



## **PUBLIC AWARENESS CAMPAIGN FIGHTS TO SAVE SEVENTH AMENDMENT**

*Galvanizing Americans to value and preserve America's unique Civil Jury Trial System*

**City, State – Date** – Americans take pride in the United States Constitution and hold dear the Rights it guarantees. Today, one of those Rights is in danger as special interests chip away at the Seventh Amendment – the right to utilize a jury trial to resolve civil cases. On the Federal level, less than one half of one percent of all civil cases filed are decided by jury verdict. In **(name of state)** the rate is **X** percent.

To reverse this course the **(name of Chapter)** Chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates ([ABOTA](#)) is joining the national organization to implement [Save Our Juries](#), a public awareness program aiming to educate Americans about the history and value of the Seventh Amendment, shed light on efforts to diminish this Constitutional right, and urge citizens to get involved in preserving the civil jury system.

The need for such an initiative was supported by the results of a recent ABOTA online survey, which showed that just over one-quarter of respondents (28.7%) could identify which Civil Right is guaranteed by the Seventh Amendment.

“Empowering impartial citizens to deliver justice as jurors is fundamental to our form of self-governance,” said **(name of Chapter representative)**. “If solving disputes is left exclusively to judges or arbitration proceedings, which are often secretive and cannot be appealed, the system is more vulnerable to corruption.”

Save Our Juries presents user-friendly content, including infographics, articles and videos featuring Mark Cuban, Senator Sheldon Whitehouse of Rhode Island, and the late Fred Thompson, to depict the problem and explain relevant legal concepts.

“It is critical that people understand how and why special interests use corporate policies and judicial actions to wage war on our constitutional Right to a civil jury trial. If these actions are successful, access to justice for the average American citizen will be drastically compromised,” said Mark P. Robinson, Jr., Chairman of Save Our Juries and 2014 National President of ABOTA.

Forced arbitration clauses are among the issues Save Our Juries is spotlighting and working to eliminate. Contracts routinely force individuals to give up their Seventh Amendment right before accepting a job, seeing a doctor, being treated in an emergency room, using a credit card, activating a cell phone, connecting to WiFi, opening a bank account, buying a car, hiring a builder, ‘liking’ a social media platform and countless other forms of consumer transactions.

“When all parties involved in a dispute purposefully agree to arbitration, the arbitration process is indeed fair and effective. But the people of (name of state) should not be forced to give up the constitutional right to a civil jury trial,” added (name of Chapter representative).

In addition to the mandatory arbitration issue, the Save Our Juries initiative addresses the need for more citizens to participate in jury service and supports efforts to speed up the civil trial system.

“The two basic fundamental rights to our participatory democracy are the right to vote and the right to serve on a jury,” added Mr. Robinson. “Since jurors give up their time with their families and their work, the length of time for the civil jury trial can be made faster and shorter, all the while preserving the parties’ rights to be heard in the trial.”

Save Our Juries advocates citizen engagement through the organization’s [Take Action initiative](#). Through its social media efforts, Save Our Juries shares information about the declining access to justice and the weakening of basic legal protections.

### About Save Our Juries

[Save Our Juries](#) is a proactive public awareness campaign created to educate the public about the vital importance of the Seventh Amendment. A robust website and active social media presence, including [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [Google+](#), will help educate followers about the issues impacting the civil jury process, and regular initiatives will encourage calls-to-action. Save Our Juries was established in 2014 by the American Board of Trial Advocates ([ABOTA](#)). Founded in 1958, ABOTA is a national association of experienced trial lawyers equally balanced between plaintiff and defense. For more information visit [www.SaveOurJuries.org](http://www.SaveOurJuries.org).

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