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### **GOVERNOR DAVIS BEGINS SIGNING BILLS (September 17, 2002)**

On September 10, 2002, Governor Davis signed a bill (SB 688) which, while not directly impacting employment issues, should be of interest to many California employers.

Under this new law, employees bringing claims falling under the "personal injury" statute of limitations will have two years, instead of one year, to assert their claim. This means that claims for wrongful discharge in violation of public policy, infliction of emotional distress and defamation will now be subject to a longer statute of limitations. SB 688 will take effect January 1, 2003.

SB 688 also increase the amount of notice a defendant must give for summary judgment motions from 28 to 75 days. This is of special interest to employers because these motions are particularly useful in employment litigation to eliminate meritless claims. This new time limit, combined with the strict scheduling practices in most state courts, may result in some meritless cases unnecessarily going all the way to trial.

This E-Update was authored by [Matthew Schenck](#). If you have any questions about this E-Update, please contact the author or any PPS&C attorney.

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