



CONSUMER ATTORNEYS OF CALIFORNIA

Seeking Justice for All

Encouraging budget news for courts

CAOC efforts to restore funding look to be paying off

SACRAMENTO (May 23, 2013) – California’s beleaguered court system got a glimmer of encouragement Thursday when state Senate and Assembly Budget subcommittees recommended an additional \$100 million for the state courts budget for the upcoming fiscal year.

“This brings to mind the old adage that the longest journey begins with a single step,” said Consumer Attorneys of California President Brian Kabateck. “One hundred million dollars is just a small portion of the more than one billion dollars that has been diverted from the courts since 2007, but it would definitely be a move in the right direction. It’s important that we reopen at least some of the courtrooms and courthouses that have been closed due to budget cuts, and it’s vital that we restore some of the court’s crucial services to our citizens.”

Kabateck expressed hope that the subcommittees’ recommendations would not be the final word on the subject. “We are grateful to the Budget Committee members for recognizing the importance of our courts, and we hope the legislature can do even more to bring the courts closer to their normal operations in the next fiscal year,” Kabateck said. “We have a long way to go to make our judicial system fully functional for all consumers and businesses. CAOC’s leadership and members have been tireless in their advocacy of adequate court funding, and we will continue to work with the Legislature, the judiciary and Gov. Brown to restore our court funding to an appropriate level for the long term.”

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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