Be Careful What You Wish For: The UCL After Prop. 64

Michael Sweet Kimberly A. Kralowec

December 1, 2005

Santa Clara County Bar Association



How did we get here?



Trevor Law Group

Actions against nail salons and auto shops. Single plaintiffs with huge number of defendants. Lots of immigrant/mom & pop businesses. Extracted settlement money.



 Resignation from bar with charges pending September 17, 2003.



Attempts at legislative fix



 Several attempts to change 17200 in legislature rebuffed.



Proposition 64

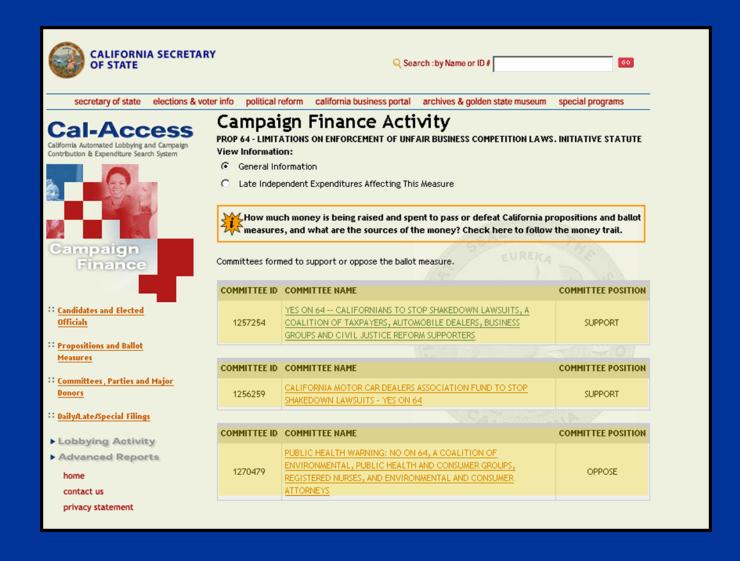


- Who was behind it and why?
- Who opposed it and why?



Follow the Money







Stop Shakedown Lawsuits



CALIFORNIA SECRETAR OF STATE	Y .	Q Search : by Name or ID #			
secretary of state elections & vot	ter info political reform california busine	ess portal archives & golden state museum special programs			
Cal Access	Campaign Finance	Activity			
Cal-Access California Automated Lobbying and Campaign		STOP SHAKEDOWN LAWSUITS, A COALITION OF			
Contribution & Expenditure Search System	TAXPAYERS, AUTOMOBILE DEAL SUPPORTERS	ERS, BUSINESS GROUPS AND CIVIL JUSTICE REFORM			
	SUPPORTERS				
	Election Cycle:	Election Dates:			
	C 2005 through 2006				
	@ 2003 through 2004	GENERAL ELECTION Tuesday, November 02nd, 2004			
Campaign	C Historical	2. PRIMARY ELECTION			
Finance		Tuesday, March 02nd, 2004 3. SPECIAL ELECTION			
		Tuesday, October 07th, 2003			
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Officials		Bection Dates.			
Propositions and Ballot Measures					
	View Information: (Due to the amount of data, these pages	may take some time to load.)			
Committees , Parties and Major Bonors	General Information				
	C Contributions Received				
Daily/Late/Special Filings	C Contributions Made				
Lobbying Activity	C Expenditures Made				
Advanced Reports		penditures and Interim Filings (Prop. 34)			
home	C Electronic Filings				
contact us privacy statement	→ This is the official name of the committee, political party, or major donor as registered with				
	the Secretary of State.	***			
	HISTORICAL MANES FOR THIS COMMITTEE CALIFORNIANS TO STOP SHAKEDOWN LAWSUITS, A COALITION OF TAXPAYERS, AUTOMOBILE DEALERS, BUSINESS GROUPS AND CIVIL LISTICE REFORM SUPPORTERS				
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	CALIFORNIANS AGAINST SHAKEDOWN LAWSUITS SPONSORED BY CIVIL JUSTICE ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA				
	FILER ID:				
	1257254				
	FILER PHONE:				
	(415) 389-6800				
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	SUMMARY INFORMATION - YES ON 64	CALIFORMANS TO STOP SHAKEDOWN LAWSUITS, A COALITION S, BUSINESS GROUPS AND CIVIL JUSTICE REFORM SUPPORTERS (ID#			
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\$14,588,045.29



Stop Shakedown Contributions



NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR	AMOUNT
CA Motor Car Dealers Assn. Fund To Stop Shakedown Lawsuits-yes On 64	\$5,000,000
Alliance Of Automobile Manufacturers, Inc.	\$1,250,000
U.S. Chamber Of Commerce And Related Entities	\$ 495,000
Intel	\$ 300,000
Kaiser Foundation Health Plans	\$ 300,000
Pfizer	\$ 217,000
Blue Cross	\$ 150,000
Johnson & Johnson	\$ 125,000
Microsoft	\$ 100,000
Cisco	\$ 100,000
Ornala	\$ 100,000



