



# CONSUMER ATTORNEYS OF CALIFORNIA

*Seeking Justice for All*

## Election 2012: A good day for consumer justice

Several CAOC-backed candidates top corporate-funded foes

**SACRAMENTO (June 6, 2012)** – Candidates supported by the Consumer Attorneys of California swept to victory in more than two dozen races in Tuesday’s primary election, in many cases despite being outspent by foes heavily backed by big oil, the insurance industry and other corporate interests.

Among the CAOC-supported candidates who now head to the November election to decide the makeup of the California Legislature are Betsy Butler in Assembly District 50 in West Los Angeles, Shirley Weber in San Diego’s AD 79, Richard Roth in the Inland Empire’s Senate District 31 and Hannah-Beth Jackson, who won big in the Santa Barbara/Ventura area’s SD 19.

Several of the candidates prevailed over opponents backed by the CalChamber’s JobsPAC and other corporate Super PACs that support efforts to hem in consumers’ legal rights by championing “tort reform” legislation in the state Capitol.

Roth, Jackson and Weber all faced candidates heavily funded by corporations that would like to undercut the civil justice system to give big business a leg up over everyday consumers and rank-and-file employees. Roth faced an opposition campaign funding with more than \$125,000 from PACs representing the insurance, tobacco, real estate and other industries. Those same corporate interests spent more than \$70,000 against Jackson. In AD 79, Weber faced a foe in Rudy Ramirez heavily backed by a PAC that included Chevron, Wal-Mart and other big businesses.

Another candidate endorsed by CAOC, Cristina Garcia, faced a spending binge of more than \$475,000 by various corporate-interest Super PACs funded by the health insurance industry, oil companies, Wal-Mart and other corporations.

“I think this election proves that candidates who believe in our courts and the legal rights of consumers can prove formidable against even the most heavily funded of foes,” said Lea-Ann Tratten, CAOC political director. “But this is just the start. We have a lot of work left to do to ensure that these candidates make it to Sacramento so consumers have the best possible representation in the statehouse.”

Of all the candidates supported by CAOC, Butler is the only one whose race remains somewhat in doubt with about 10,000 vote-by-mail and provisional ballots still to be counted this week. “We remain confident Betsy will hold onto her lead and head into the General Election in November,” Tratten said.

*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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