



PUBLIC JUSTICE IN THE NEWS

January 2018 – April 2018

04/05/18: *The New York Post*: **Faulty Goodyear tires caused dozens of serious crashes: feds**

03/02/18: *WNAX (Iowa)*: **Judge Rules Iowa's Ag Gag Lawsuit Can Proceed**

02/26/18: *Courthouse News Service*: **Justices to Decide Whether Waiver Applies in Trucker Arbitration Case**

01/31/18: *Yahoo Finance*: **People are taking Equifax to small-claims court — and winning**

Please see our website at www.publicjustice.net/news/recent-news/ for links to all these great articles and more!

Food Project

- **We're holding factory farms accountable for pollution.** Public Justice filed notice under the Resource Conservation Recovery Act (RCRA) against a massive poultry processing plant in southern Delaware for contaminating the local community's drinking water. The Mountaire Farms plant produces 2.4 million gallons of waste per day that they spray onto fields. Residents live as close as 125 feet to the spray fields. The neighboring community to this plant has drinking water with up to three times the maximum levels of nitrates set by the EPA. Such high levels of contamination have been shown to cause serious health problems. Residents living near the plant have reported health issues including circulation problems resulting in leg amputation, children being born with birth defects and a fatal case of severe asthma.

Court Secrecy

- **Victory – we're keeping the roads safe for you and your family.** In an important ruling for transparency and public safety, an Arizona state court ruled that court records and discovery documents Goodyear has been trying to hide for years through secret settlements and blanket protective orders cannot be kept secret. We believe the documents are likely to demonstrate that Goodyear model G159 tires—tires that are still on the road today—have resulted in accidents that killed or injured scores of people, and that Goodyear has been lying about the problem for years.

Anti-Bullying and Gender Violence

- **We're holding schools accountable for student safety.** Public Justice filed a Title IX lawsuit against an Oklahoma school district for failing to protect a male student from repeated sexual assaults. In addition to multiple sexual assaults, our client also faced continual

bullying and harassment that become so severe his family voluntarily held him back a year in order to protect his safety after school officials refused to take any substantial action on their son's behalf.

Class Action Preservation

- **Victory – we're preventing debt collectors from harassing consumers.** In an important ruling for consumer privacy and the enforcement of fair debt collection laws, a court held in *Romero v. Department Stores National Bank* that hundreds of unauthorized calls by a debt collector to someone's cell phone constitute an invasion of privacy, and could harm someone enough to give them legal standing to sue. The court also ruled that the debt collector couldn't avoid liability just by stopping its calls after it was sued.

Forced Arbitration

- **Victory – we're making sure corporations can't get away with illegal conduct by hiding behind arbitration agreements.** In *Wilson v. Willis/Southern Risk Insurance Services, LLC*, a case alleging illegal conduct by an insurance company, we successfully persuaded the South Carolina Supreme Court to review a lower court opinion that had enforced an arbitration clause in a contract between two defendants against plaintiffs who were not parties to the contract.

Access to Justice

- **We're fighting on Capitol Hill to make sure pharmaceutical companies can no longer put profits before people.** Public Justice Senior Attorney Leslie Brueckner appeared at a congressional staff briefing to speak on the issue involved in our Novartis and McNair cases—whether brand-name manufacturers can be held liable for injuries caused by mislabeled generic drugs. Leslie debated a drug industry lawyer during this panel presentation.