



CONSUMER ATTORNEYS OF CALIFORNIA

Seeking Justice for All

“Stand Up For Justice” rally in S.F. draws big crowd

At least 500 gather at City Hall to urge protection of court funding

SACRAMENTO (April 18, 2012) – Consumer Attorneys President Niall McCarthy and other leaders joined with hundreds of lawyers, judges and others interested in the justice system for a noontime rally at San Francisco City Hall to show their support for adequate funding for California’s court system.

“Stand Up For Justice,” organized by the Bar Association of San Francisco, called attention to the ongoing effect of last year’s \$350 million cut in the state judiciary system’s budget.

Since 2008 the courts have lost 30 percent of their funding, enduring cutbacks of more than \$650 million. The budget slashing has led to courtroom closures, court staff reductions, long lines and waits for consumers. Cases moving through the system have been delayed because of the resulting logjam, with civil cases bearing the brunt of the impact.

“These delays will bear out something we’ve long known – justice delayed is justice denied,” said McCarthy, who spoke at the rally. “As consumer attorneys, we owe it to our clients to fight to restore court funding and with it their access to justice.”

McCarthy noted that while corporations have the resources to pursue their disputes outside the courts, “consumers rely on the judicial system to uphold their legal rights.” He added that the court budget cuts have their biggest impact on the most economically disadvantaged.

“Our courts have since our nation’s founding days been the level playing field where the underdog can take on the rich and powerful to seek justice,” McCarthy said. “Without proper funding, that balance is disturbed in ways that are both unfair and unacceptable for our state and nation.”

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**