

NEWS RELEASE

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TLPJ TURNS 25 AND BECOMES 'PUBLIC JUSTICE'

Expanded Vision: Building 'America's Public Interest Law Firm'

WASHINGTON – **Trial Lawyers for Public Justice (TLPJ)** marked its 25th anniversary yesterday by changing its name to “**Public Justice.**” The new name reflects the national public interest law firm’s growth and expanded vision. **The TLPJ Foundation**, the non-profit organization that supports the firm’s work, is now the **Public Justice Foundation**.

Since its founding in 1982, TLPJ has successfully prosecuted landmark cases advancing consumers’ rights, workers’ rights, civil rights and civil liberties, the environment, public health and safety, access to justice, and corporate and government accountability. Supported by -- and frequently calling on -- a network of over 3,500 lawyers nationwide, the firm has brought and won an exceptionally wide range of public interest cases. Just this Tuesday, nearly 200 peaceful protesters arrested in the “no protest zone” at the 1999 World Trade Organization conference won a verdict against the City of Seattle in a case brought by Public Justice under its original name.

“Over the past 25 years, TLPJ fulfilled and surpassed an inspiring vision -- building the *trial lawyers'* public interest law firm,” said **Public Justice Foundation President Alan R. Brayton of Brayton Purcell in Novato, California**. “In fact, over the past quarter century, no national public interest law firm in the country has been involved in a broader range of high-impact, cutting-edge litigation. We've become Public Justice because we want to pursue an expanded, inspiring vision -- building *America's* public interest law firm.”

In addition to bringing lawsuits to fight for the wronged, poor, and powerless, Public Justice often partners with major public interest groups across the country, adding legal counsel or representation to the menu of approaches deployed in the name of social justice. Its Access to Justice Campaign, Class Action Preservation Project, Mandatory Arbitration Abuse Project, and Federal Preemption Project are major Public Justice initiatives battling unconstitutional, discriminatory and otherwise unfair practices by governments and business alike.

“This organization has made an extraordinary difference over the past 25 years,” said **Arthur Bryant, Executive Director of Public Justice**. “It will make an even bigger difference over the next 25 years as Public Justice.”

Visit the Public Justice website at www.publicjustice.net to access Public Justice case histories, briefs, newsletters and developments and to sign up for Public Justice E-lets.