

Introduction to the 2026 Edition of the California Civil Courtroom Handbook & Desktop Reference

The 2026 edition of the California Civil Courtroom Handbook and Desktop Reference has been updated to reflect the most recent case law, statutes, and rules of court.

Highlights of the 2026 edition include:

- In civil cases involving a civil rights violation, actions for the civil commitment of a person, or civil cases for damages arising from a hate crime, Code of Civil Procedure section 231.7 now applies. (CCP § 231.7(k)) The statute places a greater burden on a party objecting to use of a peremptory challenge than under the traditional *Batson/Wheeler* approach.
- *EpicientRx, Inc. v. Superior Court*, where the California Supreme Court held that California does not have a strong public policy against forum selection clauses or agreements to litigate in a jurisdiction that does not recognize the same civil jury trial right, disapproving cases to the contrary.
- *Hohenshelt v. Superior Court*, where the California Supreme Court disapproved a line of cases requiring strict compliance with Code of Civil Procedure section's 30-day deadline for paying arbitration fees.
- *Bean v. City of Thousand Oaks*, holding a codefendant with an adverse interest has standing to oppose a motion for summary judgment whether it has filed a cross-complaint or not.
- *Agnone v. Agnone*, holding a court may invoke its independent authority to impose sanctions under Code of Civil Procedure sections 2023.010 and 2023.030 only when confronted with an unusual form of discovery abuse, or a pattern of abuse, not already addressed by a relevant sanctions provision.
- *Ahmed v. Collect Access, LLC*, holding the requirement of showing a meritorious defense on a motion for equitable relief from judgment due to extrinsic fraud or mistake does not apply where the asserted grounds for the motion are that the defendant was never served with process.