

Have you ever had an idea for legislation that you wanted to see enacted into law? The Conference of California Bar Associations (CCBA) can make that dream a reality. CCBA is a nonpartisan state-wide organization comprised of attorney delegates from regional, specialty, and affinity bar associations (including WLALA) that proposes legislation to the California Legislature. CCBA bar association delegates then propose and approve proposed legislation at the annual Conference.

This year, the California Legislature and Governor Newsom enacted seven CCBA-sponsored bills into law, including three which WLALA sponsored and proposed. The first two WLALA proposals were included in California Senator Nancy Skinner's bill to protect Californian's reproductive rights and access to reproductive and gender affirming healthcare, Senate Bill 345, which Governor Newsom signed into law on September 27, 2023. The first WLALA proposal amended Code of Civil Procedure section 1710.50, subdivision (a)(4), to provide that California courts will not enforce a judgment against "a person or entity for exercising a right guaranteed under the United States Constitution or the California Constitution, or against a person or entity for aiding and abetting the exercise of said rights." The legislation is a response to Texas' and other states' laws which allow a person to sue someone for damages who helps someone obtain an abortion. The second WLALA proposal amended Penal Code section 187, subdivision (b)(3) to provide that a pregnant person who causes the demise of their own fetus could not be criminally prosecuted for murder. This proposal was a response to various prosecutors' attempts to prosecute pregnant people for murder for causing the demise of their own fetus. The legislation also codifies California Attorney General Rob Bonta's understanding and interpretation that Penal Code section 187 was not intended to apply to a pregnant person in such a situation.

The third WLALA proposal was included in the Assembly Judiciary Omnibus Bill (AB 1756) and signed into law on October 8, 2023. WLALA's proposal amended Code of Civil Procedure sections 430.41, subdivision (a), 435.5, subdivision (a), and 439, subdivision (a), to provide that parties may conduct meet and confers by video conference before filing demurrers, motions to strike, or motions for judgment on the pleading. This proposal was a commonsense addition to the telephonic and in person options for meeting and conferring in the post-COVID world where people regularly meet by video conference.

At the annual CCBA Conference held in San Diego from September 22-23, 2023, WLALA Board of Governors member, Shaun Dabby Jacobs, chaired the Conference and presided over the debates on the proposed legislation. She was joined at the Conference by WLALA delegation co-chair Mihret Getabicha, and WLALA delegates Mark Hart and Phyllis Kupferstein. WLALA member Michele Anderson was sworn in as the 2023-2024 CCBA Chair and Phyllis Kupferstein received CCBA's Pfeiffer award, which is awarded to a person who gives back to the community, and is committed to social justice.

WLALA's three 2023 legislative proposals also passed the Conference and now the WLALA delegation will work with CCBA to find legislators to carry them in 2024. The first proposal seeks to amend Code of Civil Procedure section 437c to change the calculation for deadlines to file responses to motions for summary judgment from calendar days to court days. The legislation would provide courts with additional time to review detailed dispositive motions and reduce delays in issuing rulings. The second WLALA proposal would amend Code of Civil Procedure section 116.221 to raise the small claims court jurisdiction from \$10,000 to \$15,000. Finally, the third

WLALA proposal would amend Code of Civil Procedure sections 85, 86, and 86.1 to raise the jurisdictional limit for limited civil cases from \$25,000 to \$50,000. These resolutions aim to reduce backlogs in the adjudication of unlimited civil cases by increasing the jurisdictional threshold in small claims and limited civil cases.

The WLALA Delegation looks forward to tracking the status of WLALA's 2023 legislative proposals in the Legislature. We also welcome ideas and input regarding legislative ideas that further the mission of WLALA. If you have questions or want to learn more, please contact CCBA delegation co-chairs Mihret Getabicha at mihret.getabicha@gmail.com or Shaun Dabby Jacobs at sdljacobs@gmail.com.