

Golden Arrow Statistical Report

PAGA Fall 2019

We recently received from information directly from the California Department of Industrial Relations (the Department) that revealed some interesting statistics that the folks behind Golden Arrow Publishing would like to share with our interested readers*.

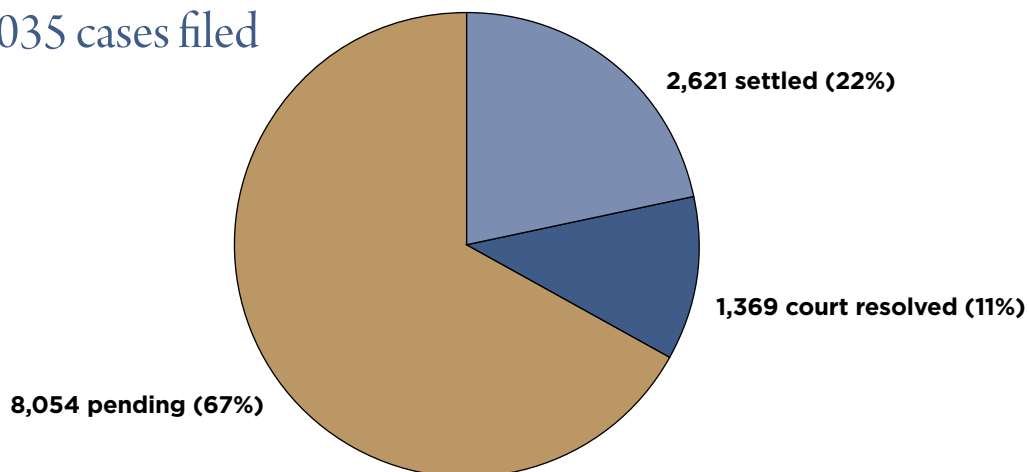
Between July 1, 2017 and August 6, 2019 there were 12,035 PAGA complaints filed with the Department. With 5,383 in 2017/18, 6,019 in 2018/19, and over 6,600 annualized for 2019/20 it is an indication of a trend for more filings each year.

Over the same period of time there were 2,621 cases settled and 1,369 were resolved with a court decision. As with the initial filings the numbers have increased from year to year and for 2019/20 we expect to see over 2,000 settled and around 800 will be decided in court. (Chart 1)

In addition to what the Department provided we at Golden Arrow also maintain a database of PAGA case information pulled directly from the Department's publicly available information (which we include in our daily data file for subscribers). It is important to point out that the information on the Department's public database is frequently incomplete and the numbers we list will not always match but are offered for the purposes of understanding trends.

Discovered in this publicly available data was the fact that during the same time period - July 1, 2017 through August 6, 2019 - 1,584 or approximately 14% of PAGA cases filed with the Department were against employers with a non-California zip code base of operations. Since the employer location was often omitted in the filing documents these numbers may be even higher. With this number of PAGA filings

Chart 1
12,035 cases filed



*Email from Ms. Erika Monterroza, DIR Communications, received Sept. 6, 2019 in response to a California Public Records Act request.

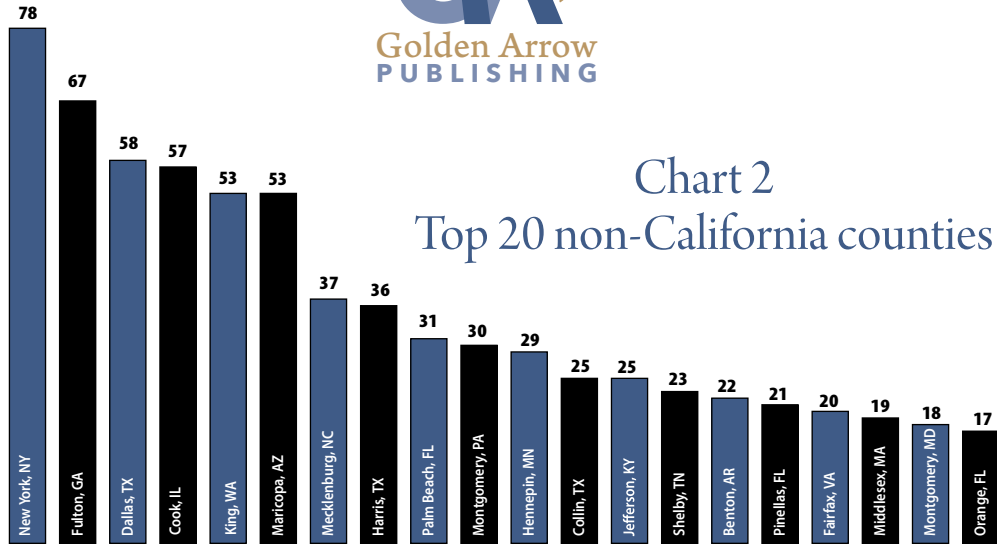


Chart 2

Top 20 non-California counties

Table 1
Top 10 California counties

Los Angeles	2434
Orange	733
San Diego	572
San Francisco	270
San Bernardino	254
Riverside	243
Alameda	221
Santa Clara	186
Sacramento	172
Ventura	98

adverse to out-of-state companies it seems apparent that our PAGA Alert isn't just for California law firms. (Chart 2)

In California the numbers tell us that 84% of PAGA filings are against employers in just 10 counties. (Table 1)

We also took a look at who is filing these PAGA complaints and discovered that just 25 attorneys are responsible for 25% of all filings (Table 2). As noted in our "Scoring a Bullseye" white paper, it is valuable to know the names of plaintiff attorneys in order to highlight successful experiences against potential opposing counsel in prior matters.

The 2019/20 California Governor's Budget estimates that the Dept. will take in approximately \$333,000 in PAGA filing fees and a whopping \$34,000,000 in

Table 2
Top 25 Attorneys/Filings

Edwin Aiwazian	303	Mao Shiokura	94
Christie Arana	234	M. Anthony Jenkins	93
Paul Haines	165	Zachary Crosner	93
Sarkis Sirmabekian	158	Evan Gaines	91
Nicholas De Blouw	148	Allen Feghali	89
Douglas Geyman	146	Sepideh Ardestani	87
William Turley	132	Michael Nourmand	84
Douglas Han	117	Scott Lidman	74
David Spivak	107	Farzad Rastegar	66
Lorie Gutierrez	104	Manny Starr	66
Linda Lee	101	Roman Otkupman	63
Edward Antonino	94	Justin Marquez	59
Harout Messrelian	94	All the rest	8517

finances collected from employers*. At the same time they have committed to spend almost \$2,000,000 for enforcement personnel.

With numbers like these it is critical that companies get started on their defense at the earliest possible moment - and that is where Golden Arrow's PAGA Alert helps. We offer the only PAGA pre-litigation alert and our subscribers often learn of new PAGA complaints as much as seven weeks before the first filing in Court. For more information about subscribing to a Golden Arrow Alert, please reach us at contact@gapubs.com.

The Golden Arrow Team.