, pregnancy, childbirth, disability, national origin, citizenship or immigration status.

This afternoon the Senate Judiciary Committee passed three bills:

- [SB 1065](#) by Sen. Bill Monning (D-Carmel) and co-sponsored by CAOC, the Congress of California Seniors and California Advocates for Nursing Home Reform, barring defendants from appealing a denial of forced arbitration in cases filed under the Elder and Dependent Adult Civil Protection Act;
- [SB 1078](#) by Sen. Hannah-Beth Jackson (D-Santa Barbara), addressing unfairness and bias by firms that profit from forced consumer arbitrations; and
- [SB 1241](#) by Sen. Bob Wieckowski (D-Fremont), ensuring Californians would not have to travel outside the state to litigate or arbitrate a dispute while also keeping Californians from losing protections granted under our state’s consumer-protection laws.

The hazards of arbitration for consumers have been the focus of significant media attention in recent months, including [a series of articles in The New York Times](#).

“Forced arbitration puts individual consumers at a huge disadvantage against big corporations,” said Consumer Attorneys of California president Elise Sanguinetti. “In arbitration, disputes are settled not by judges and citizen juries but by a private third party typically paid by the wrongdoing company. The arbitrator’s decision is made in a secret proceeding, is not subject to any established rules of court or existing law, and cannot be appealed for legal or factual errors. Consumers should not have their right to a day in court taken away from them without their consent.”

*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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