

The Rutter Group California Practice Guide: Civil Trials and Evidence

What's New or Updated 2026

For the 2026 Edition of ***Civil Trials & Evidence***, the authors have added new material and/or updated existing material based on new case law and statutory developments, including, but not limited to, the following subjects:

- Challenging the judge, including bad faith “blanket” CCP §170.6 challenges subject to judicial scrutiny
- Peremptory challenges and challenging prospective jurors for actual bias
- Competency to testify
- Hearsay exceptions
- Waiver of privilege
- Rebuttable presumptions affecting the burden of proof
- Examination of expert witnesses and expert opinion testimony
- Statements of decision, including significant amendments to CCP §632 eff. 1/1/27
- Attorney fees, including “private attorney general” fee awards, Civ.C. §1717 fee recovery, and fee awards in Welf. & Inst.C. §15657.5 actions
- Motions for new trial

Please refer to the “Update highlights and filing (PDF)” for a more comprehensive summary of the most significant developments in this edition.