



# CONSUMER ATTORNEYS OF CALIFORNIA

*Seeking Justice for All*

## Consumer Attorneys to support Brown tax initiative Cuts to courts and other services have produced “devastation”

**SACRAMENTO (Dec. 13, 2011)** – Consumer Attorneys of California has thrown its support behind Governor Jerry Brown’s proposed initiative to raise revenue in support of schools, public safety and other bedrock state government services undercut by budgetary cutbacks in recent years.

The governing board of CAOC, the statewide professional association for attorneys who represent consumers in the civil justice system, voted unanimously last week to support the Schools and Local Public Safety Protection Act of 2012.

CAOC president Niall McCarthy and vice president Brian Kabateck sent [a hand-delivered letter](#) to Brown this morning alerting the governor of the decision to back the proposal, which has been embraced by a broad majority of California voters in recent public opinion polls.

“As an organization we have witnessed the devastation wrought by \$56 billion in cuts over the past four years to the courts, public safety, social services and education,” the letter said. “We have seen firsthand the sad reality of courtroom doors shuttered and urgent cases put on the shelf as the justice system has absorbed \$653 million in cuts since 2008. Your proposal is straightforward and fair for all Californians.”

McCarthy and Kabateck called Brown’s proposal “a responsible approach to California’s fiscal needs” and “a mature step in the right direction that will set our state’s finances on the right track for a future befitting our golden past and prospects for an even brighter future.”

Brown’s initiative would call on voters in November 2012 to approve a small income tax increase for the very wealthy and a half-cent sales tax boost.

*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:**

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