Car Dealers - \$4.8 Million



CALIFORNIA SECRETAR OF STATE	Q Se	arch : by Name or ID #			
secretary of state elections & vo	ter info political reform california business portal	archives & golden state museum special programs	_		
Cal-Access California Automated Lobbying and Campaign Contribution & Expenditure Search System	Campaign Finance Act CALIFORNIA MOTOR CAR DEALERS ASS LAWSUITS - YES ON 64	ivity Ociation fund to stop shakedown			
Campaign Finance	C 2005 through 2006 C 2003 through 2004 C Historical	ection Dates: 1. GENERAL ELECTION Tuesday, November 02nd, 2004 2. PRINARY ELECTION Tuesday, March 02nd, 2004 3. SPECIAL ELECTION Tuesday, March 02nd, 2004 3. SPECIAL ELECTION Tuesday, 02tober 07th, 2003			
Candidate and Elected Officials Propositions and Ballot Measures Committees, Parties and Major Boners BallystateSpecial Filings Lobbying Activity ► Advanced Reports.		s some time to load.)			
home contact us privacy statement	This is the official name of the committee the Secretary of State.	e, political party, or major donor as registered with]		
	HISTORICAL NAMES FOR THIS COMMITTEE CALIFORNIA MOTOR CAR DEALERS ASSOCIATION FO	UND TO STOP SHAKEDOWN LAWSUITS		\$4,891,049	
	FILER ID: 1256259			ψ 1,00 1,0 10	
	FILER PHONE:			 	
	(916) 442-7757				
	SUMMARY INFORMATION - CALIFORNIA MOTOR LAWSUITS - YES ON 64 (ID# 1256259)	CAR DEALERS ASSOCIATION FUND TO STOP SHAKEDOW	N		
	CURRENT STATUS	ACTIVE			
	LAST REPORT DATE THIS SESSION	01/29/2005			
	REPORTING PERIOD	10/17/2004 - 12/31/2004			
	CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THIS PERIOD	\$100,583.33			
	TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS 1/1/2004 - 12/31/2004	\$1,999,158.33			
	EXPENDITURES FROM THIS PERIOD	\$1,038,782.24			
	TOTAL EXPENDITURES 1/1/2004 - 12/31/2004	\$4,891,049.00			
	ENDING CASH	\$480,148.01			



Car Dealer Contributions



TABLE TO SECOND		α		DITTO
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Greater Los Angeles New Car Dealers Association

New Car Dealers Association

Southern California Chevrolet Dealers Association

Toyota Of Orange, Inc.

Conant Automotive Resources

Orange County Automobile Dealers Assoc.

Longo Toyota

Silicon Valley Auto Dealers Association

Auto Nation

CITY STATE AMOUNT

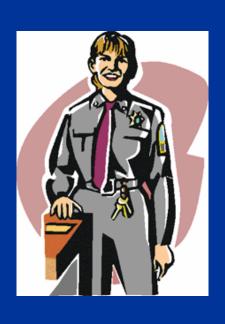
Los Angeles	CA	\$500,000
San Diego	CA	\$250,000
Cerritos	CA	\$151,325
Orange	CA	\$104,900
Cerritos	CA	\$100,000
Costa Mesa	CA	\$100,000
El Monte	CA	\$100,000
San Jose	CA	\$100,000
Ft. Lauderdale	FL	\$100,000





Public Health Warning











"Coalition of Environmental, Public Health and Consumer Groups, Registered Nurses, and Environmental and Consumer Attorneys"



CALIFORNIA SECRETAR	tY Q Sea	rch : by Nama or ID #	
secretary of state elections & vo	ter info political reform california business portal	archives & golden state museum special programs	
Cal-Access California Automate Lobbying and Campaign Contribution & Expenditure Search System		VITY L COALITION OF ENVIRONMENTAL, PUBLIC STERED NURSES, AND ENVIRONMENTAL AND	
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Measures	View Information:		
Committees, Parties and Major	(Due to the amount of data, these pages may take : General Information	some time to load.)	
Donors	C Contributions Received		
:: Daily/Late/Special Filings	C Contributions Made		
► Lobbying Activity	C Expenditures Made		
► Advanced Reports	C Late Contributions/Independent Expenditure	s and Interim Filings (Prop. 34)	
home	C Electronic Filings		
contact us			
privacy statement	This is the official name of the committee the Secretary of State.	, political party, or major donor as registered with	\$3,129,468.02
	FILER ID:		
	1270479		
	FILER PHONE:		
	(916) 442-6902		
		RING: NO ON 64, A COALITION OF ENVIRONMENTAL, ERED NURSES, AND ENVIRONMENTAL AND CONSUMER	
	CURRENT STATUS	ACTIVE	
	LAST REPORT DATE THIS SESSION	02/09/2005	
	REPORTING PERIOD	10/17/2004 - 12/31/2004	
	CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THIS PERIOD	\$1,545,795.67	
	TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS 1/1/2004 - 12/31/2004	\$3,206,391.00	
	EXPENDITURES FROM THIS PERIOD	\$1,826,439.02	
	TOTAL EXPENDITURES 1/1/2004 - 12/31/2004	\$3,129,468.02	
	ENDING CASH	\$112,600.10	







Consumer Attorneys of California



Consumer Attorneys Open Wallets



Consumer Attorneys Open Wallets to Fund No on Prop 64 Campaign

JBI Domac The Records 06-30-2004

SACRAMON RO -- The fund-cabing giones are officially off in the battle over Proposition 64, the measure that aims to change providence of the state's Dusiness & Professions Code \$1.7250.

Last week, Consumer Atterneys of California and its affice officially formed a No or 64 controlities to oppose the lossimers. Include distribute, Over the cannote, Fooddont Jastes Studies and had senderically CASC load requires to Remailly canolisate fundationed.

On Wiedzeschy, Attenny Genecal Bill Lockyer salellie voorld formally opprase Prop 64, joining a coalition of plaintiff Locytes, conserver george and advocator Forths controuncest and public locality who say they are for store, another composition law for activities and an extension of the control of th

Stuckward sold the decision to form an opposition, committee came often Gen. Aroold Substantingues without away flow of form to corfue legislation compromise and instead endersoil the initiative.

