

**Summary of 2009 Year-end Accomplishments of the
Committee on Mandatory Fee Arbitration
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This report covers the accomplishments of the State Bar's Committee on Mandatory Fee Arbitration (MFA) for Year 2009. The following summary also tracks the action areas and related tasks set forth in the MFA Committee's 2009 Work Plan.

SUMMARY OF KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Year-end highlights for 2009 include:

- Recommended amendments to the Notice of Your Rights after Arbitration form approved by the Board of Governors. This statutorily required form is used by clients and attorneys to explain their post-fee arbitration rights and responsibilities. The amendments explain a new CA Supreme Court case upholding enforcement of a pre-existing binding arbitration agreement to substitute as the trial guaranteed by statute after non-binding MFA arbitration. The Committee also recommended companion legislative proposals consistent with this case, which the Board agreed to include in January 2010 as part of its legislative agenda for 2010.
- Published a new arbitration advisory for fee arbitrators (also posted on website for parties) and a new program advisory for local bar program administrators. The Committee also developed the Program's first ever stipulated award form for arbitrators to standardize pre-hearing settlement of disputes while protecting the client's right to seek State Bar enforcement when the settlement includes a refund of attorney's fees.
- Presented record high number of fee arbitrator training programs for 12 local bar associations, providing free MCLE credit for 96 attorneys.
- Presented five local bar CLE programs for members discussing attorney's fees and presenting strategies for resolving fee disputes with clients.
- Facilitated approval of six new or revised local bar rules of procedure, bringing all but a few MFA local bar programs into compliance with the Model Rules of Procedure for Fee Arbitrations.