

Disorder in the Court:

Legal abuses are making a mockery of our civil justice system—and costing us all money and jobs.



The horror stories are out there.

- ✓ A grocery store's meat manager intentionally removed a welded-in safety device on a meat grinder to increase the rate of production. A worker who was seriously injured as a result then sued the grinder's manufacturer.
- ✓ A roofer, who showed up for work drunk, sued a bracket manufacturer for injuries when he fell on the job.
- ✓ A delirious crowd topples a football goalpost. A participant injured during the delirium sues the goalpost maker.

We've all heard the horror stories. They're atrocious and yet Congress has done nothing to stop the abuse.

It's outrageous.

Businesses pay billions in insurance simply to avoid the risk of losing everything in a lawsuit. Ironically, they also spend mightily to defend themselves in lawsuits that are ultimately decided in their favor.

The biggest loser is the American public.

Those billions are passed on to consumers through higher prices and lower wages. They pay through lost jobs and innovative products that never make it to market in this country. In 2002, the "tort tax" was 2.23 percent of GDP, costing a family of four more than \$3,200 a year.

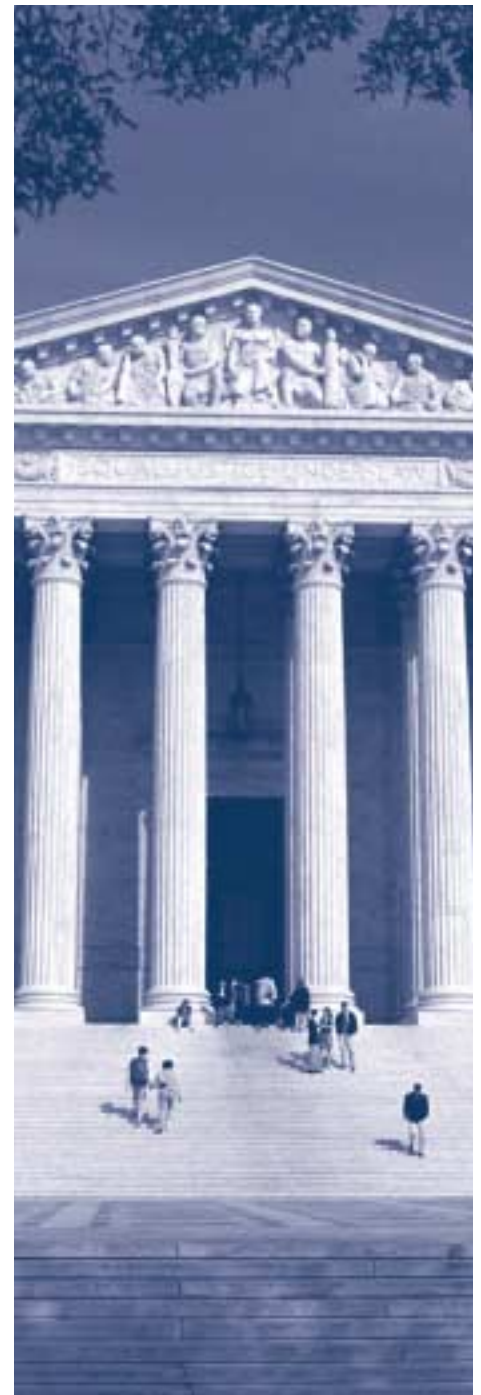
The system is broken and Congress must provide a solution.

For years Washington lobbying campaigns have failed to convince Congress to act. Isn't it time they heard it straight from those who are paying the highest price?

It's Time To Take Action and Hold Congress Accountable!

Turn over to find out how.

NAM National Association of Manufacturers



Using the strength of its involved and active members and their employees, including more than 350 member associations in all 50 states, the NAM has launched a multiyear campaign—the Fair Litigation Action Group (FLAG)—to reform this country’s irrational legal system. How?

Awareness.

The NAM will provide employers and affiliated associations with these specific tools for employee and political education:

- one-page fliers demystifying legal terms and showing how these provisions affect jobs, wages and the cost of consumer goods;
- sample newsletter articles and letters to the editor; and
- “Legally Insane,” a regular feature citing examples of liability law abuse.

Action.

The NAM will encourage and help employers and employees make this an issue in the 2004 elections and post-election period and get candidates on record by providing—

- information on town meetings and Congressional Dialogues with candidates;
- questions to ask candidates and follow-up letters; and
- extensive information on launching a successful Get Out the Vote program.

Manufacturing Leadership.

The NAM has elevated legal reform to a board of directors policy committee, which is staffed by senior NAM employees.

Unlike previous legal reform campaigns, this one won't begin in Washington—but it will end there.

Help us put profits back into payroll and productivity.

Your involvement in legal reform is critical. To join the fight, please contact Larry Fineran, vice president, Regulatory and Competition Policy, at (202) 637-3174 or lfineran@nam.org.

