



September 2014

YOU SHOULD KNOW

IN THIS ISSUE

/

[Defend Your Rights > 10 Key Conversations > Conservative Opposes Tort Reform >](#)



Patrick Malone & Associates

888-625-6635

Dear Jessica,

The right to a trial is America's great equalizer, protecting individuals from those with more power and influence. We should all be aware and concerned whenever this right is threatened, as we discuss in this month's issue of You Should Know.



"Tort Reform" Threatens Our Constitutional Liberties

"In suits at common law, trial by jury in civil cases is as essential to secure the liberty of the people as any one of the pre-existent rights of nature." – James Madison

Wednesday, Sept. 17 marks the national celebration of [Constitution Day](#), a time to recall the liberties our Constitution sought to protect, preserve and uphold. These fundamental rights are the glue that holds our nation together. Yet, many Americans aren't aware that the Seventh Amendment, which guarantees our right to a trial by jury in civil cases, is currently under attack. Advocates of "tort reform" are pushing for an overhaul of our civil justice system, which would change centuries-old common law and is in stark opposition to the vision of our Founding Fathers. Here are 10 conversations **You Should Know** to defend your rights. [Read on.](#) >>>



The Seventh Amendment Guarantee:
In suits at common law, where the value at controversy shall exceed twenty dollars, the right of trial by jury shall be preserved ...
[Learn more.](#)

BY THE NUMBERS /

79%
Drop

The most recent statistics available show that personal injury trials are not clogging up the nation's district courts, dropping by 79 percent from 3,604 cases in 1985 to 800 cases in 2003.

Source: [Federal Tort Trials and Verdicts, 2002–2003](#), Bureau of Justice Statistics

51.7%

In 2003, Texas imposed an historic \$250,000 cap on damages for medical malpractice cases in part to

THE DOCKET /

> [CHECK OUT OUR BETTER HEALTH CARE](#)

NEWSLETTER.

> LATEST NEWS FROM OUR PATIENT SAFETY BLOG

> CHILD SAFETY TIPS AND ACCIDENT PREVENTION FROM OUR CHILD PROTECTION BLOG

> MALPRACTICE A-Z: ANSWERS ON SPECIFIC TOPICS

Increase rein in health care premiums. Yet, premiums for family health insurance in Texas rose 51.7 percent from 2003 to 2010.

Source: *A Failed Experiment (2011)*, Public Citizen ([download](#))

**75%
Vs. 10%**

More than 75 percent of contracts at 190 well-known companies force customers to accept one-sided arbitration clauses rather than allow complaints to go to court. But only 10 percent of the same companies agreed to arbitration clauses in their contracts with other companies.

Source: *Mandatory Arbitration for Customers But Not for Peers (2008)*: Judicature ([download](#))

BOOKMARK FAVORITES /

Debunking Myths Goal of TortReformTruth.com

[TortReformTruth.com](#) says insurers, big tobacco and Fortune 500 companies benefit the most from “tort reform” because such measures insulate corporate profits from lawsuits while shell groups hide the truth from the American people.

Journalists Expose Campaign to Curtail Your Rights

Journalists at the [Center for Media and Democracy](#) discovered that global corporations and state politicians are working together on “model” legislation that curtails our rights while benefiting corporate interests.

National Celebrations Planned for Constitution Day Sept. 17

Join the [National Archives](#) in Washington, D.C., and the [National Constitution Center](#) in Philadelphia in celebrating Constitution Day on Wednesday, Sept. 17. Learn more about the U.S. Constitution through public programs, family activities and online resources.



What Do You Think?

Were you aware that the Seventh Amendment is under attack? Share your thoughts and you could score a free iPod shuffle! And check out the results of last month’s Justice Served survey.

[Visit now](#)



Conservative Opposes “Tort Reform” Movement

Andrew Cochran, editor of the [7th Amendment Advocate](#), calls “tort reform” the 30-year war on individual rights and urges conservative opposition.

[Listen now](#)

You Should Know is a copyrighted publication of Voice2News, LLC, and is made possible by the attorney shown above. This newsletter is intended for the interest of past and present clients and other friends of this lawyer. It is not intended as a substitute for specific legal advice. You received this newsletter at <jessica%40jdsupra.com> because you indicated to the

above attorney your interest in receiving information via email. If you no longer wish to receive these emails, [click here to unsubscribe from this newsletter](#), and your request will be honored immediately. You may also submit your request in writing to: Steven L. Miller, Editor, 4907 Woodland Ave., Des Moines, IA 50312. Be sure to include your email address.