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# Introduction

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# Introduction

Changes in the law continually affect the legal profession. One change, for example, may impact upon whether a client has a legal remedy or defense. Many changes often concern the procedures surrounding a cause of action, and others influence conduct in our everyday lives. Still others indicate trends in society that will eventually lead to further changes in the law.

Because of the need to know of changes brought about by legislation, the editors and staff of the *Pacific Law Journal* are proud to present the Review of Selected California Legislation. Our intent is to provide highlights of the various changes enacted during the 1983 Legislative Session, and discuss the practical effects of those changes through analysis that compare prior, existing, and new law. Legislation is chosen for analysis in the Review on the basis of the following criteria: (1) whether the bill will affect the practicing bar or judiciary; (2) whether the bill will impact upon the work of a legal specialist; or (3) whether the bill will interest the attorney as a community leader.

Certain terms are used consistently throughout the Review and are worthy of definition. The use of the term "prior law" refers to the law in effect before the passage of the 1983 legislation that is no longer in effect after the passage of the legislation. "Existing law" refers to law in effect before the passage of the 1983 legislation that remains the law after the passage of the new legislation. Furthermore, each bill begins with a description of the topic area, a listing of code sections affected by the bill, the bill and chapter numbers, the author of the bill, and major organizational support of the opposition to the bill in its chaptered form. Unless otherwise specified, the effective date of the legislation is January 1, 1984. When constitutional issues, points of practical interest, or problem areas warrant further discussion, a comment is included to provide a broader insight into the legislation. To facilitate access to specific code sections of interest, a table of

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code sections affected by the bills analyzed in this review is provided at the end of this issue.

Completion of the Legislative Review requires the combined efforts of various individuals involved with the *Pacific Law Journal*. Primary among those people are the members of the Legislative Review Staff. Their dedicated and skillful involvement throughout every aspect of the Review has enabled the *Pacific Law Journal* to present to the members of the California bar a quality research tool.

We would especially like to thank Mr. George Murphy, Retired Legislative Counsel for the State of California, who continually assists us in insuring the accuracy of our publication by providing various insights into the California legislative process. We would also like to recognize Professor Jerome J. Curtis and Associate Dean John E. Ryan for their guidance as advisors to the *Pacific Law Journal*. Finally many thanks go to Sherryl Wickens, our Administrative Assistant, for her support and assistance.

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