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### **ARBITRATION CLAUSES HANDCUFF HEIRS**

On August 24, the Los Angeles Daily Journal reported on a California Supreme Court decision that would limit legal recourse to those who lose family members to medical errors. The court, in *Ruiz v. Podolsky*, ruled that patient's heirs are bound by arbitration agreements in all medical malpractice cases.

Consumer attorneys, who have complained for years that arbitration agreements routinely tilt in favor of medical providers in such disputes, said that the ruling takes away the right to a jury trial. "It compels people to participate in a less-than-perfect system that they never agreed to," said Richard Kellner, a partner at Kabateck Brown Kellner in Los Angeles, who represents plaintiffs in similar cases.