

# LAWSUIT ABUSE REFORM

## *Fixing Florida's Broken Legal System*



Bob Grammig, Chair Florida Chamber of Commerce, at a Florida Chamber Political Council Meeting.

"We see it in the problems in workers' compensation, we see it in assignment of benefits (AOB), where the insurance companies are bearing a huge burden that is passed along to the consumers of the state of Florida. It is a tax that essentially falls upon every Florida family and lines the pockets of the trial lawyers."

BOB GRAMMIG  
Florida Chamber Chair  
Holland & Knight LLP

### Why It Matters to Florida

Lawsuit abuse in Florida is an increasingly serious and expensive problem, and thanks to a few in Florida's Legislature, that keeps getting worse. Florida's bottom five legal environment is an open invitation for "gotcha" lawsuits that cost Florida families an average of \$3,400 each year in lawsuit abuse costs, and for the first time in the American Tort Reform Association's 16-year report, Florida ranked number one as the nation's worst "judicial hellhole."

### Florida's Competitiveness Agenda

While Florida has much to be proud of – like an unemployment rate that continues to decline, and a Governor who has eliminated more than 4,500 regulations and cut taxes more than 40 times – the jobs picture is mixed.

Even with one of the fastest job creating records in the country, Florida must still create more than two million jobs by the year 2030, and a broken lawsuit system threatens this.

A broken lawsuit climate creates:

- ▶ Increases in claims, resulting in more than 28,000 Assignment of Benefits cases in 2016-up from 405 a decade ago.
- ▶ Unjustified lawsuits that continue to burden medical professionals, creating an unfair medical liability environment.

The Florida Chamber along with our partners at the Florida Justice Reform Institute and the U.S. Chamber's Institute for Legal Reform will continue to push for common sense reforms that fix Florida's broken legal system.

### The Fight for Free Enterprise Continues

Lawyer billboards throughout Florida attest that lawsuits are big business here. But most Floridians aren't fooled by ads proclaiming to be "for people" when in truth they usually mean "for the plaintiffs' lawyers." Until Florida's courts are seen as fairer for all the people, the forecast for broader economic growth will be cloudy.

### ACT NOW:

Join us in reforming Florida's unfair lawsuit climate by contacting us at [cjohnson@flchamber.com](mailto:cjohnson@flchamber.com).



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