

The American Civil Justice System

America's civil justice system was designed to give everyday people (no matter their level of



sophistication or wealth) a fair chance to receive justice and to hold wrongdoers accountable. *Philip A. Stroud, Local Attorney*

When corporations and their CEOs act irresponsibly—by delaying or refusing to pay insurance claims, producing unsafe products or swindling their employees and shareholders—the last resort for Americans to hold them accountable is in our courts.

For years, corporate front groups have deceitfully indoctrinated the masses with the idea that all lawsuits were frivolous.

The truth is:

- Of all the court cases every year, only 17% are civil cases;

- Of that 17%, only a small fraction (6% involve tort claims;

- The number of tort cases filed has been declining every year for over a decade;

- Tort filings in state courts have declined by 21 percent over the last ten years (1997-2006);

- Automobile accident cases, which make up a majority of all tort claims have fallen by 23 percent over the last 10 years;

- Contract disputes involving corporations have increased 23 percent over the past 10 years;

- A 2005 survey of federal judges found that 85 percent believed that frivolous lawsuits were not a problem;

- A 2006 study conducted by researchers at the Harvard School of Public Health found that most malpractice claims have merit, with 97 percent of claims involving medical injury.

STROUD & HARPER, P.C.

L A W Y E R S

662 536-5656

STROUDANDHARPER.COM