"There was no need before that time to excite a committee to fight that proposition become we took [Schwarzengger] at his word," Stunlerant sald,

So for, No on 64 contributions total just about \$84,000:—a for any from the more than \$11 million collected by the tow Yes on 64 committees, including more than \$1.1 million four carb dealer better better by the first of the first carb of the first carbon of the first carbon. On Teaching, \$1841.001.0.000.

Standownst axid Peop fi-4 exponents find no specific fund-univing goals, but woode "usion non fiscient amount of money to get the necessage out to millions of Collibertiums first they need to go out and vot against hits proposition."

Peop 64 sects to imit theiright to ose under § 17306 to those individuals actually injured because of an ordari transmiss practice. It was that also reside the regist to see write potal of should be obtained internally greated or fural public policies, and sounder option any practices have recent to the usual only for confinement of consomer protections have.

Field Palls (also inclic first munitual Angestal aread fat the measure was familiar to only about 8 pascent of Hiely notes, but that 44 percent of the 200 likely valess surveyed world vate for it cover they half-tim text results them. Since then, Prop 64 suggesters leave baseched a television and connection.

John Sullivan, the president of the text-selorur group Civil Justice Association of California, said be vassi't serprised that Poup 64 appearents land decided to from a committee of their own.

"They have been coming a campaign for some time without over forming a legal committee," Null conversed.

Sie far, week of like organized opnosition has eeuw from a group called bleefour Waterining, which was funded with \$150,000 from the Foundation for Tanguer and Consumer Rights. Since Sea. Bell Moreow, B.-Decanside, has asked the state Fair Pethical Practices Commission to see whether Election Waterining violated any campaign frames have in uning the memy to oppose Prop.64.

The largest correctionists in the men Nin or 64 campaign have come flowr law firms, including Fusions, Jacquiseo, & Simons of Bayasand, the Environ Law Finer of Streetions; and Morray, Carol. & Softe of New York City, and off which sound hardes? Softe of New York City, and off which sound hardes?

Last week, Consumer Attorneys of California and its allies officially formed a No on 64 committee to oppose the business-backed initiative. Over the summer, President James Sturdevant had maintained CAOC had no plans to formally coordinate fund raising.

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election Watchdog, which imer Rights. State Sen. Bill hission to see whether ney to oppose Prop 64.

n law firms, including kton; and Murray, Frank &

So far, No on 64 contributions total just about \$84,000 -- a far cry from the more than \$11 million collected by the two Yes on 64 committees, including more than \$1.3 million from auto dealers and other businesses in just the month of September. On Tuesday, Shell Oil Co. donated \$100,000.



Lerach, Coughlin, Stoia & Robbins, LLP

No on 64 Contributions



\$ 50,000

NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR	CITY	STATE	OCCUPATION	AMOUNT
Consumer Attorney's Issues Political Action Committee	ee Sacramento	CA		\$500,000
James Sturdevant	San Francisco	CA	Attorney	\$400,000
Consumer Attorney's Issues Political Action Committee	ee Sacramento	CA		\$225,000
CAALA	Los Angeles	CA	CAALA PAC	\$150,000
California State Council Of Service Employees	Sacramento	CA	Attorney	\$100,000
Greene, Broillet, Panish & Wheeler LLP	Santa Monica	CA	Attorney	\$ 50,000
Milberg Weiss Bershad & Schulman LLP	New York	CA	Attorney	\$ 50,000

CA

Attorney

San Diego



Proposition 64



TEXT OF PROPOSED LAWS

This initiative measure is submitted to the people in accordance with the provisions of Section 8 of Article II of the California Constitution. This initiative measure amends sections of the Business and Professions Code: therefore, existing provisions proposed to be deleted are partial in initiative appear and new provisions proposed to be added are partial in itself, toget to indicate that they are new.

SECTION 1. Findings and Declarations of Purpose

The people of the State of California find and declare that: (a) This state's unfair competition laws set forth in Sections 17200 and 17500 of the Business and Professions Code are intended to protect California businesses and consumers from unlawful, unfair, and fraudu-lent business practices.

(b) These unfair competition laws are being misused by some private

attorneys who:

(1) File frivolous lawsuits as a means of generating attorney's fees without creating a corresponding public benefit.

(2) File lawsuits where no client has been injured in fact.

(3) File lawsuits for clients who have not used the defendant's product or service, viewed the defendant's advertising, or had any other business dealing with the defendant.

(4) File lawsuits on behalf of the general public without any accountability to the public and without adequate court supervision.

ability to the public and without adequate court supervision.

(c) Friedous unfair competition insvasts of one or courts and cost tax-puyers. Such lansuits cost California jobs and economic prosperity, threatening the survival of small businesses and forcing businesses to raise their prices or to lay off employees to pay lansuit settlement costs or to relocate to states that do not permit such lineasity.

(d) It is the intent of California voters in enacting this act to eliminate frivolous unfair competition lawsuits while protecting the right of individuals to retain an atteney and file an action for relief pursuant to Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 17200) of Division 7 of the Business and Professions Code.

Business and Professions Code. (e) It is the intent of the California voters in enacting this act to pro-hibit private attorneys from filing lawasits for unfair competition where they have no client who has been injured in fact under the standing requirements of the United States Constitution.

(f) It is the intent of California voters in enacting this act that only the California Attorney General and local public officials be authorized to file and prosecute actions on behalf of the general public.

