

Contact: Ellen Shemitz

New Hampshire Association for Justice

40 North Main Street

Concord, NH 03302-0447

Phone: (603) 224-0077

Fax: (603)224-3256

Email: Eshemitz@nhaj.org



PRESS RELEASE

Candidate Rush to Support Regulation at Odds with Bush Priorities New Report Details Administration Efforts to Erode Corporate Responsibility

Concord, N.H.—A new report issued yesterday by the American Association for Justice (AAJ) sheds light on how the current Administration has worked to protect corporations from liability for wrongdoing- a topic of sudden bipartisan interest in the wake of the international financial crisis.

The report, *Get Out of Jail Free: A Historical Perspective of How the Bush Administration Helps Corporations Escape Accountability*, tracks the erosion of state consumer protection laws through the spread of federal immunity preemption. Scott Harris, President of the Board of Governors of the New Hampshire Association for Justice, notes the troublesome implications of the report: “As an attorney, I am concerned about efforts to truncate or otherwise preclude individuals harmed by the actions of others from their day in court. Our democracy is best served when a community of peers is able to evaluate the conduct of all litigants large and small.”

The report analyzes documents obtained through repeated Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests by AAJ and reveals how the Bush Administration has silently decided that federal rules should preempt the rights of states to protect their citizens with stricter safety standards. Beginning in 2005, the Administration began inserting carbon copy statements claiming that federal agency rules preempt state law in the “preambles” of regulations issued by the federal government, and in some cases in the body of the final rules themselves.

“Unelected federal regulators are now claiming that states can’t protect their own citizens with stronger consumer protections,” said Tom Watson, an AAJ Governor and member of the NHAJ Board of Governors.

A full copy of “Get Out of Jail Free: A Historical Perspective of How the Bush Administration Helps Corporations Escape Accountability” can be obtained at www.justice.org/getoutofjailfree.

#####