

What We're Watching for in 2014

Texans Against Lawsuit Abuse Keeps a Watchdog Eye on Courts, Legislature and Candidates

Reform works in Texas – but that doesn't mean that our legal system is always being used for justice, instead of greed. At Texans Against Lawsuit Abuse, the state's leading lawsuit abuse watchdog, we're constantly following the Legislature, elections and the courts – and there are many items on our radar this year. Check out what we'll be watching for in 2014 to make sure that Texas courts are fair and that Texas stays open for business.

Patent Troll Progress

East Texas has become a hotbed for a booming patent industry, where innovators can protect their intellectual property because of the speed and access of local courts. Unfortunately, patent trolls have created a cottage industry to prey on these innovators and file abusive lawsuits. We'll be watching the outcome of the 2014 legislative hearings on patent trolling; this interim legislative study has been ordered by Lt. Governor David Dewhurst for a possible legislative fix in 2015.

Lawsuit Lender Lookout

Another concern in Texas is the growth of the wholly unregulated lawsuit lending industry—those who prey on people when they are at their most vulnerable by offering loans to back litigation with extremely high and unregulated interest rates. We urge those who have been abused by this industry to speak up and fight back against lawsuit lenders this year. We will continue to speak out about this abusive industry.

Continue to Address Problems in the Legal System

Our lawmakers and judges play an important role in ensuring our courts are fair for everyone. While our state has a great record of passing lawsuit reforms, we need to continue the progress in trouble shooting the process when new problems arise.

Vote Smart

As we look toward the 2014 elections, it's important that voters know the candidates running for in legislative and judicial offices. We want to make sure voters ask the important questions to know who they are voting for, where their candidates stand on the issues and who is supporting their candidates for office.

Talk the talk and walk the walk

Texas voters believe it's important that we answer the call to serve on a jury. But the numbers show that while we can talk the talk, we don't walk the walk...and many juror summons go into the trash. We need jury service to be taken seriously in Texas to ensure that we all get a fair trial.

Texas is well-regarded for passing common-sense legal reform that are widely-hailed as a cornerstone of our state's continued success in creating jobs and luring new businesses here. Yet, even with these reforms, we continue to see ridiculous lawsuits and questionable legal antics in jurisdictions across the state. To ensure we have a fair and balanced legal system in Texas, we need to all be proactive about curbing lawsuit abuse – calling out abuse as we see it and keeping an eye on the courts, legislators and candidates in Texas.

For information on how you can help fight lawsuit abuse, stay connected with us online at www.tala.com or find us on Facebook and Twitter.