(g) It is the intent of California voters in enacting this act that the Attorney General, district antorneys, county counsels, and city attorneys maintain their public protection authority and capability under the unfair

SEC. 2. Section 17203 of the Business and Professions Code is needed to read:

17203. Injunctive Relief—Court Orders

1720). Injunctive Belid-Court Orders
Any person who engages, has engaged or proposes to engage in unfair
competition may be enjoined in any court of competent jurisdiction. The
continuity male such orders or judgments, including the appointment of a
propose of any practice which coordinates unfair competition, as defined in
persons of any practice which coordinates unfair competition, as defined in
this chapter, or as may be necessary to review to any person in interest any
money or property, real or personal, which may have been acquired by
means of soft unfair correction. Any person may prame representative
requirements of Section 1710 and complete with Section 582 of the Code
of Civil Procedure, but these limitations of one engage to calcust brought
under this chapter by the Attention of Control, or any district atternacy, counor counsel, columning or et phy procurses in this state.

SEC. 3. Section 17204 of the Business and Professions Code is

17204. Actions for Injunctions by Attorney General, District Attorney, County Counsel, and City Attorneys

Actions for any relief nursuant to this chanter shall be prosecuted exclu-

when yis cover of competent principals by the Atterney General or any district anteney of by any county content advocable paperenest with the admired sheet active and the active and the active and the active active and the active active and active at the active active and active partial or accust or distance, or any city atteney of a city, or ely and coursy, having a population in excess of 150,000, and, with the consent of the district astroney, by a cyp presentant in any oily having a full-time oily procedure or, with the content of the district active active active and the content of the district active acti

17206. Civil Penalty for Violation of Chapter

17206. Crist Frushy for Fudation of Chapter
(a) Any person who engage, has negaged or proposes to engage in
unfair competition shall be libile for a civil pressly not so exceed two
thousand five handered dollars (\$2.500 ft) ence shi voltains, which shall be
assessed and recovered in a civil action brought in the name of the people
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(c) If the action is brought by the Attorney General, one-half of the penalty collected shall be paid to the treasurer of the country in which the action is brought by the Attorney General, one-half of the penalty collected shall be paid to the treasurer of the country in which the adjument was entered, and one-half to the State General Traul. If the action is brought by a distinct airmeney or counted, the penalty collected shall be quid to the treasurer of the country in which the judgment was considered to the country of the properties of the penalty collected shall be quit to the treasurer of the country in which the judgment was entered. The afformation of the country in which the judgment was entered. The afformation of the country in which the judgment was entered. The afformation of the country in which the judgment was entered. The afformation of the country in which the judgment was entered. The afformation of the country in which the judgment was entered. The afformation of the country in which the judgment was entered. The afformation of the country in which the judgment was entered. The afformation of the country in which the judgment was entered. The afformation of the country in which the judgment was entered. The afformation of the country in which the judgment was entered. The afformation of the country in which the judgment was entered. The afformation of the country in which the judgment was entered. The afformation of the country in which the judgment was entered. The afformation of the country in which the judgment was entered. The afformation of the country in which the judgment was entered. The afformation of the country in which the judgment was entered. The afformation of the country in which the judgment was entered. The afformation of the country in which the judgment was entered. The afformation of the country in which the judgment was entered. The afformation of the purple was a subject to the purple was an afformation of the country in which the judgment was entered. The afformation

(d) If the action is brought at the request of a board within the Department of Consumer Affairs or a local consumer affairs agency, the court shall determine the reasonable expenses incurred by the board or local agency in the investigation and prosecution of the action.

Before any penalty collected is paid out persuant to adultivision (c), the amount of any reasonable expenses incurred by the board shall be paid to the state Tensor for deposit in the special find of the hourd described in Section 305. If the board has no such special from the hourd described in Section 305. If the board has no such special from the more; shall be paid to the state Tensor. The amount of any reasonable expenses incurred by a board consumer affairs agency shall be paid to the general final of the municipality or county that finals the local agency.

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17535. Obtaining Injunctive Relief

Text of Proposed Laws | 109

uly 1, 2003, and the effective d that is inconsistent with this sled irrespective of the code in

r part thereof, is for any reason remaining provisions shall not and effect, and to this end the

rmation Guide.

nable limits to determine what or third strike; and

84 has been used to enhance the who did not commit a serious in, at a cost to taxpayers of more 100,000) per year.

offenders and reduce the cost to commit crimes that do not to this act.



Proposition 64



- Principal target: The unaffected private plaintiff
- Standing: Actual Injury
- Liability
- Class Certification
- Restitution
- Injunctive Relief
- Parallel changes in §17535 and §17536.



The Changes Wrought By Prop. 64 Standing



The UCL Before Prop. 64:

- "any person" could act as a private attorney general and seek relief on behalf of the "general public" (Bus. & Prof. Code §17204)
- Associations had standing to sue on behalf of their members

- "any person who has suffered injury in fact and lost money or property as a result of" unfair competition (Bus. & Prof. Code §17204, as amended)
- Written in the conjunctive; defendants argue this means you have to show both injury in fact and loss of money or property
- But: Prop. 64 expressly indicated that it was intended to import the standing rules of Article III, which do not require loss of "money or property" Prop. 64, § 1(e).
- Associational standing may have been eliminated or limited
- Standing limitations do not apply to claims brought by Attorney General, DA, county counsel, city attorney or city prosecutor.



