U.S. Consumer Views on Lawsuits

Key Highlights from a 2013 National Survey of U.S. Consumers*

**LAWSUIT ABUSE INCREASES**

Consumers say there has been increased abuse of the legal system in the last decade.

- Abuse has increased: 69%
- Abuse has stayed about the same: 25%
- Abuse has decreased: 2%

**CONSUMERS VIEW LAWSUITS AS A SERIOUS PROBLEM**

- 87% view lawsuits as a serious problem
- 11% do not view lawsuits as a serious problem

**PROFITS FOR LAWYERS**

More than three-fourths of consumers say lawyers benefit more than the people on whose behalf class action lawsuits are filed.

- 14% benefit: Plaintiffs
- 76% benefit: Lawyers

**WHO BENEFITS FROM CLASS ACTIONS?**

- 60% of consumers acknowledge that they have been included in a class action lawsuit.
- 14% report receiving something of meaningful value as a result.

**WHO BENEFITS FROM CLASS ACTIONS?**

- 71% Not acceptable
- 19% Acceptable

**NO TO THIRD PARTY FINANCING**

By large margins, consumers think that third party financing of lawsuits is not acceptable.


To view a complete set of the data, please visit: www.slideshare.net/instituteforlegalreform/london-deck-final-14052013
UK Consumer Views on Lawsuits

Key Highlights from a 2013 National Survey of UK Consumers*

By large margins, British consumers continue to say that third party financing of lawsuits is not acceptable.

By a three-and-a-half to one margin, British consumers want to avoid a U.S. legal system model.

57% Believe that the US system has more problems and the UK should NOT make changes to be more like it.

16% Believe that the US system has more advantages and the UK SHOULD make changes to be more like it.

30% Acceptable
14% Not Acceptable
56% Don’t Know

UK CONSUMERS RELUCTANT TO FOLLOW U.S. MODEL

British consumers are less inclined to follow the US model when told...

Lawyers receive half of the money awarded in lawsuit.

Less Inclined 72%
More Inclined 9%
No Difference 16%

Frivolous lawsuits mean people with serious injuries wait longer for compensation.

61% Less Inclined
18% More Inclined
18% No Difference

Lawsuits cost small businesses billions of dollars each year.

Less Inclined 52%
More Inclined 23%
No Difference 21%


The margin of error is ± 3.1%. To view a complete set of the data, please visit: www.slideshare.net/instituteforlegalreform/london-deck-final-14052013.
From 2008 to 2011, the UK saw a 47% increase in litigation costs.

The U.S. has the highest liability costs as a percentage of GDP of the countries surveyed, with liability costs at 2.6 times the average level of the Eurozone economies.