



Supreme Court of California
350 McAllister Street, San Francisco, CA 94102-4797
www.courts.ca.gov/supremecourt

NEWS RELEASE

Contact: [Cathal Conneely](mailto:Cathal.Conneely@courts.ca.gov), 415-865-7740

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Summary of Cases Accepted and Related Actions for Week of February 23, 2015

[This news release is issued to inform the public and the press of cases that the Supreme Court has accepted and of their general subject matter. The statement of the issue or issues in each case set out below does not necessarily reflect the view of the court, or define the specific issues that will be addressed by the court.]

#15-15 *Lafitte v. Robert Half Internat., Inc.*, S222996. (B249253; 231 Cal.App.4th 860; Los Angeles County Superior Court; BC321317. Petition for review after the Court of Appeal affirmed the judgment in a civil action. This case presents the following issue: Does *Serrano v. Priest* (1977) 20 Cal.3d 25 permit a trial court to anchor its calculation of a reasonable attorney's fees award in a class action on a percentage of the common fund recovered?

#15-16 *First California Bank v. McDonald*, S222858. (F067812; 231 Cal.App.4th 550; Kern County Superior Court; CV272097.) Petition for review after the Court of Appeal reversed the summary judgment in a civil action. The court ordered briefing deferred pending decision in *Coker v. JP Morgan Chase Bank, N.A.*, S213137 (#13-99), which presents the following issues: (1) Do the anti-deficiency protections in Code of Civil Procedure section 580b apply to a borrower who engages in a "short sale" of real property when the lender approved the sale and reconveyed its deed of trust to facilitate the sale on the condition that the borrower remain liable for any outstanding balance on the loan following the sale? (2) Does a borrower's request that the creditor release its security interest in real property to facilitate a short sale result in a waiver of the protection of the "security first" rule set forth in Code of Civil Procedure section 726?

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The Supreme Court of California is the state's highest court and its decisions are binding on all other California state courts. The court's primary role is to decide matters of statewide importance and to maintain uniformity in the law throughout California by reviewing matters from the six districts of the California Courts of Appeal and the fifty-eight county superior courts (the trial courts). Among its other duties, the court also decides all capital appeals and related matters and reviews both attorney and judicial disciplinary matters.