

# PUBLIC JUSTICE E-LERT

AMERICA'S PUBLIC INTEREST LAW FIRM

April 5, 2011

Car dealerships are notorious for scams. But charging customers an emissions testing fee on brand *new* cars? And then weaseling out of responsibility by banning class actions? Come on.

Late last week, as we urged, the Supreme Court of Nevada ruled unanimously that a Las Vegas dealership's class action ban violates state public policy.

In addition to challenging the emissions testing fee, consumers William and Beth Ann Picardi also said that the dealership, United Hyundai, didn't credit them and others for the trade-in value of their used vehicles.

After the district court rejected the plaintiffs' challenge to the class action ban and upheld the dealer's motion to compel arbitration, we petitioned the state supreme court to review the case.



The court accepted our petition and then ruled for our clients. In reaching its decision last week, the court concluded that "a clause in a contract that prohibits a consumer from pursuing claims through a class action violates Nevada public policy."

In representing the plaintiffs, Senior Attorney Paul Bland joined George O. West III, of [Consumer Attorneys Against Auto Fraud](#).

To read the Supreme Court of Nevada's decision in *Picardi v. United Hyundai*, [click here](#).

And to read our petition for writ of mandamus, [click here](#).

Congratulations and thanks to Paul for arguing the case, George for building a strong factual record in the trial court, and you for your support of Public Justice.

Arthur Bryant

Executive Director

Public Justice and the  
Public Justice Foundation

email: [abryant@publicjustice.net](mailto:abryant@publicjustice.net)

voice: 202-797-8600

web: <http://www.publicjustice.net>