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David A. Lash

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O'Melveny's Lash Quoted in Law360 on California's Struggling Court System

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David Lash, managing counsel of O'Melveny & Myers LLP's public interest and pro bono services, is quoted in the June 7, 2012, *Law360* article, "Calif. Panel OKs Civil Fee Hike To Keep Courts Afloat." The article reports that a California Senate panel recently approved a measure to "increase civil court fees to provide \$50 million for the trial court trust fund in order to offset \$350 million in ongoing reductions in funding for court operations contained in previous budget acts."

Lash told *Law360* that although increasing court fees isn't desirable, it may be the only solution available. "We're facing a crisis in the courthouses across the state," he said. "The state's financial situation is causing courtrooms to close, which means there is going to be lesser access to justice and it will be that much harder for civil litigants to have their day in court." Closed courtrooms particularly affect low-income individuals who face urgent issues involving necessities like housing or health care, Lash noted. "Without some mechanism to additional funding, everybody who needs the courts will lose access," he added. "It may not be the fair answer, but we have to find a way to keep courtrooms open."

Lash resides in the Firm's Los Angeles office.