

## **Department of Consumer Affairs Update**

### **On behalf of the DCA Executive Team**

We are excited to share that Chief Deputy Director Christine Lally has been named the Acting Director of the Department of Consumer Affairs. She enters this role following the retirement of DCA Director Kimberly Kirchmeyer.

Director Lally brings extensive experience to the position, having served in multiple leadership roles within the Department since 2013. She will lead DCA in this position until a director is formally appointed by the Governor's Office.

### **Governor's Activities - Renewal Fee Postponement**

Last year, Governor Newsom took action to assist licensees affected by the Los Angeles fires and swiftly issued an Executive Order to allow a one-year postponement of license renewal fees that were due for renewal between January and June 2025 for survivors impacted by the fires.

Last Month, DCA began sending notices to licensees who chose this postponement option with a reminder about the one-year postponement and renewal fee due dates.

Licensees with license types in the Breeze system can pay these renewal fees through their online account. Those with license types not in the Breeze system may submit their payment via mail.

### **Governor's Reorganization Plan**

Last year, Governor Newsom released his proposed 2025-26 State budget, which included a proposal to split DCA's oversight Agency - the Business, Consumer Services, and Housing Agency – into two new state agencies: the California Housing and Homelessness Agency AND the Business and Consumer Services Agency.

After public hearings and review by the Little Hoover Commission and the Legislature, the Governor's Reorganization Plan was enacted on July 5, 2025.

The new Business and Consumer Services Agency will be responsible for consumer affairs, licensing and enforcement, and the Department of Consumer Affairs, which will be among the eight (8) departments in this new agency. The two new agencies will officially become operative on July 1, 2026.

DCA continues to participate in multiple Agency workgroups on the logistics required to transition to the new agency and will continue to keep Board and Bureau leadership apprised throughout the months ahead.

### **Travel Reminders**

To best serve the public, it is incumbent upon all of us to ensure that we are being fiscally prudent in our decisions, especially when traveling for Board business.

DCA would like to remind members and staff to evaluate if a rental car is always necessary versus ride-sharing services. Carpooling is also highly encouraged

when renting vehicles. We know that there may be new travel costs Board Members are experiencing as well, such as baggage charges, so please keep receipts to ensure that you can be reimbursed.

### **Form 700 Statement of Economic Interests.**

As a reminder, Form 700 Statement of Economic Interests must be filed within 30 days of assuming or leaving your appointment and annually by April 1.

This year's annual filing period covers the prior calendar year (January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025).

The deadline for filing is **Wednesday, April 1, 2026**. To ensure compliance, DCA requests that Form 700 filers complete the e-filing by **Friday, March 20, 2026**.

DCA Board Members MUST file Form 700s through the FPPC's online portal. Paper filings will **not** be accepted.

You should have received an email from FPPC with instructions on how to file your Annual Form 700. If you have any questions, please contact Board and Bureau Relations at [MemberRelations@dca.ca.gov](mailto:MemberRelations@dca.ca.gov).

### **Training Updates for Board Members:**

#### **Unconscious Bias Training**

DCA's training unit has developed Unconscious Bias Training specifically for Board Members. This training will be added to members' LMS accounts and incorporated into the onboarding process for all newly appointed Board Members.

#### **Board Member Orientation (BMOT) – 2026 Training Dates**

Board Member Orientation or BMOT is an all-day virtual training that DCA will offer on April 1, June 24, and October 21. This training must be completed by Board members within one year of appointment and re-appointment to the board. Please register for the first available date to be in compliance. Board Members can register for BMOT using DCA's Learning Management System, or LMS.

If you have questions or need assistance accessing these trainings, please contact Board and Bureau Relations at [MemberRelations@dca.ca.gov](mailto:MemberRelations@dca.ca.gov).

Thank you all for your dedicated service to protect California's consumers.