The Changes Wrought By Prop. 64 Liability



The UCL Before Prop. 64:

- UCL prohibited any "unfair, unlawful or fraudulent" conduct (Bus. & Prof. Code §17200)
 - "unlawful" prong "borrows" violations of other laws (state, federal, statutory, court-made) and makes them independently actionable
 - "unfair" prong; Cel-Tech issue. Cel-Tech
 Communications, Inc. v. Los Angeles Cellular Tel.
 Co., 20 Cal. 4th 163 (1999)
 - "fraudulent" prong: plaintiffs need only prove that members of the public "likely to be deceived" (*Bank of the West v. Sup. Ct.*, 4 Cal. 4th 1254 (1992))
- Bottom line: plaintiffs did not have to prove that they, or anyone else, suffered monetary harm or any other kind of harm (*Stop Youth Addiction v. Lucky Stores, Inc.*, 17 Cal.4th 553 (1998); *Committee on Children's Television, Inc. v. General Foods Corp.*, 35 Cal.3d 197, 211 (1983))

- UCL did not change these substantive bases for liability;
 - UCL still "borrows" violations of other laws;
 - Definition of "unfair" is still dictated by Cel-Tech;
 - "fraudulent prong": the "likely to deceive" standard is arguably altered by the "and lost money or property" language.



The Changes Wrought By Prop. 64 Class Certification



The UCL Before Prop. 64:

- Class certification was not required;
- The plaintiff could seek representative relief on behalf of other people without formal class certification
- Accordingly, an unaffected plaintiff could, and often did, champion the rights of the general public
- Some cases suggested that UCL claims could not be certified for class treatment because that was not the "superior" way to litigate the dispute, given the availability of representative, non-class relief (*Kavruck v. Blue Cross of California*, 108 Cal.App.4th 773, 787 (2004); *Frieman v. San Rafael Rock Quarry, Inc.*, 116 Cal.App.4th 29, 38 (2004))

- "Any person may pursue representative claims or relief on behalf of others only if the claimant meets the standing requirements of Section 17204 and complies with Section 382 of the Code of Civil Procedure ..." (Bus. & Prof. Code §17203, as amended) (emphasis added).
- Prop. 64 resolves any dispute about whether UCL cases *can* be certified.
- Now, they not only can be certified, but arguably, they *must* be.



The Changes Wrought By Prop. 64 Restitution



The UCL Before Prop. 64:

- Monetary relief was limited to "restitution." *Kraus v. Trinity Mgmt. Serv., Inc.*, 23 Cal.4th 116 (2004); *Cortez Purolator Air Filtration Prods. Co.*, 23 Cal.4th 163 (2000).
- Split of authority on whether nonrestitutionary disgorgement of profits is recoverable in a *certified* UCL class action:
 - Supreme Court has specifically left that issue undecided. See, e.g., Korea Supply Co. v. Lockheed Martin Corp., 29 Cal.4th 1134, 1148 n.6 (2004); Kraus, 23 Cal.4th at 137.
 - Corbett v. Superior Court, 101 Cal. App.4th 649, 655 (2002) ("Where a class has properly been certified, a plaintiff in a UCL action may seek disgorgement of unlawful profits into a fluid recovery fund.").
 - Madrid v. Perot Systems Corp., 130 Cal.App.4th 400 (2005) ("[N]onrestitutionary disgorgement is not an available remedy in a UCL class action.").

- Prop. 64 does not change the UCL's "restitution" remedy.
- Does Prop. 64 open the door to damages?
 - Early decisions permitted UCL plaintiffs to recover compensatory damages as well as restitution. See Committee on Children's Television v. General Foods Corp., 35 Cal. 3d 197, 226 (1983) (conc. & dissenting opn. of Bird, C.J.) (cataloging early cases).
 - A central reason for the Supreme Court's later holding that restitution is the only form of monetary relief recoverable under the UCL is that "the Legislature deliberately traded the attributes of tort law for speed and administrative simplicity." *Bank of the West v. Superior Court*, 2 Cal.4th 1254, 1266-67 (1992); see also *Korea Supply Co. v. Lockheed Martin Corp.*, 29 Cal.4th 1134, 1144 (2003).
 - Prop. 64 eliminated the "speed and administrative simplicity" by requiring class certification and imported "attributes of tort law" by requiring "injury in fact."



The Changes Wrought By Prop. 64 Injunctive Relief



The UCL Before Prop. 64:

 Plaintiff could obtain injunctive relief on behalf of others without formal class certification

- Prop. 64 arguably limits the injunctive relief remedy unless formal class certification is obtained.
- But the class certification requirement only applies to plaintiffs seeking to "pursue representative claims for relief on behalf of others."
 - Individual plaintiff could seek broad injunctive relief - stop publishing misleading advertising; stop engaging in unlawful employment practice
 - Prop. 64 does not say that anyone other than the representative plaintiff has to have lost money or property for an injunction to issue.





Initial Question: Does Prop. 64 Apply Retroactively To Pending Cases?

- No express retroactivity language
- Ballot materials use prospective language
 - "A YES vote on this measure means: Except for the Attorney General and local public prosecutors, *no person could bring a lawsuit for unfair competition* unless"
 - "Proposition 64 closes a loophole *allowing* lawyers to <u>file</u> frivolous shakedown lawsuits against small businesses."
 - "This measure prohibits any person, other than the Attorney General and local public prosecutors, from <u>bringing</u> a lawsuit for unfair competition ..."







Does Prop. 64 Apply Retroactively To Pending Cases?

- The omission was intentional
 - "At one point we did decide we wanted to keep the initiative as clean as possible and that we didn't want to put in excess language on that or any other issue." John Sullivan, Chairman of Yes on 64 Committee, quoted in "Firms' drive on lawsuits attacked: Critics say Prop. 64 is being used to purge pending cases," *Sacramento Bee*, December 29, 2004.





This story is taken from Business at sacbee.com.

Firms' drive on lawsuits attacked

Critics say Prop. 64 is being used to purge pending cases.

By Kevin Yamamura -- Bee Capitol Bureau Published 2:15 am PST Wednesday, December 29, 2004

Companies are trying to use a voter-approved November initiative limiting law suits against businesses to purge pre-existing cases from California courts, despite assertions by consumer groups that Proposition 64 should not apply.

