



California Special Interest Groups Information Sheet

Peace Officers Research Association of California (PORAC)

Although it is not as well known as the California Correctional Peace Officers Association (CCPOA), the Peace Officers Research Association of California (PORAC, 2011) led in expenditures in 2005 with more than \$100,000 more than CCPOA. Founded in 1953, this group represents over 890 associations with more than 62,000 members. It claims to be the largest statewide association representing public safety personnel in the country. According to its website, its mission “is to maintain a leadership role in organizing, empowering and representing the interests of rank and file peace officers.” In addition to this overall goal PORAC aims to “conduct research, to provide education and training, to define and enhance standards for professionalism.” The association was closely involved in the November 2010 election and endorsed Jerry Brown for Governor in addition to many democratic candidates in the Assembly and Senate. PORAC also took a position on several key propositions, including urging a No vote on Proposition 19 (legalizing marijuana) (PORAC, 2011).

PORAC’s main legislative advocate is Randy Perry (2010). In 2011, Perry was working for Aaron Read and Associates, whose clients included AT&T, CDF Firefighters, The San Francisco Police Officers Association and TASER International. At that time, Perry had 27 years of experience as a legislative advocate. For 15 years he had worked as the main advocate for PORAC. Perry has written and lobbied for labor and workers' compensation laws as well as legislation to increase penalties for crimes against the public. Perry has a Bachelors Degree in Political Science.

PORAC has lobbied for tougher drunk driving laws including the use of ignition interlock devices, a device that prevents a vehicle from starting unless the driver first blows into it. The association was also instrumental in passing harsher laws for sex offenders, including Megan’s Law and Jessica’s Law. In 2010, PORAC was pushing for the passage of Chelsea’s Law, legislation that could send people convicted of a sex crime against a minor to jail for life on their first offense.

California Police Chiefs Association (CPCA)

The California Police Chiefs Association (CPCA) gave a total of \$69,000 to various political campaigns in 2005. They were established in 1966, and in 2010 consisted of 16 board members, all of whom were Police Chiefs representing different regions of the State. Each Police Chief acts as a liaison between the association and the law enforcement community in his or her local area. CPCA’s stated mission is to “Provide Programs, Services, and Representation that Serves the Interest and Responsibilities of California's Municipal Police Chiefs” (CPCA, 2010).

In 2010, the main CPCA legislative advocate was John Lovell. The Law Offices of John Lovell claim that during its 20 years of existence, 99 percent of the bills it has lobbied for have been signed into law in the California State Legislature. It also claims that no bills it has opposed have ever been enacted. Lovell also represented The California Narcotics Officers Association, The California Peace Officers Association, The California Association of Code Enforcement Officers, and the California Correctional Supervisors Organization in 2010. PORAC have also represented such famous people and corporations as Donald Trump, DuPont Company, Ernest Gallo and the Gallo Winery, the Checker Cab Company, along with the Los Angeles District Attorney, California Welfare Fraud Investigators Association and the California Peace Officers' Association (John Lovell, 2010). In 2008, CPCA joined other law enforcement groups in waging a campaign to defeat proposition 5. Also in 2008, CPCA gave \$5,000 to the campaign for People Against Proposition 5 Deception (Follow the Money, 2010). (This number does not include independent expenditures.) In 2010, CPCA backed the newly formed Public Safety First campaign in an effort to defeat a marijuana legalization bill on the 2010 November ballot.

California Narcotics Officers Association (CNOA)

One of the clients of John Lovell (as noted above), the California Narcotics Officers Association (CNOA, 2010) has been heavily involved in lobbying activities related to criminal justice issues. Founded in 1964, they are “the largest non-profit Training Association in California, with nearly 7,000 members.” Their mission is to “Provide high quality training for law enforcement professionals.” (CNOA, 2010). Over the years, CNOA has strongly opposed needle exchange programs including a 2003 bill called AB 136 and an earlier version AB 518.

CNOA joined the CPCA and other in helping to defeat Proposition 5, a 2008 ballot initiative that would have shortened parole for methamphetamine dealers and other drug felons from three years to six months. CNOA helped to brand Proposition 5 as the “Drug Dealers Bill of Rights.”

CNOA maintains that marijuana is not medicine under any circumstances, calling studies supporting medicinal cannabis “unscientific” and “poorly researched.” In 2010, CNOA campaigned to defeat Proposition 19 for the legalization of marijuana.

California Bail Agents Association (CBAA)/Golden State Bail Agents Association (GSBAA)

These two groups explicitly lobby for increases in the fee detainees must pay for bail posting services. The California Department of Insurance regulates bail premiums, which are set as a percentage of the court ordered bail. In 2010, California set bail premiums at 10 percent. The Golden State Bail Agents Association’s (GSBAA) stated mission is to “promote the mutual benefit of its members by disseminating information among members of the Association about issues of import to the profession and to monitor and attempt to influence governmental decisions that impact the profession” and to:

inform citizens and California Government regarding the benefits of the private surety bail bond industry, increase the market share of private surety bail bonds through the reduction of un-secured pre-trial release throughout the State of California, represent the interests of the professional bail agents of California,

work to improve business conditions and promote professionalism and integrity throughout California's bail industry, provide advocacy for private surety bail bonds by promoting legislation that will insure that our industry can provide its essential service of "*Insuring That Defendants Appear In Court.*" (GSBAA, 2010).

