



Title: **Mayor signs lawsuit abuse awareness proclamation**
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“LAWSUIT ABUSE AWARENESS WEEK” TOUR FOCUSES ON THE IMPORTANCE OF JUDICIAL ELECTIONS AND HOW JUDGES CAN RESTORE FAIRNESS TO ILLINOIS COURTS AND CREATE JOBS

I-LAW joins with mayors and civic leaders to sponsor statewide public education tour to promote message that “Good Judges Matter” and to urge voters not to skip judicial races on ballot

(Marion, IL) – Following on the heels of the release last month of a report that ranked Illinois’ lawsuit climate the fifth worst in the country, Illinois Lawsuit Abuse Watch (I-LAW), a grassroots, non-partisan legal watchdog group, is joining with mayors and community leaders this week for a statewide public education tour to promote “Lawsuit Abuse Awareness Week” and this year’s theme of “Good Judges Matter.”

Dozens of mayors across Illinois have issued official proclamations declaring the first week of October “Lawsuit Abuse Awareness Week” and are joining with I-LAW to encourage voters to become educated about the positions, backgrounds and backers of judicial candidates on the ballot this Fall. I-LAW will also be driving a “Good Judges Matter” billboard truck across the state and will distribute “Good Judges Matter” voter education guides in front of courthouses.

“The Illinois economy continues to suffer from our state’s costly reputation for unfair courts and jackpot justice,” explained Travis Akin, Executive Director of I-LAW, “but the judges and judicial candidates on the ballot this November can play a big role in restoring fairness to our courts, which will in turn create jobs here.”

“Too many judges have allowed the

personal injury lawyers to turn our courts into their own personally profitable playground,” continued Akin. “Good judges matter, and during ‘Lawsuit Abuse Awareness Week,’ we are calling on voters to ask judicial candidates if they will stand up to the personal injury lawyers and restore fairness to our courts.”

A recent report conducted by the non-partisan global market research firm Harris Interactive ranked Illinois 46th out of all 50 states for legal fairness. Illinois’ lawsuit climate ranked beneath every bordering state including: Indiana (14), Iowa (10), Kentucky (38), Missouri (34), and Wisconsin (15).

With Election Day rapidly approaching, and with so much attention focused on the presidential and congressional races at the top of the ballot, I-LAW is urging people not to skip the oft overlooked but vitally important judicial races at the end of the ballot.

“Electing good judges who apply doctrines of common sense and fairness will help Illinois shed its image as a ‘lawsuit magnet’ and ‘personal injury lawyer’s paradise,’” Akin said. “In these difficult economic times, Illinois needs to be a magnet for jobs, not lawsuits.”

For more information about “Lawsuit Abuse Awareness Week” and the “Good Judges Matter” initiative, visit www.ILLawsuitAbuseWatch.org.

Illinois Lawsuit Abuse Watch (I-LAW) is a grassroots watchdog group of concerned citizens, community leaders and small business people dedicated to educating the public about the widespread costs of lawsuit abuse. I-LAW has more than 15,000 supporters throughout Illinois. Anyone interested in becoming a supporter of I-LAW or learning more about stopping lawsuit abuse in Illinois can visit www.ILLawsuitAbuseWatch.org.



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