

## Preface to 2025 Edition

2024 brought some unusual changes to the California motion practice world. The emergency rules related to the COVID-19 pandemic, which tolled certain statutes of limitations and litigation deadlines in cases pending during the pandemic, have come full circle. Multiple Court of Appeal opinions were issued in 2024, which interpreted the COVID tolling rules and applied them, most importantly, to motions to dismiss discussed in Chapter 10. Also, an important, though questionably significant change to the timing rules for summary judgment motions (Chapters 8 and 16) takes effect January 1, 2025. The legislature added six days to the pretrial notice requirement for filing a summary judgment or summary adjudication motion (75 to 81 days), and added six days to the opposition deadline and reply deadline. The Section 437c amendments also specified that no party may bring more than one summary judgment motion without leave of court. The legislature also clarified an issue related to motions for enforcement of settlement (Chapter 12). Case authority had developed rules and exceptions interpreting the “signed by the parties” requirement for a written agreement to be enforceable under section 664.6. A 2021 amendment allowed attorney signatures to apply for settlement enforcement, and a 2024 case applied the attorney exception to oral settlements. A 2024 amendment, effective January 1, 2025, provides a streamlined procedure for enforcement by way of a notice of conditional settlement followed by an Order to Show Cause issued by the court.

In addition to the usual plethora of cases interpreting arbitration motions and petitions (Chapter 9), in particular preemption under the Federal Arbitration Act and unconscionability issues, these were the major updates to California motion practice in 2024.