The Unfair Competition Law cases range from a suit against State Farm charging that the company illegally sets higher rates for previously uninsured drivers to a claim against Anheuser-Busch and Miller Brewing that arques the companies target children in their advertising.

The companies have argued that because the parties that brought those suits are barred from doing so under Proposition 64, the suits should now be dismissed.

Under California law, initiatives approved by the voters take effect the day after the election unless otherwise specified. But legal experts disagree as to whether an initiative such as Proposition 64 that does not specifically discuss retroactivity can be used in pending cases.

Some Superior Court judges have decided that Proposition 64 does apply to cases filed before the Nov. 2 election, while others have ruled that the initiative cannot be used to stop such cases. Lawyers expect the state Supreme Court will have to clarify the matter.

The initiative represented a significant win for businesses, automakers and car dealers that had long fought trial lawyers and public-interest groups in the Capitol to change a state law regarding who can sue companies for unfair or serious.

Proposition 64 limited that right to those who suffer actual damages from a company's actions and to public prosecutors. Previously, outside public-interest groups and trial lawyers were able to file claims even though they had not suffered actual harm.

Consumer advocates have criticized companies for invoking the initiative in pending cases because they believe backers of the initiative never specified the law would be used that way.

"Proposition 64 was marketed as an initiative to stop the filling of shakedown law suits against small businesses, and the fact that large corporations are using it to hak existing cases and even meritorious cases is completely the opposite of how they billed it," said Steve Blackledge, legislative director for the California Public Interest Research Group.

But the corporate-based coalition that supported the initiative and helped it pass by an 18 percent margin insists that it never misled voters.

John Sullivan, a chairman of the Yes on 64 effort and president of the business-backed Civil Justice Association of California, said the campaign's message was focused on protecting businesses from dubious law suits. He added that talking about whether the new law would apply to existing law suits was unnecessary.





Does Prop. 64 Apply Retroactively To Pending Cases?

- The omission was intentional
 - Proposition 64 always intended to apply the new law to pending cases and purposely chose not to tell voters, said Fred Hiestand, general counsel for the Civil Justice Assn. of California, a tort-reform lobbying group that helped sponsor Proposition 64." "Citing Prop. 64, Firms Seek to Kill Lawsuits," Los Angeles Times, December 27, 2004.

Los Angeles Times

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Corporations are trying to kill a raft of lawsuits filed under California's Unfair Competition Law, claiming that the suits invalidated when vote is approved Proposition 64 last month.

The ballot measure made it harder for businesses to be sued over deceptive advertising and other fraudulent practices unlaw, which corporate interests have long attacked as an invitation for uncorpulous attorneys to file so-called shakedown against businesses.

Since election day, DaimlerChrysler, Mercury General Corp., Kwikset Corp. and other companies have asked state judge dismiss at least a dozen pending unfair-competition cases. More challenges are expected.

"It's a great opportunity to wipe out cases that shouldn't be in the courts," said John Sullivan, director of the Civil Justice California and co-claiman of the Proposition 64 campaign. "These are the kind of cases the voters wanted to get rid of the benefitted lawyers primarily."

Opponents of Proposition 64 — mainly environmental and consumer rights activists — accuse business of pulling a bait-as witch with voters by trying to apply the amended law retroactively.

New laws, whether approved by the Legislature or voters, usually aren't retroactive unless they contain specific wording otherwise. Neither the pro-Proposition 64 TV ads bankrolled by corporations nor the text of the initiative itself said the 1 would analy to cases pending in the court.

Business "should be playing by the rules that were in place when the cases were actually filed," said Bill McGavern, a Si Club lobbyist. "They certainly didn't tell the voters they were planning to cut off remedies that were in place in cases tha sheady in the system."

Foes of the ballot measure were clearly under the impression that losing the initiative fight wouldn't derail important Uni Competition Law cases already on the docket.

The Environmental Protection Information Center, based in Garberville, Calif., sued Pacific Lumber Co., a unit of Maxx on election day to ensure that its case would get a hearing under the old law.

The suit, which alleges that Pacific Lumber violated state logging laws by harming fish and animal habitat, couldn't be fi under the revised law. Under Proposition 64, plaintiffs in unfair-competition cases must prove that they have personally loss or injury because of a company's behavior — and the plaintiffs in the Pacific Lumber case are essentially fish and oth wildlife.

Pacific Lumber, which has yet to file an answer to the complaint, said Thursday that it intended to challenge the lawsuit ground that it was invalidated by Proposition 64.

The businesses backing Proposition 64 always intended to apply the new law to pending cases and purposely chose not t voters, said Fred Hiestand, general counsel for the Civil Justice Assn. of California, a tort-reform lobbying group that he





Prop. 64 Retroactivity - The Courts Weigh In:

- Trial courts split on the issue:
 - Judges of the same court came to differing conclusions
- Orange County:
 - Americare v. Medical Capital Corp., Orange Cty. Super Ct. –
 Prop. 64 does not apply to pending claims
 - California Alliance v. Ensign Group, Orange Cty. Super Ct. –
 Prop. 64 does apply to pending claims
- Los Angeles County:
 - Teachers for Truth in Advertising v. Spirit Sciences USA, Inc.,
 Los Angeles Cty. Super. Ct. Prop. 64 does not apply to pending claims
 - Dohrmann v. Tosco Refinery Co., Los Angeles County Super.
 Ct. Prop. 64 does apply to pending claims





Prop. 64 Retroactivity - The Courts Weigh In:

