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NEW LAWS FOR THE NEW YEAR
(Part 1)

We thank the Daily Journal for its compendium of brief summaries of new statutes adopted during 2018. This newsletter references only a fraction of the legislation we believe may be of interest to the clients of our practice.

1. Mediation

Lawyers must obtain client-signed detailed disclosures of confidentiality rules; a mandatory form will be available soon.

2. Cemetery Alcohol

A specific Hollywood cemetery may receive an on sale license to sell alcohol.

3. Marijuana Advertising

Prohibited while a licensee's license is suspended.

4. Corporate Leadership

Public corporations with principal offices in California must have a minimum number of females on their Boards of Directors to avoid fines.

5. Building Contractors

Individuals may now request an "informal citation conference" with the State Board prior to formal action. Judgments and awards of \$1 million or more must be reported to the State Board.

6. Net Neutrality

New rules apply to certain local agencies.

7. Drugs

Pharmacies may furnish drugs or devices without prescriptions during emergencies. Vicodin is rescheduled as less serious than before. Pharmacies may provide Naloxone (opioid antagonist) to police agencies. If Cannabidiol becomes federally prescribable, it shall also be so under state law.

8. Sexual Assault

The statute of limitations for civil actions now extended.

9. Litigation Papers

Can now be served with an adult at the litigant's home between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m.

10. Me Too

Harassment victims do not defame harasser if complaints based on credible evidence without malice, nor do bosses reporting they would not rehire based on harassment. In certain cases, settling complainants can shield their identities, a winning employer cannot recover legal costs unless a case was "frivolous", and workers cannot be forced to release rights to disclose crimes.

11. Optometrists

Now allowed to take an immunization training program to be certified to administer immunizations.

12. Doctors

Must disclose to patients if previously disciplined for sexual misconduct.

13. Makeup

Next year, it will be unlawful to profit from any cosmetic created by animal testing (substantial fines).

14. Elections

Delivered vote by mail ballots must include a return envelope with postage.

15. Home Insurance

Policyholders suffering total losses may use insurance to rebuild at a different location, and the insurer must renew for at least two more years and cover living expenses for 36 months and must disclose available fire safety discounts.

16. Offshore Petroleum

Prohibits new leases (with few exceptions) and requires public notice and hearings for lease renewals.

17. Student Housing

Provides 35% "density bonus" for construction of certain projects intended for low income students.

18. LGBT

June is proclaimed as official Pride Month.

19. Child Abuse

Claims against governments no longer apply to certain sex abuse claims.

20. Sidewalk Vendors

New requirements for local regulation.

21. Homelessness

Certain individuals may be placed in conservatorships in certain counties if incapable of self-care.

22. Harassment Training

Now required by employers of five or more supervisory and nonsupervisory workers.

23. Lab Technicians

The scope of practice of licensed technicians has now been expanded.

24. Renters

Landlords must allow tenants to pay from a third party, subject to limitations; certain deadlines are extended for tenants answering an eviction notice; and some local eviction programs are extended allowing prosecutors to evict those committing nuisance with unlawful weapons or substances.

25. Current Cases

This month we are, among other things, defending an employer in a labor claim, a corporation from a securities claim, and a manager from an embezzlement claim; prosecuting breach of contract and personal injury claims; and advising clients regarding selling a business, personnel disputes, real estate, contracts, and regulatory matters.

This office serves as a "lawyer of first resort" counseling and advocating for small businesses and individuals with disputes and transactions, including accident victims by referral only. We specialize in personalized client service. If we can be of any assistance with your legal issues, consider contacting us as soon as a question is identified. Your recent referrals have been greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

HARMON SIEFF

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