

California Service
Station &
Automotive Repair
Association

1605 Fourth St., Suite C
Santa Rosa, CA 95404

CSSARA

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AUTO\$ENSE

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<http://www.cssara.org>

To be removed from our contact list, please call the CSSARA office.

CSSARA'S NEW GENERAL COUNSEL

On May 21, 2008 CSSARA's Board of Directors at its monthly scheduled board meeting voted to appoint the law firm of Perez & Miller as its new general counsel. Rick Perez, managing partner, addressed the CSSARA board regarding his firm's qualifications; with Rick was associate Bill King. Both Perez and King have experience in service station litigation, commercial/real estate litigation and consumer litigation.

As a service to CSSARA members Mr. Perez will be producing a newsletter periodically related to legal points of view that may be of interest to CSSARA members. Additional benefits will include a reduced hourly rate to members and the ability to discuss legal matters with a law firm who specializes in both service station and industry related matters. If you need legal assistance contact Rick Perez or Bill King at 925-284-7788 or visit CSSARA's website at www.cssara.org to link to the Perez & Miller site for more information on the firm.

Jim Zalpiz of JLZ Business Services who maintains CSSARA's website has recently updated our site and made many improvements. Please visit our new website.

Dealers need to read Rick Perez's first newsletter even if your not a ConocoPhillips dealer you will find it of value.

Go to www.cssara.org, click on favorites to save the site for easy reference. Then go to it weekly to review current or past Auto\$ense articles, the Perez & Miller newsletter, or other products and services offered CSSARA members.

HANDS-FREE CELLULAR LAW

Effective July 1, 2008 under the California Wireless Telephone Automobile Safety Act, California drivers will be prohibited from using handheld wireless telephones while driving unless the devices are configured to allow hands-free listening and talking. Drivers under the age of 18 are prohibited from using wireless telephones while operating a motor vehicle, even if equipped with a hands free device and

from using "mobile service devices," such as Blackberries, pagers, and laptops. Violations of the ACT are infractions, and violators will be subject to a fine of **\$20 for the first offense and \$50 for each subsequent offense.**

Although this violation is a reportable offense to California DMV, no violation point will be assigned to the driver's license. However, the company's liability may be compromised should they allow employees to use cell phones illegally.

Drivers are allowed to use a wireless telephone for emergency purposes, such as an emergency call to a law enforcement agency, health care provider, or fire department. Emergency services professionals, who use a wireless telephone while operating an authorized emergency vehicle in the course of their duties, are exempt from the Act.

School bus and transit vehicle drivers are exempt from the Act, as are drivers over the age of 18 driving a motor vehicle on private property.

In California, it may be very well be construed that a "hands-free device" such as Bluetooth or earpiece/microphone wire may be considered to be safety equipment, thus under Cal OSHA regulations, to be paid for by the employer.

REMINDER!!

CSSARA offers the following to their members:

Dental Plans: Delta Dental, PMI Deltacare, Dental Health Services

Medical Plans: Kaiser, PacifiCare, **Health Net****

Contact: Marsha Enciso 707-545-1416 for further information

****Open Enrollment for Health Net started June 1st**

NEED SAFETY PROGRAM INFORMATION OR HAVE SAFETY QUESTIONS?

Contact: CSSARA, Lynne DeCota or Marsha Enciso

Phone: 707-545-6376

Email: LDeCota@cssara.org/MEnciso@cssara.org