- Appellate courts also split:
 - 1st District NO: Californians for Disability Rights v. Mervyn's LLC, 126 Cal.App.4th 386 (2005)
 - 1st District YES: Schwartz v. Visa Int'l Service Assn., 132 Cal.App.4th 1452 (Sept. 28, 2005)
 - 2nd District NO: Consumer Advocacy Group v.
 Kintetsu Enterprises, 129 Cal. App. 4th 540 (2005)
 - 2nd District YES: Branick v. Downey Sav. & Loan Assn., 126 Cal. App. 4th 828 (2005)





Prop. 64 Retroactivity – The Courts Weigh In:

4th District – YES:

- Benson v. Kwikset Corp., 126 Cal.App.4th 887 (2005)
- *Bivens v. Corel Corp.*, 126 Cal.App.4th 887 (2005)
- *Lytwyn v. Fry's Electronics*, 126 Cal.App.4th 1455 (2005)
- Frey v. TransUnion, 127 Cal.App.4th 986 (2005)
- Thornton v. Career Training Center, 128 Cal.App.4th 116 (2005)
- Schulz v. Neovi Data Corp., 129 Cal.App.4th 1 (2005)
- Huntingdon Life Sciences, Inc. v. Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty USA, Inc., 129 Cal.App.4th 1228 (2005)





Prop. 64 Retroactivity – The Supreme Court Acts:

- April 27, 2005: Supreme Court grants review in multiple cases
- Review granted outright:
 - Californians for Disability Rights v. Mervyn's LLC, 126
 Cal.App.4th 386 (2005)
 - Branick v. Downey Sav. & Loan Assn., 126 Cal. App.4th 828 (2005)





Prop. 64 Retroactivity – The Supreme Court Acts:

- "Grant and hold":
 - Benson v. Kwikset Corp., 126 Cal.App.4th 887 (2005)
 - *Bivens v. Corel Corp.*, 126 Cal.App.4th 887 (2005)
 - Lytwyn v. Fry's Electronics, 126 Cal.App.4th 1455 (2005)
 - Thornton v. Career Training Center, 128 Cal. App. 4th 116 (2005)
 - Schulz v. Neovi Data Corp., 129 Cal.App.4th 1 (2005)
 - Consumer Advocates Group, Inc. v. Kintetsu Enterprises,
 129 Cal.App.4th 540 (2005)





Prop. 64 Retroactivity – The Supreme Court Acts:

- Depublished:
 - Frey v. TransUnion, 127 Cal.App.4th 986 (2005)





Prop. 64 Retroactivity – In The Meantime

- Plaintiffs seek leave to amend to satisfy the new requirements
- Defendants continue to move for judgment on the pleadings
- Supreme Court probably won't rule until next year





What Plaintiffs Will Do:

- Injured People Will File Suit:
 - The easiest way to deal with the amendments is to join a plaintiff who did, in fact, "lose money or property"
 - Far easier than litigating whether Prop. 64 should be interpreted to import Article III standing requirements, or whether associational standing still exists

- The UCL cases that are brought will be stronger.
- Judicial and public hostility will be less frequent and less virulent
 - No more cases like Benson v.
 Kwikset (opinion before rehearing)





What Plaintiffs Will Do:

- Large associational plaintiffs will become involved.
- If courts rule that associational standing is unchanged by Prop. 64, we may see a lot more large associations filing UCL actions on behalf of their members.

- Result could be similar to what we saw after the PSLRA
- There was a temporary lull in new filings, but now, securities defendants are facing large, well-capitalized plaintiffs such as pension funds
- Are the defendants really better off?





What Plaintiffs Will Do:

- They will all seek formal class certification
 - Easiest way to deal with the new class action requirement is simply to add class allegations to the complaint.
 - Drawback cost of formal class notice
 - Drawback problem of the Class Action Fairness Act

- Broader monetary relief may be recoverable.
- Defeating class certification can be difficult and expensive.
- Class actions require class notice, which often serves only to publicize the defendant's wrongdoing and generate public support for the case.
- Class actions cannot be settled or dismissed without court approval (Rule of Court 1859). A certified class has greater settlement leverage.
- Res judicata problem
- Possible CAFA implications





What Plaintiffs Will Do:

- Add causes of action
 - Now that an injured plaintiff will be filing suit and seeking formal anyway, you may as well add other claims.
 - CLRA
 - A lot of UCL cases involve fact patterns that would fall within the ambit of the CLRA
 - Punitive damages
 - Mandatory attorneys' fees (other than CCP section 1021.5)
- What other causes of action might we see added?

- Damages are recoverable under the CLRA, not just restitution. Civ. Code §1780(a)(1); Broughton v. Cigna Healthplans, 21 Cal.4th 1066, 1077 (1999).
- CLRA includes penalty provisions for wrongful conduct aimed at senior citizens or disabled persons. Civ. Code §1780(b).
- Punitive damages are recoverable. Civ. Code §1780(a)(4).
- CLRA's attorney's fees provision is much stronger than Code of Civil Procedure §1021.5 (the private attorney general doctrine). Civ. Code §1780(d).
- CLRA's class certification requirement is less stringent because "superiority" is not an element. Civ. Code §1781(b); *Massachusetts Mutual Life Ins. Co. v. Superior Court*, 97 Cal.App.4th 1282, 1287 (2002); *Hogya v. Superior Court*, 75 Cal.App.3d 122, 134-35 (1977).
- Will more cases go to trial?
 - If plaintiff's attorneys work harder to identify plaintiffs and build cases, will they demand more to settle? Will defendants be willing to pay?
- But Settlements may bring preclusive effect that is not available under straight § 17200 case. So defendants may be willing to pay more.



