

MEMBERS SECTION

***Make Change Happen and Have Fun Doing it!
Join CASD for Lobby Day on April 28 in Sacramento***

By Dana Grimes

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On April 28, 2009, consumer attorneys from all over California join with Consumer Attorneys of California (“CAOC”) to take our message to our state legislators. Lobby Day provides us with the unique opportunity to tackle the hurdles facing consumer advocates. The political climate is changing – thawing, perhaps – and this year CASD members will push for more dramatic changes to benefit the consumers of California.

I first attended Lobby Day last year. I was surprised by how much the legislators needed and wanted to be educated on how their constituents are impacted by various legislation, and by how much *I* needed to be educated. CAOC is full of friendly, intelligent, interesting lawyers dedicated to effectuating change. Some other San Diego members and I arrived the night prior to Lobby Day. We were quickly ushered to a rambunctious party at a restaurant where, despite the free Margaritas and cheerful atmosphere, the lawyers were not talking about themselves and their verdicts. They were talking about how to better protect the rights of their clients. This is an event you can be proud of and the camaraderie alone is worth the trip.

It is also fascinating to be a part of the political process. Don’t pass up on this opportunity because you are a new lawyer or you do not feel sufficiently in command of the issues. (Just drink a Margarita with Ken Sigelman, and you’ll end up more up-to-snuff than most politicians.)

CAOC prepares us on the issues and how best to present our positions. Your schedule is prepared by CAOC; groups of CASD Members and other CAOC trial lawyers attend each meeting with a legislator, and only those who want to speak about any given topic do so. Your sheer presence in the room matters.

Take an early morning flight to Sacramento and make it a one-day trip or go up the day before and participate in the Women’s and Minority Caucus Networking Reception. Attend a free MCLE Seminar put on by CAOC on Lobby Day morning.

We all know business interests create obstacles closing the courthouse to individuals who have been harmed. They have limited damages in medical provider cases, they have various types of immunity, and they want to extend MICRA-type reforms to all forms of injury cases. Business interests have clever plans to eliminate the rights of consumers – and they have professional lobbyists. But we have the truth and each other and we Never Stand Alone!

Go to **www.CAOC.org** for a printable form to register for Lobby Day or call 916-442-6902 for more information and join CASD for our biggest Lobby Day ever!