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# California Legislature

## Senate Committee on Judiciary

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### Senate Committee on Judiciary 2015 Year-End Oversight Report

#### **Attaining Equal Opportunity for Girls in California's Secondary Schools: How our Schools are Complying with Title IX - January 20, 2015.**

In January, with the assistance of the Legislative Women's Caucus, the Senate Judiciary Committee held an oversight hearing on the successes and shortcomings of Title IX in K-12 schools.

In the first panel, the Committee heard from representatives from the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights (OCR) and the California Department of Education (CDE). OCR outlined both the general federal law and the types of enforcement activities covered by their office. CDE reported that the most common findings leading to a violation of federal law is a lack of clarity regarding: (1) who the title IX coordinator is; and (2) what the complainant's appeal rights are.

The panel on school-sponsored athletics provided perspectives from the legal community, schools, and the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF). While Title IX has helped increase a lot of opportunity for women in school-sponsored athletics since the 1970s, the testimony showed that in K-12, girls of color frequently have the fewest sports opportunities, which is all the more significant considering that women who played sports in school end up making 7% higher wages in life, and 82% of female executives played competitive sports in school.

The sexual harassment/assault panel included an Equal Rights Advocates staff attorney, a Berkeley High "Stop Harassing" movement student representative, and the director of the LAUSD Education Equity Compliance Office. ERA reported that over the last year, the primary issues they've seen have been related to a lack of knowledge as to the students' rights, even after the complaint has been filed. The LAUSD representative suggested there should be more training of Title IX designees (i.e. coordinators) and of students, particularly of 5th-8th grade students because that is

a key time in their education and growth.

The panel on pregnant and parenting teens included community-based representatives, including from the legal community. The ACLU representative discussed the organization's report finding five main barriers to Title IX compliance in the realm of pregnant/parenting teens, and focused on two of those barriers for purposes of this panel: unequal educational opportunities', and lactation accommodations. The California Latinas for Reproductive Justice reported that their focus groups on pregnant/parenting teens found that challenges included being left out of both education and extracurricular activities, as well as being subjected to stigma/shame which in turn creates barriers and create a violation of Title IX.

The final panel provided a review of the top five recommendations of a Title IX coalition.

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**Drones: Is California Law Ready? The Potential, the Perils, and the Impact to Our Privacy Rights - February 17, 2015**

This oversight hearing examined how well California law is prepared to address the anticipated widespread use of unmanned aircraft (a.k.a. drones) by commercial and private actors. Researchers, businesses, and industry groups from across the United States offered testimony describing how drones are presently used in California's airspace and what the future of drone use may look like. Privacy-focused groups commented on the connection between drone technology and the maintenance of our fundamental right to privacy, and described recent examples where private drone operations and privacy interests came into conflict and how California law failed to provide clear guidelines for resolving these conflicts. Representatives of the press and newsgathering organizations illuminated the connection between drone technology and free speech activities, and discussed how new laws restricting drone usage may implicate these rights. Finally, representatives from the California State Parks and members of California's law enforcement community discussed issues with drone use they have encountered while managing land and facilities under their care, and offered comments on situations where the unregulated use of unmanned aerial vehicles would undermine the safety and security of public lands, and would interfere with a public agency's ability to carry out its mission.

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**The Role of the Courts in Protection California's Increasing Aging and Dependent Adult Population - March 24, 2015**

This oversight hearing reviewed the court's role in protecting elders and dependent adults following the conservatorship reforms enacted ten years ago. The hearing also

discussed the roles and current needs of each piece in the conservatorship process, including law enforcement interaction with the vulnerable adult, adult protective services, long-term care ombudsmen, court investigators, public conservators, professional fiduciaries, and judges.

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**Drones and Emergencies: Are we Putting Public Safety at Risk? - August 18, 2015 -**  
Joint Oversight Hearing by the Joint Legislative Committee on Emergency Management  
and the Senate Committee on Judiciary:

This oversight hearing broadly examined the potential for interference with emergency response activities by unmanned aircraft (a.k.a. drones), as well as ways to equip California's first responders with this new technology. Drone technology holds great promise to transform the way California's police, firefighters, and medics respond to emergencies, offering up new ways to rapidly reach injured people, or remotely assess a location too dangerous for humans to enter. However, the proliferation of drones in California's skies has raised significant questions about the effect these aerial vehicles have on emergency response activities. Indeed, wildland firefighters experienced substantial interference from private drone operators during this past year's fire season, grounding air tankers and other assets that could have been used to fight wildfires. This hearing featured testimony from fire, law enforcement, and emergency management personnel, as well as from NASA, the media, a leading drone manufacturer, industry groups, and others.