

# Administrative Adjudication\*

## Section 1.1

### Administrative Agencies Within Our Legal System

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#### **Administrative agencies within our legal system**

Perhaps the most significant legal trend of the last century was the rise of powerful and expansive administrative agencies. As a result, the average person is much more directly and frequently affected by the administrative process than by the judicial process. Many citizens go through life without ever being a party to a lawsuit, but the administrative process affects nearly every one daily.

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#### **What the administrative process protects against**

The pervasive effects of administrative agencies can quickly be appreciated by considering a few examples of what the administrative process protects against: air and water pollution; false advertising; unreasonableness in the rates, schedules, and services of airlines, railroads, and buses; excessive prices for electricity, gas, telephone, and other utilities; unwholesome meat and poultry or other deceptive practices; adulteration of food and drugs; inadequate safety in appliances; unfair labor practices; uncompensated injuries relating to employment; subminimum wages; and physically unsafe means of public transportation, bridges, and elevators.

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#### **Our daily involvement with administrative agencies**

The preceding list, containing only a few of the numerous examples, is adequate to demonstrate the exceedingly far-reaching involvement of administrative agencies in our daily lives. It is not surprising that today California has more than 100 State agencies and municipal bodies, each playing its part in the administrative process.

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