

# State Bar of California, Office of Governmental Affairs

## *The Sacramento Scene*

Vol. 3, No. 13

April 2, 2004

### LEGISLATURE LEAVES FOR SPRING BREAK

The Legislature recessed for its Spring Break on Thursday, April 1, and – barring a completely unexpected breakthrough in the ongoing Workers Compensation system negotiations -- will return on Monday, April 12.

Leaders of both legislative houses admonished their members to be prepared to be back at the Capitol on 24 hours' notice if the Workers Comp negotiations produced a package of bills. Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger had hoped to have legislation ready for a vote before the break, but a deal that all parties can live with remains elusive.

Most lawmakers returned to their districts for events, constituent services, and R&R. Most legislative committee staff, however, will spend at least part of the vacation week preparing for the intense round of committee hearings on bills that will begin when the members return. Once they return, the committees will have two weeks to hear all same-house bills that must be re-referred to fiscal committee, and two weeks more to hear all non-fiscal same-house bills.

It seems likely, however, that several post-deadline hearings will have to be held to accommodate the large number of "committee bills" introduced after the February 20 bill introduction deadline.

### STATE BAR GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS BILL TRACKING PAGES TO GO OFFLINE DURING HOLIDAY WEEK

The bill tracking pages provided as links from the [State Bar Office of Governmental Affairs' web page](#) providing automatically-updated information regarding bills sponsored and/or tracked by the Board of Governors, as well as by the voluntarily-funded State Bar Sections and Standing Committees, will be unavailable from Saturday, April 2, through Friday, April 9.

The reason is that LegWeb, the proprietary bill-tracking service with which the office has contracted for several years, has been taken over by [CapitolTrack](#), an equally well-established purveyor of similar information. Which means that all LegWeb-based links to bill folders, legislative search engines and the like will cease to operate Saturday, and the web pages re-coded (oh, joy). The good news is that we hope to provide an even better product when the task is completed.

### ELECTRONIC LEGAL SERVICES FOR JAIL INMATES

Without fanfare or press releases, several county jails in California have completely discarded their legal print collections in favor of touch screen kiosks containing computers jam-packed with state and federal codes and cases, legal dictionaries, and guides to criminal defense.

The wall-mounted kiosks are made of shatterproof glass and contain neither an external keyboard nor a mouse.

There are eight such kiosks in California, all in Riverside County. Three of the kiosks are located in the Robert Presley Detention Center in the City of Riverside; the other five kiosks are housed in the Blythe Jail, Indio Jail, Southwest County Jail and the Larry D. Smith Correctional Facility.

The kiosks do not permit inmates to save information on them, and no printing is allowed as well. In addition, inmates may not save information on disks because of their potential for use as weapons against other inmates or jail personnel. Inmates use their booking numbers (pass word) to gain access to the computers.

The extent of legal information available to inmates is virtually unrestricted, including access to all California codes and cases. Also available are all federal cases and codes, including Supreme Court decisions. And while the kiosks do not provide access to periodicals or newspapers, Shepard and Witkin are available on line.

The kiosks do not provide a live internet connection; rather, representatives from the company that supplies the kiosks stop by the jail facilities every 90 days to update the system.

### DEADLINES UPCOMING

- April 12 -- Legislature reconvenes .
- April 23 -- Last day for policy committees to hear and report Fiscal Committees fiscal bills introduced in their house.
- May 7 -- Last day for policy committees to hear and report non-fiscal bills introduced in their house to floor.
- May 14 -- Last day for policy committees to meet prior to June 1.
- May 21 -- Last day for Fiscal Committees to hear and report to the Floor bills introduced in their house.
- May 28 -- Last day for bills to be passed out of the house of origin.