Restoring Balance
Ensuring Justice
What we do

Lawsuit abuse is rampant. Unfettered litigation inhibits the creation of new products and companies, kills jobs, and drags down our entire economy.

While the U.S. has the greatest legal system in the world, in some cases the courts have been hijacked by players who abuse the system.

The U.S. Chamber Institute for Legal Reform (ILR) is the country’s most influential and successful advocate for civil justice reform, both in the U.S. and abroad.

ILR shines a light on what is wrong in the legal system. We conduct cutting-edge research and advance pragmatic solutions. We then tirelessly advocate for those solutions with Congress, state legislatures, federal regulators, international policymakers, and the courts to effect meaningful change.

ILR has become the preeminent advocate for needed legal reforms in statehouses across the country, in our nation’s capital, and more recently, even in international forums. Never before has ILR’s role been more important or the need to support its work more vital to businesses of all shapes and sizes.

– ED RUST, JR., Chairman and CEO, State Farm

In 2003, Mississippi was the worst state in the country for lawsuit abuse. I said I would do something about it. Well, we did, but we could have never done it without the Chamber’s Institute for Legal Reform.

– HALEY BARBOUR,Former Mississippi Governor

ILR should be commended for their efforts to press forward on the need for clarity and guidance pertaining to the enforcement of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA) to help the business community navigate these dangerous waters.

– JUDGE MICHAEL B. MUKASEY,Former Attorney General of the United States

I think the biggest benefit for companies from ILR’s work is the actual progress that’s been made to push back against the unfettered expansion of class action liability across the country. We’ve seen plaintiff lawyers go to prison because of groups like ILR and others that have shown some of this litigation is based on actual fraud.

– THE HONORABLE ROBERT M. MCKENNA,Former Attorney General of the State of Washington
Lawsuit abuse is rampant. Unfettered litigation inhibits the creation of new products and companies, kills jobs, and drags down our entire economy.

The U.S. Chamber’s Litigation and Reform Center (ILR) shines a light on what is wrong in the legal system. We advocate for civil justice reform, which is the equivalent of businesses and policymakers “spending” their dollars on preventing unnecessary costs and delays instead of the court system.

What we do

Media Awareness

We influence the legal reform debate through a comprehensive communications strategy that reaches the media at several touch points. This includes robust and aggressive outreach to key reporters, editorial writers, and bloggers. Additionally, through unique storytelling devices, such as our Faces of Lawsuit Abuse campaign, social media, and other visual media, we share with the public real-life stories of lawsuit abuse, as told by the victims themselves. These stories are bolstered by ILR’s substantive, fact-based program of research, symposia, and the annual Legal Reform Summit. Our multifaceted and assertive strategy has made us the preeminent voice on legal reform in the media.

State Attorneys General Program

As the enforcement of business-related laws and regulations comes increasingly under the sway of state AGs, we engage with them regularly on both strategic and policy issues. Our efforts led to the passage of AGs’ "sunshine" legislation in a number of states, to expose the annual "pay-to-play" abuses in the awarding of plaintiffs’ contracts, and to the development of recommended AG practices in enforcement under state and federal law.

Public and Voter Education

Our voter education program has played a prominent role in highlighting the records of liability-restraining candidates in many key state races—including those for state attorneys general and state supreme court justices. In addition, we advocate for judicial selection best practices in a number of jurisdictions traditionally dominated by the plaintiffs’ bar.

State

Cutting the Tide

We actively pursue our reform agenda in the courts, in various regulatory agencies, and in legislatures at the federal and state levels. Our efforts and interactions serve to raise awareness of important abuses in these key forums and to propose concrete plans of action to remedy them.

Legal and Legislative Reforms

Changing the Tide

We conduct cutting-edge research and advance pragmatic solutions. We then tirelessly advocate for those solutions with Congress, state legislatures, federal regulators, international policymakers, and the courts to effect meaningful change.

ILR’s innovative advocacy and economic research features:

- Integral to our mission is conducting groundbreaking research on pressing legal issues that provides substantive support for advocacy efforts at the state, federal, and international levels.
- Recent efforts have focused on the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA), Litigation Financing, the False Claims Act, Lawsuit Lending, and emerging litigation trends and ranking of each state’s legal climate.

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Alternative Dispute Resolution
Arbitration
Asbestos
Class Actions
Class Actions Around the Globe
Court Underfunding
Discovery
False Claims Act
Foreign Corrupt Practices Act
Foreign Judgment Enforcement
Judicial Selection
Lawsuit Abuse Impact
Lawsuit Lending
Medical Liability
Preemption/ Federalism
Securities Litigation Reform
State Attorneys General
State Legal Reforms
Third-Party Litigation Funding