

State Bar of California, Office of Governmental Affairs

The Sacramento Scene

Vol. 3, No. 4

January 31, 2004

LEGISLATURE CONCLUDES WORK ON 2003 CARRY-OVER BILLS

The Legislature concluded its consideration of 2003 bills that had not yet cleared their house of introduction on Thursday, January 29 (the Senate actually finished the job a day earlier). Such bills had to have cleared their first house by Saturday, January 31, or else die by operation of the California constitution.

Preliminary figures show that nearly half the bills introduced in 2003 didn't make it out of the first house, including 812 of 1,855 Assembly bills (44%) and 526 of 1,082 Senate bills (49%).

Proposed constitutional amendments and resolutions introduced in 2003 are not subject to the deadline, and are therefore still eligible for action, even if they have not yet had a single hearing since their introduction.

GOVERNOR APPOINTS LEGISLATIVE DEPUTIES

Governor Schwarzenegger last week announced the appointment of five deputies, completing his legislative affairs team. The new appointees are:

- Dennis Albiani, 34, former deputy secretary of the California Department of Food and Agriculture and consultant to the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Water Resources, who will handle legislation related to resources, agriculture, and CalEPA. Albiani, a Democrat, is a graduate of the University of the Pacific McGeorge School of Law and a member of the California State Bar.
- Yolanda Benson, 48, a former legislative advocate at the California Chamber of Commerce and deputy policy director for the Simon for Governor campaign. Benson, a Republican, will handle issues related to base realignment and closure, building standards, consumer affairs, corporate governance, economic development, housing, public sector labor and trade.
- Jennifer Fitzgerald, 35, who served for eight years at the Assembly Republican Caucus as principal consultant covering the Assembly Health Committee. Fitzgerald, a Republican, will be handling issues related to health and human services and veterans' affairs.

- Paul Navarro, 37, former chief budget consultant and chief education adviser to the California Assembly Republican leader and principal consultant for the Assembly Education Committee. Navarro, a Republican, will handle education, revenue and tax and general government legislative issues.
- Pamela Oto, 51, who served as committee assistant to the Senate Agricultural and Water Committee and the Assembly Local Government Committee, after serving as a paralegal and office manager of a Sacramento law firm. Oto, a Democrat, will oversee legislative processing.
- Karen Pank, 33, who served in both the Assembly and Senate Republican Caucuses as the public safety consultant for the past four years. Pank, a Republican, will handle criminal justice, judiciary and homeland security legislative issues for the governor. She is a graduate of the University of the Pacific McGeorge School of law and a member of the Bar.

The legislative affairs team is responsible for managing the Governor's legislative agenda and for all issues involving the Legislature and legislators. The unit is led by Legislative Affairs Secretary Richard Costigan and chief deputy Cynthia Bryant. The positions do not require Senate confirmation.

DUNN SCHEDULING BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE HEARINGS ON COURT FUNDING

Senator [Joseph Dunn](#) (D-Santa Ana), Chair of Subcommittee #4 of the Senate Budget & Fiscal Review Committee, which has jurisdiction over court funding issues, is scheduling a series of informational hearings in San Diego, Los Angeles, Orange, Fresno County, Sacramento, and the Bay Area, to hear local testimony on the impact of the budget cuts proposed in the Governor's initial budget on the judicial branch.

The first hearings are scheduled for San Diego (February 18) and Oakland (February 19). For further information, contact [Mary Viviano](#), State Bar Director of Legal Services Outreach.

DEADLINES UPCOMING

- February 20 – Last day to introduce bills.