



PUBLIC JUSTICE JUSTICE BRIEFS

Welcome to the June edition of Justice Briefs

In this month's issue of Justice Briefs, we invite you to our Annual Gala & Awards Dinner, which will be held on Monday, July 24 in Boston. We will once again present our highly-anticipated Trial Lawyer of the Year Award at this year's event, and present our Illuminating Injustice Award. Read on for details about our 35th Anniversary event, including this year's Trial Lawyer of the Year finalists and Champion of Justice Award recipient.

IMPACT.

Annual Gala on Monday, July 24 in Boston

Public Justice's Annual Gala & Awards Dinner will be held on Monday evening, July 24, 2017 at the Fairmont Copley Plaza Hotel in Boston.

Join us as we celebrate Public Justice's 35th Anniversary, and present both the 2017 Trial Lawyer of the Year Award and our Illuminating Injustice Award. We're proud to celebrate Anne Kearse's Presidency and welcome Tara Sutton as Public Justice President for the coming year.



Please use [this link](#) to buy tickets to the gala.

You can also click [here](#) for information on becoming a Gala sponsor, and [here](#) for a full list of our generous sponsors so far. For more information on becoming a sponsor, or purchasing tickets, please contact Susan Gombert, Meetings & Events Manager, at (202) 861-5235 or sgombert@publicjustice.net.

Trial Lawyer of the Year Finalists:



PUBLIC JUSTICE

TRIAL LAWYER OF THE YEAR

The four finalist cases for Public Justice's 2017 Trial Lawyer of the Year Award include landmark cases dealing with inmates' rights, the discriminatory use of criminal history in hiring, fraudulent debt collection, and disability rights.

The Trial Lawyer of the Year Award celebrates and recognizes the work of an attorney or team of attorneys working on behalf of individuals and groups that have suffered grave injustice or abuse. [Read more about this year's finalists.](#)

Champion of Justice Award Winner: Barney Frank

Public Justice is proud to announce that former Congressman Barney Frank will receive the organization's 2017 Champion of Justice Award for his exceptional leadership and advocacy on economic justice and civil rights.

"We are honored to recognize Barney Frank for his incredible work," said Paul Bland, executive director of Public Justice. "As one of the chief architects of the landmark Dodd-Frank bill, Frank played a pivotal role in responding to the economic crisis of 2008 and ensured safeguards were put into place to help prevent future crises. This critical legislation has increasingly come under attack from some Members of Congress, but remains one of the most important pieces of consumer protection legislation ever passed into law."



[Click here](#) to read more about Frank's remarkable work.

Illuminating Injustice Award: Jessica Simpkins

In 2008, 15-year-old Jessica Simpkins was twice raped by her pastor at Sunbury Grace Brethren Church in Ohio. Unbeknownst to Simpkins, the pastor had twice engaged in sexually predatory conduct with two other teenage girls at the pastor's former church. Despite knowledge of those incidents, dating back to the early 1990s, Delaware Grace played a key role in the pastor becoming the head pastor at Sunbury Grace. Realizing that Delaware Grace had supported her pastor despite his history of sexually predatory conduct towards teenage girls, Jessica filed a civil suit against Delaware Grace Brethren for failing to act on that knowledge.

A jury awarded Jessica more than \$3.6 million, but under an Ohio law passed in 2005 Jessica was only able to collect a small fraction of the total the jury said she was entitled to.

We're proud to present this year's Illuminating Injustice Award to Jessica for her work to educate the public about the harm caused by laws like Ohio's. To read more about Jessica's story - and to send a gift of support - [visit our GoFundMe campaign online here.](#)

CHANGE.

Fighting for Common-Sense Food Labeling

Multinational companies routinely sell meat raised and slaughtered abroad with a "Product of USA" label. These products are sold right alongside truly domestic products raised by U.S. ranchers. That's because the USDA doesn't enforce Country-of-Origin Labeling (COOL).



In our ongoing work to ensure you have the right to know where your food comes from, Public Justice recently filed a lawsuit alleging that USDA regulations allowing beef and pork to be classified as "domestic products" - even when those meat products are slaughtered in other countries - confuse consumers and harm American farmers.

"With this suit, we're fighting policies that put multinational corporations ahead of domestic producers and shroud the origins of our food supply in secrecy," our Food Safety and Health Attorney David Muraskin said.

Read more about this important lawsuit in the [Washington Post](#), and get all the details about the case on our [website](#).

Forcing Coal Companies to Clean Up Their Act



via Garen M. on flickr

In a major victory for West Virginia families - and welcome news in the fight against climate change - the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of West Virginia recently ruled that Fola Coal, which dumped waste into local tributaries in West Virginia, violated state and federal clean water laws.

Public Justice, along with Appalachian Mountain Advocates, was proud to represent a coalition of environmental advocacy groups, including the Sierra Club, in challenging Fola's destructive dumping. [Click here](#) to read more about our work to force Fola to clean up its act.

JOIN US.

New Members

[Click here](#) to see a list of our newest Public Justice members. Welcome to the Public Justice, and thank you for your support!

Public Justice on the Road

Our staff attorneys regularly hit the road to speak around the country at various events and conferences. In the coming months, you can catch them from Massachusetts to Oregon and numerous spots in between. They'll speak on topics like Title IX, country-of-origin labeling, and the role our litigation plays in keeping America's courthouse doors open for all. We'd love to have you there. Find an event near you [here](#).

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