

**SIGNING DEADLINE MONDAY**

Three days remain for Governor Gray Davis to complete work on the remaining bills sent to him by the Legislature during the final weeks of the just-concluded legislative session. As of press time, approximately 300 of the more than 1200 bills sent to him in the final three weeks prior to August 31 were awaiting his disposition, including significant measures relating to arbitration and court funding.

**CONFERENCE OF DELEGATES-APPROVED MEASURES ENACTED**

Among the bills already signed into law by Governor Davis are five that originated with the Conference of Delegates, which will soon perfect its independence from the State Bar and continue on as the Conference of Delegates of California Bar Associations (CDCBA).

One of the most significant of the Conference-sponsored measures is [AB 1872](#) by Assembly Member Joe [Canciamilla](#) (D-Pittsburg), which will allow families of victims to more quickly obtain death certificates following a mass disaster, when no bodies are likely to be recovered. In his [press release](#) announcing the bill's signing, Governor Davis noted that although the measure was inspired by a 2000 airline crash, it's need became evident following the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. The other Conference-generated measures signed into law include:

- [SB 2009](#) ([Morrow](#)) – Shortens from 30 to 21 days the period during which a challenged document filed with the court may be corrected or withdrawn.
- [SB 1325](#) ([Kuehl](#)) – Conforms California procedure to federal practice by permitting defendants in civil actions to make preliminary challenges to service or personal jurisdiction at the same time they answer or demur to a complaint.
- [AB 2865](#) ([Koretz](#)) – Permits a judge, upon request of any party, to indicate in any interlocutory order that appellate resolution of a question of law may advance the conclusion of the litigation.

- A provision of [AB 3027](#) (Assm. Judiciary Committee), an omnibus measure principally sponsored by the Judicial Council, which require notice and provide an opportunity to be heard for persons subject to penalties for failure to comply with local rules of court.

The last two of these measures were adopted by the State Bar's Board of Governors as part of its 2002 Legislative Program.

Two other Conference-sponsored measures – [AB 3036](#) ([Corbett](#)), relating to guardianships, and [AB 2842](#) ([Harman](#)), relating to recording of depositions -- are still on the Governor's desk awaiting signature.

**IMMIGRATION ACT ENFORCEMENT ASSISTANCE BILL SIGNED**

Governor Davis has signed into law legislation ([AB 1999](#) – Correa) which clarifies the authority of public officials to seek injunctive and other equitable relief under Immigration Consultants Act and to recover attorney's fees in such an action; authorizes public officials to bring actions for civil penalties of up to \$100,000 for violations of the act, an authority currently granted only to injured parties; and strengthens enforcement of the ICA by mandating the court to impose a civil penalty for each violation. The bill was sponsored by the Attorney General.

**REFERENDUM DROPPED**

On the same day Secretary of State Bill Jones announced that it had been cleared for circulation, proponents of the Referendum on the summary judgment provisions of [SB 688](#) ([Burton](#)) mentioned in last week's "Sacramento Scene" announced that they were not going forward with the effort.

Jeff Sievers, vice president of legislation for the Civil Justice Association of California, was quoted in the *Daily Journal* legal newspaper as saying that the coalition proposing the referendum had "decided the change in summary judgment law is not that significant of a change."