



CONSUMER ATTORNEYS OF CALIFORNIA

Seeking Justice for All

CAOC backs legislation to support consumers

Restoring court funding remains organization's top priority

SACRAMENTO (Feb. 22, 2013) – Consumer Attorneys of California has announced its support for three bills CAOC President Brian Kabateck says “will help consumers in their efforts to obtain justice.”

Beyond legislation, Kabateck said, “Our primary goal remains to see adequate funding for California’s courts. Both consumers and businesses are feeling the effects of court budget cuts in ways that are hazardous to our society. The closing of courtrooms and courthouses and the layoffs of court staff are resulting in onerous travel, long lines for basic services, and unconscionable waits for trials. The safety of children and families in dangerous situations and elderly Californians being abused in nursing homes is being jeopardized. We have been working with lawmakers and other members of the legal community to modify the state budget so that this crucially important third branch of government can have the funding it needs to work properly for all of us.”

The bills supported by CAOC that were introduced before today’s deadline are:

[AB 862](#), authored by Assemblymember Bob Wieckowski (D-Fremont). This bill would amend Section 11580.2 of the California Insurance Code to allow California insurance companies to offer an underinsured motorist policy that would give consumers injured in auto accidents the full value of their purchased coverage in addition to coverage through the policy of the underinsured driver found at fault in the crash. Underinsured motorist policies now sold in California allow injured parties to receive no more than the amount of their own coverage.

[SB 315](#), authored by Senator Ted Lieu (D-Torrance). This bill would amend Section 367.5 of the California Code of Civil Procedure to encourage courts to allow parties involved in conferences, hearings and proceedings in civil cases to appear by telephone. This would reduce litigation costs and improve access to the courts at a time when court closures have created exceptionally long travel times in some California counties.

[AB 715](#), authored by Assemblymember Roger Dickinson (D-Sacramento). This bill would amend Section 437c of the California Code of Civil Procedure to require an appellate court to make its own evaluation of the evidence when reviewing a ruling on the admissibility of evidence in a summary judgment proceeding. Currently appellate courts take into consideration the rulings from the trial courts on the evidence that was presented.

“We are continuing to look at other issues that affect Californians’ everyday lives and ways to address them,” Kabateck said. “We expect to find ways to work with the legislature during this session to bring about pro-consumer change.”

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:

**J.G. Preston, CAOC Press Secretary, 916-669-7126, jgpreston@caoc.org
Eric Bailey, CAOC Communications Director, 916-669-7122, ebailey@caoc.org**