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U.S. Chamber's Phony "Rankings" Serve Extreme Corporate Agenda

Washington, DC – U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Institute for Legal Reform (ILR) today released its phony report that claims to rank the best and worst state legal systems in America. American Association for Justice (AAJ) obtained a copy in advance of U.S. Chamber's formal release tomorrow.

"This latest propaganda is further proof that U.S. Chamber serves at the behest of elite corporate insiders," said Jon Haber, CEO of American Association for Justice (AAJ). "U.S. Chamber's goal is to make sure people can't get justice in the courtroom, especially against the corporations that finance this front group." ILR's 30-person board is composed of drug, chemical, and insurance corporations with combined 2007 revenues of \$1.4 trillion.

Here is what's wrong with this report:

- Only corporate defense lawyers from companies earning \$100 million or more were surveyed. No local attorneys, judges, or media were surveyed.
- The methodology has already been debunked. U.S. Chamber's own pollster admitted to Copley News Service in 2004 that there is no way to measure the fairness of a state's legal system.
- In 2006, U.S. Chamber's CEO and the same pollster confessed to the Charleston Gazette that only a fraction of corporate defense lawyers knew anything about West Virginia's courts, even though they ranked poorly at 49th.
- There is no margin of error or evidence the "rankings" are statistically valid. U.S. Chamber lists multiple tables pretending to detail the methodology without actually revealing the response rate or accuracy of its poll.

"U.S. Chamber seems to believe that giant corporations should get a free pass for their negligence or misconduct," said Haber. "All Americans should have a fair chance to receive justice through the legal system – even when it means taking on the most powerful corporations."

To learn more about errors and criticisms of previous U.S. Chamber rankings, visit:
http://www.justice.org/PressRoom/PressReleases/truth_about_chamber.pdf.

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As the world's largest trial bar, AAJ (formerly known as the Association of Trial Lawyers of America) promotes justice and fairness for injured persons, defends the constitutional right to trial by jury, and strengthens the civil justice system through education and disclosure of information critical to public health and safety. With 52,000 members worldwide, AAJ provides lawyers with the information and professional assistance they need to serve clients successfully and protect the democratic values of the civil justice system.