



CONSUMER ATTORNEYS OF CALIFORNIA

Seeking Justice for All

Sacramento Bee calls for increased court funding

Capital newspaper points out civil courts have been hit hardest

SACRAMENTO (Jan. 23, 2014) – In an editorial today, the *Sacramento Bee* called on Gov. Jerry Brown and the California Legislature to begin to restore the devastating cuts that have been made to the state judicial branch budget. Saying elected officials “can’t afford to do nothing,” the *Bee* editorial board said legislators should spend some of the state budget surplus on the courts and should avoid further increases in court fees and fines.

The board recognized that, because of constitutional protection of criminal courts, “civil justice has been hit the hardest” by budget cuts. It’s estimated every 10% in cuts to the overall trial system results in a 40% cut to the civil courts. “All Californians should get their day in court in a timely fashion,” the board wrote.

The *Bee*’s editorial came after the editorial board met with California Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye yesterday. “We thank the Chief for her continuing efforts on behalf of California’s judiciary,” said Consumer Attorneys of California president John M. Feder. “She is an articulate and persuasive voice for access to justice.”

Feder said CAOC agrees with the *Bee* that the court system needs to work hard to streamline and adopt effective systems to modernize its operations to better serve the public in the decades to come.

Since 2007, the courts’ share of the state’s General Fund budget has been slashed by more than \$1.1 billion. That has led to 51 courthouses and 205 individual courtrooms being closed around the state as well as the layoffs of more than 2,000 court employees, causing reductions in hours of operation and services to California consumers and businesses.

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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