



CONSUMER ATTORNEYS OF CALIFORNIA

Seeking Justice for All

CAOC's court funding efforts pay off

Increase from May Revise gives some relief to courts

SACRAMENTO (June 11, 2013) – The news that California's court system will receive \$63 million more for the coming fiscal year than was designated in Gov. Jerry Brown's May budget revision was greeted with relief by Consumer Attorneys of California.

But with the courts still facing a steep climb after years of deep budget cuts, CAOC leaders vowed to continue pressing for additional funding to reverse the trend of courthouse closures and other problems plaguing the system.

“The hard work by our leadership and members over the last few months to persuade elected officials to restore some badly-needed funding to our judicial system has paid off,” said CAOC President Brian Kabateck. “Make no mistake, we will still be a long, long way from supporting our courts to the extent they deserve. But this is clearly a step in the right direction, and we will work to further increase court funding in next year's budget.”

The funding beyond what was included in the May Revise includes \$60 million for trial court operations and \$3 million for state appellate courts and the California Supreme Court.

The state's courts have seen their funding from California's general fund diminished by some \$1.2 billion over the past six fiscal years. The result has been closed courthouses and courtrooms, more inconvenience for Californians who need to travel farther and wait longer to access court services, and delays in administration of justice.

“Many advocates fought for additional funding after the May Revise,” Kabateck said. “The judicial system was one of the few that wound up receiving more money. We're grateful for that, and we are confident that once the courts demonstrate the impact of the additional money we will be able to further restore funding to an appropriate level a year from now.”

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.

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