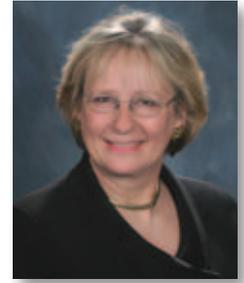


Where would we be without them?



By Sharon J. Arkin

As trial lawyers, we like to think we are the only ones out there in the vanguard of consumer protection, fighting a lonely battle. But we are not alone. Not by a long shot. There are a number of public interest and consumer groups whose interests are aligned with ours and those of our clients. In this and subsequent messages, I want to acknowledge and honor some of them. As always when thanking some, there is a risk that others will clamor that they should have been included. I do not intend this list to be comprehensive or exclusive. There are, no doubt, numerous other organizations out there that are equally honorable and that contribute mightily. I'm just focusing on a few that I have worked with in the past, know well and appreciate what they do. These are some of my personal heroes and if you are looking for help – or a place to send some donations – they might appeal to you. All are non-profit public benefit organizations and donations are tax deductible.

This month's message focuses on three of these organizations. More will follow. As you go through your days, and through your fights for justice for your clients, remember that you are not alone.



Pound Civil Justice Institute

www.poundinstitute.org

The Pound Institute is a scholarly "think tank" focused on consumer protection and civil justice issues. Founded by and named after the venerable Dean of Harvard Law School, Roscoe Pound, the institute sponsors an annual state appellate court judges forum that addresses those issues by

presenting papers from renowned scholars and moderating discussion groups among state court appellate judges from across the country. Membership in the institute is very reasonable and helps foster empirical studies and law review and journal articles that illuminate the flawed logic in corporate America's tort reform efforts.



Center for Justice and Democracy

www.centerjd.org

This organization was founded by Joanne Doroshov, a former Ralph Nader staff attorney. Since its founding in 1998, CJ&D has issued a huge number of invaluable studies, reports, fact sheets and white papers on tort reform, consumer interest litigation and protecting the rights of injured consumers. Joanne has also done remarkable work organizing incredibly effective grassroots responses to tort reform threats, both in Congress and throughout the states. We would all be facing significantly more restrictive fee limitations and consumer rights restrictions without the work of CJ&D.



Working for Health Care Justice - Now!

JustHealth

www.justhealthnow.org

JustHealth is a warrior in the fight for consumer health care. It is a patient advocacy

group founded and run by a consumer advocate, John Metz. JustHealth intervenes as an advocate (but not as legal representative) for patients and healthcare providers with Kaiser, HMOs, PPOs and medical insurance carriers to get claims resolved. It is now expanding its efforts and plans on bringing public interest cases, either directly or with cooperating counsel, on health care issues. It is also the sponsor of a sweeping reform effort, the Health Insurer Accountability Act which JustHealth is trying to get qualified as an initiative on the California ballot. You can download the act, and the qualifying petition that can be signed and returned to help in that effort, from www.HIAA2012.org.

In future messages I'll be telling you about other organizations dear to my heart, including Consumer Attorneys Public Interest Fund, Civil Justice Research and Education Project, California League of Conservation Voters Education Fund, California Rural Legal Aid Foundation, Consumer Federation of California, Consumer Watchdog, Consumers for Automobile Reliability and Safety, Institute for the Renewal of the California Dream, Public Justice, and United Policyholders. Stay tuned! ■

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