

HARMON SIEFF
A LAW CORPORATION
15760 VENTURA BOULEVARD #1600
ENCINO, CALIFORNIA 91436
Telephone: (818) 986-4563
Facsimile: (818) 986-4780
E-mail: SieffLaw@aol.com
Web: www.SieffLaw.com

NEW LAWS FOR THE NEW YEAR
(Part Two)

Again, we thank the Daily Journal for printing a compendium of statutes adopted during 2020. As in the past, this newsletter references only a fraction of new legislation which may be of interest to the current clients of our practice.

25. Skateboarding

Public entities now have qualified immunity from liability for injuries at skateboard parks which are presumed to be "hazardous recreational" facilities for which users assume risks of accidents.

26. Optometrists

Nonprofit organizations may now provide optometric services through mobile offices.

27. Pharmacists

May now independently administer Covid vaccines approved by the FDA as with other routine immunizations.

28. Inheritance

The parent-child exclusion from property tax reassessment will be limited to transfers of a parent's primary residence to children who must also use the residence as their primary residence with a \$1 million cap for reassessment.

29. App-Based Drivers

Are now classified as independent contractors, not employees, according to the newly adopted Proposition 22.

30. Sick Leave

The law which grants employees of large employers work leave for family or medical care now applies to businesses with as few as five workers, and extends to a worker's adult children, domestic partners, grandparents, grandchildren, and children of domestic partners, and includes many hyper-technical details.

31. Covid Reporting

There are many new and very detailed regulations involving Covid in the workplace, establishing specific notice requirements, penalties for violations, plans for disinfection, and outbreak response.

32. Newspaper Carriers

Are now exempt from employee classification so that papers can continue to be delivered by independent contractors.

33. College Teachers

Are now considered "professional employees" exempt from certain technical wage and hour regulations.

34. Security Guards

If covered by union agreements, can be required to remain on call during rest periods.

35. Whistleblowers

Now have additional time to file claims for retaliation for exercising their rights.

36. Independent Contractors

Also exempt from the mandatory classification as "employees" are: translators, copy editors, producers, cartographers, recording artists, composers and songwriters, home inspectors, appraisers, manufactured housing salespersons, professional foresters, performance artists, competition judges, and "single event engagement" businesses.

37. Non-Employees

Certain business-to-business, referral agency, and professional services are exempt from classification as statutory employees.

38. Domestic Workers

It is now a misdemeanor to direct a worker to remain in an area closed due to a public safety threat.

39. Public Companies

If in California must have a minimum number of directors from under-represented communities.

40. Human Remains

There are revised processes for agencies to review inventories of collected Native American funerary objects.

41. Fires

There are now rules requiring "ember-resistant zones" within five feet of a structure to create a "defensible space" against fire hazards.

42. Amphibians

The Santa Cruz long-toed salamander, a lawfully protected animal, can now be captured, if necessary, to construct a certain highway in Monterey County.

43. Housing

To provide urgent Covid-related relief, tenants are now provided certain protections against rental payment default and mortgage foreclosure.

44. Covid Relief

State law now allows taxpayers to exclude the amount of PPP and CARES loans for state income tax purposes, but denies a business expense deduction for expenses paid with the forgiven loans.

45. Cosmetics

The Toxic-Free Cosmetics Act bans certain ingredients which are already prohibited from personal care products sold in other countries.

46. Marine Wildlife

The California Sea Otter Voluntary Contribution Fund has been extended until 2028.

47. Tow Trucks

Former vehicle owners are not liable for unpaid towing and storage fees incurred by a subsequent owner if certain rules are followed.

This law practice serves as a "Lawyer of First Resort", or "primary care attorney," 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.

Remember: Preventative lawyering is the most effective kind.

Sincerely,



HARMON SIEFF