



Lawsuit Abuse Watch (I-LAW) is a grassroots, legal watchdog group dedicated to educating the public about the negative effects of lawsuit abuse and its costs to Illinois workers, consumers, taxpayers and small businesses. I-LAW's goal is to help restore balance, fairness and common sense to our civil justice system by shining a light on special influences and imbalances in some Illinois courtrooms.

Some key facts about Illinois:

- Illinois is ranked 46th out of 50 state for legal fairness (from a 2012 Harris Interactive report)
- St. Clair and Madison Counties are ranked the nation's fifth-worst "Judicial Hellholes" (From a 2103 American Tort Reform Foundation study)
- Illinois could save up to \$2.4 billion in tort costs and create between 54,000 and 147,000 new jobs by improving its legal environment (From a 2011 NERA Economic Consulting study)

Illinois needs lawsuit reform. One important area in particular in need of reform is the lawsuit loan industry.

There are all kinds of horror stories of plaintiffs who end up with little or nothing from a judgment or settlement as result of high interest lawsuit loan they took out. Illinois attorney Frank Avila has spoken about how one of his clients took out a \$50,000 lawsuit loan and ended up owing the lawsuit lender nearly \$1 million.

Lawsuit lenders sometimes can charge as much as 150% interest, which is why many people now refer to these lenders as "lawsuit loan sharks." You can learn even more about how plaintiffs can end up owing more than they borrowed from the lawsuit loan sharks and use a helpful lawsuit loan calculator at the website <http://www.sickoflawsuits.com/content/dangers-and-high-costs-lawsuit-loans-0>.

The need for responsible regulation of the lawsuit loan industry is clear. High interest rates for lawsuit loans leads to higher settlement amounts and ultimately to more lawsuits. The time has come to pass common sense, reasonable regulations that protect consumers from being exploited by predatory lawsuit lenders.

For more information, log onto www.illawsuitabusewatch.org.