



AAJ moves annual convention to Bay Area

The American Association for Justice (AAJ formerly known as ATLA) has announced a last-minute move for its annual convention: from San Diego to San Francisco, on the same dates, July 25-29th. With less than six months to go before the annual convention in July, officers for AAJ made a critical decision to move the convention from the Grand Hyatt in San Diego to the Hilton San Francisco.

The Grand Hyatt is owned by Douglas Manchester, a San-Diego businessman who donated heavily in support of Prop 8, the successful bill to ban gay marriage in California.

According to the AAJ Web site,

“A labor/LGBT coalition has picketed the Manchester Hyatt Hotel in San Diego where the convention was to be held. This coalition has repeatedly told our members in writing and verbally that they would picket if AAJ held its convention there. We made numerous attempts to resolve the issue including meeting with the organizers of the boycott in San Diego.

Unfortunately, no other hotel or meeting space suitable for AAJ was available in San Diego. After exploring all possibilities, we made the difficult

decision to move our convention to San Francisco on these new dates.”

If you are not familiar with AAJ, as a plaintiff attorney you should be. AAJ is the sole entity fighting federal tort reform legislation that potentially bars our clients from their day in court. AAJ

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cannot continue these efforts without your financial support and active participation. To register now for the AAJ Annual Convention or for more information on AAJ, visit the Web site www.atla.org.

Special events

• CAOC and AAJ co-host reception at the Asian Art Museum on July 26th

Since California will be fortunate enough to host AAJ’s Annual Convention in San Francisco from July 24-29, 2009, we hope that many of Consumer Attor-

neys of California (CAOC) and AAJ’s California member firms, especially those in San Francisco, attend and host the CAOC Reception on Sunday, July 26th in San Francisco at the Asian Art Museum. If you would like to be a sponsor, please e-mail Laurie@caoc.org.

• Women’s Caucus – A Joint AAJ and CAOC Networking Mixer on Friday, July 24th in San Francisco.

For the first time CAOC and AAJ Women’s Caucuses will host a joint reception in San Francisco on Friday, July 24th from 5-9 p.m. Thank you to the following law firms for sponsoring this event: Special thanks to CAOC Board member Shawn Khorrami at Khorrami, Pollard & Abir in Los Angeles; Waters Kraus & Paul in San Francisco, Dallas, Baltimore and Los Angeles; Miriam Bourdette (CAOC Board member) at Bourdette & Partners in Visalia, CA; and Yvonne Flaherty at Lockridge Grindal Nauen in Minneapolis, Minnesota. This promises to be a special event, and we look forward to sharing it with our fellow AAJ members. You must RSVP for this event by e-mailing Christy@caoc.org, and you must be an AAJ member to attend (directions and information about the event located at www.caoc.org).