

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 2684

**Introduced by Committee on Judiciary (Feuer (Chair), Atkins,
Dickinson, Huber, Monning, and Wieckowski)**

March 12, 2012

An act to amend Section 1033.5 of the Code of Civil Procedure,
relating to civil actions.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2684, as introduced, Committee on Judiciary. Civil actions:
interpreter costs.

Existing law provides that in a civil action, the prevailing party, as defined, is generally entitled to recover specified costs in an action or proceeding. These costs include court interpreter fees when the court has authorized a court interpreter for an indigent person represented by a legal services project serving indigent persons. Existing law also defines a pro bono attorney as an attorney, law firm, or legal corporation that undertakes representation of a party without charge to that party.

This bill would provide that court interpreter fees may also be recovered when the court has authorized a court interpreter for an indigent person who is represented by pro bono attorney, as defined.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 1033.5 of the Code of Civil Procedure
- 2 is amended to read:

- 1 1033.5. (a) The following items are allowable as costs under
2 Section 1032:
- 3 (1) Filing, motion, and jury fees.
 - 4 (2) Juror food and lodging while they are kept together during
5 trial and after the jury retires for deliberation.
 - 6 (3) Taking, video recording, and transcribing necessary
7 depositions including an original and one copy of those taken by
8 the claimant and one copy of depositions taken by the party against
9 whom costs are allowed, and travel expenses to attend depositions.
 - 10 (4) Service of process by a public officer, registered process
11 server, or other means, as follows:
 - 12 (A) When service is by a public officer, the recoverable cost is
13 the fee authorized by law at the time of service.
 - 14 (B) If service is by a process server registered pursuant to
15 Chapter 16 (commencing with Section 22350) of Division 8 of the
16 Business and Professions Code, the recoverable cost is the amount
17 actually incurred in effecting service, including, but not limited
18 to, a stakeout or other means employed in locating the person to
19 be served, unless those charges are successfully challenged by a
20 party to the action.
 - 21 (C) When service is by publication, the recoverable cost is the
22 sum actually incurred in effecting service.
 - 23 (D) When service is by a means other than that set forth in
24 subparagraph (A), (B), or (C), the recoverable cost is the lesser of
25 the sum actually incurred, or the amount allowed to a public officer
26 in this state for that service, except that the court may allow the
27 sum actually incurred in effecting service upon application pursuant
28 to paragraph (4) of subdivision (c).
 - 29 (5) Expenses of attachment including keeper's fees.
 - 30 (6) Premiums on necessary surety bonds.
 - 31 (7) Ordinary witness fees pursuant to Section 68093 of the
32 Government Code.
 - 33 (8) Fees of expert witnesses ordered by the court.
 - 34 (9) Transcripts of court proceedings ordered by the court.
 - 35 (10) Attorney's fees, when authorized by any of the following:
 - 36 (A) Contract.
 - 37 (B) Statute.
 - 38 (C) Law.
 - 39 (11) Court reporter fees as established by statute.

1 (12) Court interpreter fees for a qualified court interpreter
2 authorized by the court for an indigent person represented by a
3 qualified legal services project, as defined ~~by~~ *in* Section 6213 of
4 the Business and Professions Code *or a pro bono attorney as*
5 *defined in Section 8030.4 of the Business and Professions Code.*

6 (13) Models and blowups of exhibits and photocopies of exhibits
7 may be allowed if they were reasonably helpful to aid the trier of
8 fact.

9 (14) Any other item that is required to be awarded to the
10 prevailing party pursuant to statute as an incident to prevailing in
11 the action at trial or on appeal.

12 (b) The following items are not allowable as costs, except when
13 expressly authorized by law:

14 (1) Fees of experts not ordered by the court.

15 (2) Investigation expenses in preparing the case for trial.

16 (3) Postage, telephone, and photocopying charges, except for
17 exhibits.

18 (4) Costs in investigation of jurors or in preparation for voir
19 dire.

20 (5) Transcripts of court proceedings not ordered by the court.

21 (c) Any award of costs shall be subject to the following:

22 (1) Costs are allowable if incurred, whether or not paid.

23 (2) Allowable costs shall be reasonably necessary to the conduct
24 of the litigation rather than merely convenient or beneficial to its
25 preparation.

26 (3) Allowable costs shall be reasonable in amount.

27 (4) Items not mentioned in this section and items assessed upon
28 application may be allowed or denied in the court's discretion.

29 (5) When any statute of this state refers to the award of "costs
30 and attorney's fees," attorney's fees are an item and component
31 of the costs to be awarded and are allowable as costs pursuant to
32 subparagraph (B) of paragraph (10) of subdivision (a). Any claim
33 not based upon the court's established schedule of attorney's fees
34 for actions on a contract shall bear the burden of proof. Attorney's
35 fees allowable as costs pursuant to subparagraph (B) of paragraph
36 (10) of subdivision (a) may be fixed as follows: (A) upon a noticed
37 motion, (B) at the time a statement of decision is rendered, (C)
38 upon application supported by affidavit made concurrently with a
39 claim for other costs, or (D) upon entry of default judgment.
40 Attorney's fees allowable as costs pursuant to subparagraph (A)

1 or (C) of paragraph (10) of subdivision (a) shall be fixed either
2 upon a noticed motion or upon entry of a default judgment, unless
3 otherwise provided by stipulation of the parties.

4 Attorney's fees awarded pursuant to Section 1717 of the Civil
5 Code are allowable costs under Section 1032 of this code as
6 authorized by subparagraph (A) of paragraph (10) of subdivision
7 (a).

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