

## **Trial Lawyers Hold People Accountable**

The editorial, "Pharmaceuticals the next victim?" on Jan. 11 seemed to condemn lawyers representing victims of asbestos and other allegedly defective products.

However, it failed to point out the decades of deception by the asbestos industry, dating to at least the 1930s, with the suppression of studies showing the danger, including cancer, through the 1960s, when the industry created propaganda to counter growing bad press.

Exposés such as "Expendable Americans" and "Outrageous misconduct" detail the deception. Recent bankruptcies have merely been reorganizations for these companies, in which they create a trust for victims and emerge as ongoing businesses.

However, thousands of dead victims and many more to come have no such options.

The editorial is critical of trial lawyer contributions, along with union contribution to the Democratic party, but does not mention insurance and drug company contributions to the other party.

Amazingly, there is still no ban in America on asbestos use, and Congress recently passed a drug bill giving millions to companies. It is no great stretch to guess why.

Recent events show the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Food and Drug Administration were too cozy with the industries they were supposed to regulate. Thus state attorneys general and trial lawyers have stepped in.

We do not want to kill an industry. We just want them to stop killing us.

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