UCL v. CLRA



	UCL	CLRA
Compensatory Damages	No	Yes, minimum \$1,000 per class action
Attorney Fees	Code Civ. Proc §1021.5 (if it applies)	Civ. Code §1780(d) (mandatory to a prevailing plaintiff)
Punitive Damages	No	Yes



The Changes Wrought By Prop. 64 Bring in the Public Prosecutors



"Plaintiff Lawyers Hunt for Partners: Needing Public Faces for Private AG Suits, Lawyers Turn to DAs, City Attorneys," *The Recorder*, February 25, 2005

Plaintiff Lawyers Hunt for Partners

Justin Scheck The Recorder 02-25-2005

Plaintiff lawyers seeking public partners won't get much help from the state's DAs. But city attorneys remain open to offers.

The plaintiff bar has been looking to team up with public prosecutors since the November passage of Proposition 64 limited private attorney general suits.

With Attorney General Bill Lockyer tepid to the idea of collaborating, the private lawyers have narrowed their focus to city attorneys and DAs.

Reed Kathrein, a partner with Lerach Coughlin Stoia Geller Rudman & Robbins, said that he's spoken with some district and city attorneys about teaming up, but would not go into details, including their responses.

Owen Clements, a deputy city attorney in San Francisco, said "three or four firms" have approached him since November. "I don't want to talk about specific people who have floated ideas to us, but people have floated ideas to us, and we'll consider them on a case-by-case basis," he said.

Kathrein and other plaintiff attorneys say such arrangements would be mutually beneficial. They say the public offices could take on more suits -- and presumably collect more penalties -- if private lawyers did much of the work.

They point out that a lesser-known portion of Prop 64 gives local offices prosecuting unfair business competition claims a share of any resulting civil penalties.

"I don't know if that's a blessing or a disease," said Gale Filter, a deputy director of the California District Attorneys Association who deals with consumer issues.

He said DAs don't want the same PR problems that plague plaintiff attorneys. "You can certainly see what would happen if you brought in private partners to do 17200 litigation. It could look like a way to generate revenue," Filter said.

More problematic, said several DAs, is the prospect of ceding public power -- "handing over the badge," as several put it.

"If someone were to ask me, I'd be against partnering," said Patricia Pummill, a San Diego deputy district attorney. Pummill is one of several consumer protection specialists who have been swapping e-mails in recent weeks warning of the dangers of working with private attorneys. Other DAs echoed

"I would think it's a bad idea personally. Prosecutors themselves have an ethical standard to take into consideration. We don't take our cases on contingency," said Michael Yraceburn, a Kern County deputy DA.

"We're there to level the playing field, to make sure businesses that are bud actors are not taking advantage of good businesses. I don't know that the private attorneys have the same priorities,"

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The Changes Wrought By Prop. 64 Bring in the Public Prosecutors



The UCL Before Prop. 64:

- Prop. 64 does not impact the standing of public prosecutors.
- Provides that funds recovered shall be earmarked for consumer protection (nobody asked the public prosecutors whether they wanted this).
- Public prosecutors can intervene in pending litigation or retain private class action attorneys to prosecute actions on their behalf (e.g., Judge Sabraw's decision in the FATE cases contemplated this).

- Public prosecutors can recover mandatory civil penalties under the UCL up to \$2,500 per violation.
 (Bus. & Prof. Code §17206(a).
- A public prosecutor is a more threatening opponent.
- A public prosecution is more likely to generate press attention and bad publicity.
- But public prosecutors have expressed concerns that their funding will be reduced because of the perception that they can earn the money needed to run their offices from UCL litigation.



Prop. 64 Does Much of What it Was Intended to Do



Fewer UCL Cases will be Filed

Don't know yet if this will actually pan out

No More "Frivolous" Cases

- Most plaintiffs will have not only had dealings with the defendant, but will also have suffered actual harm.
- But how many truly "frivolous" cases were there to begin with??

No More Trevor Law Group Tactics

- They were the ones who really abused the law and who should have been more careful about what they wished for.
- But a simple amendment requiring court approval of all settlements in UCL cases would have accomplished the same result as Prop. 64.





Questions





Thanks for coming.



Hon. James P. Kleinberg

 Judge, Superior Court of California, County of Santa Clara Judge Kleinberg was appointed to the bench in 2002 and re-elected (unopposed) in 2004. He has been on the executive committee of the Litigation Section of the State Bar of California since 2002. Judge Kleinberg received his B.A. from the University of Pittsburgh in 1964 and his J.D. from the University of Michigan Law School in 1967. For over 19 years he was a partner at McCutchen, Doyle, Brown & Enersen LLP (now Bingham McCutchen, LLP) in their San Jose, Palo Alto and San Francisco Offices.

Michael Sweet

 Michael Sweet is a senior litigation associate in Winston & Strawn's San Francisco office who concentrates his practice in complex business litigation and political law. He represents clients in state and federal courts, including in actions brought under the UCL. Prior to practicing law, Mr. Sweet worked as a consultant on national and statewide political campaigns, including the 1992 presidential campaign of former California Governor Jerry Brown. He is a community activist and currently serves as the vice chair of the Rincon-Point/South Beach Citizens' Advisory Committee to the S.F. Redevelopment Agency.

Kimberly Kralowec

 Kimberly A. Kralowec is Of Counsel to The Furth Firm LLP, a plaintiffs' class action firm in San Francisco. Ms. Kralowec has extensive experience litigating UCL actions on behalf of both plaintiffs and defendants, and recently argued the Prop. 64 retroactivity question before the California Court of Appeal (First Appellate District, Division One). Before joining The Furth Firm, she was a partner with Severson & Werson, a class action defense firm in San Francisco. She is the author of *The UCL Practitioner*, the first and only weblog devoted to UCL law and practice (http://www.uclpractitioner.com).