



Join CASD and CAOC for Lobby Day May 4, 2010, The State Capitol, Sacramento

by Dana Grimes

On May 4, 2010, CASD joins with consumer attorneys from all over California to meet with our legislators in Sacramento. This annual event, hosted by Consumer Attorneys of California ("CAOC"), provides our members the chance to speak directly to lawmakers about the issues that matter most to our clients. For the price of a plane ticket to Sacramento, you can make the best investment in your career that you have ever made! Attendance at Lobby Day is a must for any attorney who wants to remind legislators why a fair legal system is so important to the clients we represent.

Business interests retain lobbyists to work in Sacramento year round devising obstacles to close the courthouse to their customers and other individuals who have been harmed by their products or services. Businesses have achieved laws limiting damages in medical provider cases, laws providing various types of immunity from responsibility for damages they cause and they want to extend MICRA-type limitations to all varieties of injury cases and limit employees' rights as well. Many of our legislators know nothing about these issues and their impact on compensation for consumers and workers. **Lobby Day is your chance to tell the legislators the other side.**

Plan right now to join other members in Sacramento for this one key day when we can truly make a difference. Last year, 33 CASD members attended Lobby Day. The legislators are expecting us and have set aside time to meet with us! CAOC schedules the meetings, prepares us on the current topics and teaches us how best to present our positions. Groups of CASD members and other CAOC trial lawyers attend each meeting with a legislator. Those who want to speak about any given topic do so. Even if you do not wish to personally engage a legislator in dialogue, you should still attend because your presence alone is very meaningful. It does not go unnoticed when we fill a legislator's office with consumer attorneys and demonstrate our knowledge of proposed legislation and commitment to our issues. The incredibly high attendance of CASD members at last year's Lobby

Day has paid dividends in that state legislators have reached out to us to learn more about consumer issues.

Lobby Day introduces us to dedicated consumer attorneys from across California. These passionate consumer advocates are an interesting group to meet and drink margaritas with. If you arrive the night before Lobby Day, you will be greeted by this group of trial lawyers from across the state for a fantastic party at a Mexican restaurant. There will also be an opportunity for you to tour the Capitol. Some attorneys bring their children because the experience is so educational.

It is so important that you attend Lobby Day. You can catch an early morning flight and still arrive in plenty of time to attend the briefing session and then begin the scheduled meetings. CASD members who decide to fly up to Sacramento the night before will have an opportunity to book rooms at highly rated hotels at discounted rates. Southwest Airlines typically has special rates available if you book ahead online – \$49 to \$59 one way. Super Shuttle provides ground transportation from the Sacramento Airport to the State Capitol for about \$13.

While business interests have devious plans to limit the rights of our clients – and they hire professional lobbyists to effectuate their plans – we have the truth, we have each other and we Never Stand Alone! Watch our list server, **Trial Bar News** and CASD's web site for further details, but **calendar the date and plan on the trip right now.** For more information, call CAOC at 916-442-6902 and go to **www.CAOC.org** for a printable form to register for Lobby Day.

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