An almost identical mission is expressed by the California Bail Agents Association (CBAA, 2010).

Kathy Lynch is their legislative advocate. She founded Lynch and Associates in 1985. According to their website: "We are a nonpartisan advocacy firm that enjoys a long-standing bipartisan, successful and hardworking reputation for professional work among legislators, regulators and the administration" (Lynch and Associates, 2010). Lynch and Associates (2010) provides a full range of advocacy services to the clients including but not limited to monitoring, lobbying, coalition building, consulting, regulatory and procurement advocacy."

CBAA has lobbied hard to oppose what is referred to as "Credit Card Bail." They argue that credit card companies are operating as bail agents without a state license. They have also been opposed to government funded pre-trial bail. Bail Bond associations are facing increased scrutiny as publicly funded bail options are being explored across the country. The United States and the Philippines are the only two nations where pre-trial bail systems are dominated by the private sector (Liptak, 2008).

In 2008, GSBAA gave \$40,000 to the campaign for Yes On 6 Committee To Take Back Our Neighborhoods (Follow the Money, 2010). (This number does not include independent expenditures.) In 2005 CBAA spent \$50,000 in lobbying efforts, while GSBAA spent \$15,000. In addition, the California Bail Insurance Group, spent \$55,000 (a Google search was unsuccessful in finding this group).

California District Attorney Association (CDAA)

The California District Attorneys Association (CDAA) was founded in 1974. In 2010, the CDAA had about 2,500 members and sponsored more than 30 special interest committees. These committees are staffed with prosecutors who review bills, provide technical assistance, and lobby the Legislature. CDAA also advocates for and against propositions during the initiative process. CDAA maintains that "as a matter of policy, CDAA does not contribute to political campaigns, attend fund raisers or endorse candidates." (CDAA, 2010).

Its primary legislative advocate is Cory Salzillo who has worked for CDAA since 2007. According to a story appearing in Truthout.org Salzillo testified against Assembly Bill 999 in the Assembly's Public Safety Committee, where the bill passed in a 5 to 2 vote along party lines on April 28, 2009 (Sandronsky 2009). The bill was to eliminate "time adds" thereby reducing the amount of time youth spend in the Division of Juvenile Facilities. It was supported by the group "Books Not Bars" promoted by the Ella Baker Center (2010).

CDAAs focus in 2010 was on criminal justice legislation including elder abuse, child abuse, and child pornography. While CDAAs says that it does not contribute to political campaigns it does openly advocate for legislation and its endorsement carries considerable weight. CDAAs supported the voter initiative in 1977 that reinstated the Death Penalty. It has since opposed attempts to characterize capital punishment as cruel and unusual punishment. In 2004, CDAAs opposed Proposition 66 which would have reformed the three strikes law. CDAAs awarded Governor Schwarzenegger the "Fiat Justitia Ruat Coelum" award for his leadership and work to defeat Proposition 66. The ballot measure would have required a third strike felony to be a violent and/or serious crime to mandate a sentence of 25 years to life (Smart Voter, 2010). In 2008, CDAAs spent \$5,000 on the campaign for People Against The Proposition 5 Deception (This number does not include independent expenditures.) and spent \$136,000 in lobbying efforts (Follow the Money, 2010).

American Civil Liberties Union of Northern California (ACLU NC)

The American Civil Liberties Union of Northern California (ACLU NC) is the largest of the 53 ACLU affiliates nationwide. Founded in 1935, it has over 55,000 members and employs 50 staff members. The group has offices in San Francisco, San Jose, and a legislative office in Sacramento. ACLU NCs stated mission is to "preserve and guarantee the protections of the Constitution's Bill of Rights." (ACLU NC, 2010). Their fulltime legislative advocate is Francisco Lobaco (Martindale.com, 2010).

The ACLU NC frequently opposes the death penalty based on budgetary concerns, arguing that it costs California more to execute a person than it does to incarcerate them. In 2008, it also argued that Californians could save money and lives by supporting Proposition 5. It also sponsored SB 1331, The Racial Justice Act, a bill trying to ensure that race is not a factor in the Death Penalty. According to its website it actively supported SB 1370, which prohibits retaliation against school employees who act to protect a student's free speech rights, which passed. Several bills it has supported were either defeated or vetoed, including SB 1589 (prohibiting conviction based on the uncorroborated testimony of jailhouse informants); AB 2937 (which would have ensured that the wrongfully convicted have the same access to resources that ex-offenders receive); SB 1590 (which would have reformed interrogation and eyewitness identification procedures, respectively).

In 2008, they donated \$87,000 to the No on Prop 8 Campaign For Marriage Equality. In 2008, they also donated \$67,000 to the No on Proposition 4 campaign (Follow the Money, 2010).

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