



CONSUMER ATTORNEYS OF CALIFORNIA

Seeking Justice for All

CAOC president encouraged by gov's judicial budget

But Brian Chase says barriers to justice remain after years of cuts

SACRAMENTO (Jan. 9, 2015) – Consumer Attorneys of California president Brian D. Chase said he is pleased Gov. Jerry Brown called for increased funding for California's judicial branch in his proposed 2015-16 state budget released today.

“This is another positive step toward returning the courts to stable footing and the level of funding required to assure all Californians of access to justice,” Chase said.

But Chase said, while the proposed budget would mean more than \$244 million in new investments in the judicial branch over a three-year period, there is still much more to be done to restore adequate funding to the court system. More than \$1.1 billion was cut from the judicial branch budget after the start of the Great Recession in 2008, with severe impacts on court services for businesses and consumers alike.

“The reality is the massive cuts to trial courts sank this cornerstone of democracy into an incredibly deep hole,” Chase said. “As a result consumers still face barriers to their constitutional right to their day in court when they have been harmed or cheated. There is hard work remaining, and we look forward to joining Gov. Brown and Chief Justice Cantil-Sakauye and getting it done.”

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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