



SHADY TRIAL LAWYER PIPELINE UPDATE

“The Shady Trial Lawyer PACs,” a web of federal political action committees affiliated with trial lawyers, put over \$17.5 million toward left-wing candidates and causes

Ongoing Series About The Role That Trial Lawyers, Boosted By Lucrative Public Contracts, Play in Left-Wing Politics

One of the biggest consumer protection problems we face is the growing trend of trial lawyers and public officials diverting money from victims and everyday consumers.

A stark example of this problem is the Shady Trial Lawyer Pipeline—politicians handing out lucrative public contracts to trial lawyers who give millions of dollars to liberal political campaigns. This is often done under the guise of consumer protection. But, while the Shady Trial Lawyer Pipeline helps politicians funnel public money toward left-wing politics, it leaves everyday consumers and taxpayers with a horrible deal.

As the nation’s focus turns to the upcoming mid-term elections, Alliance For Consumers is issuing a series of Shady Trial Lawyer Pipeline Updates. The first of these reports looked at federal political giving in the last four-year election cycle by eight law firms—referred to as the Shady Eight—that serve as Shady Trial Lawyer Pipeline posterchildren. The Shady Eight report [detailed millions in federal political giving](#), with 99% of the donations going to Democratic campaigns and allied political groups, much of it to the political committees that form the professionalized superstructure of the Democratic Party.

This second Shady Trial Lawyer Pipeline Update looks at the web of federal political action committees (PACs) that are affiliated with trial lawyers and bolstered by the Shady Trial Lawyer Pipeline. The centerpiece of this web—referred to as the Shady Trial Lawyer PACs—is AAJ PAC, which is affiliated with the American Association for Justice, the trade group formerly known as the Association of Trial Lawyers of America. The rest of the web consists of Truth And Justice Fund Company and a series of Justice PACs that are set up for each two-year election cycle (Justice 2018, Justice 2020, etc.). Each is closely tied to

plaintiff-side trial firms and powered by money flowing out of firms that have contracts with States or local governments, including substantial money out of the Shady Eight firms that were covered in the last Shady Trial Lawyer Pipeline Update.

Altogether, the Shady Trial Lawyer PACs put 99% of their money to work for Democrats from 2017 through the beginning of 2022, with 100% of their disclosed independent expenditures in federal races helping Democratic candidates. Combined, they put over \$17.5 million to work supporting Democratic candidates and committees, including over \$2 million just in the last 15 months.

100% of Independent Expenditures Supported Democratic Candidates

\$17.5 MILLION in Support of Democratic Candidates and Allied Committees

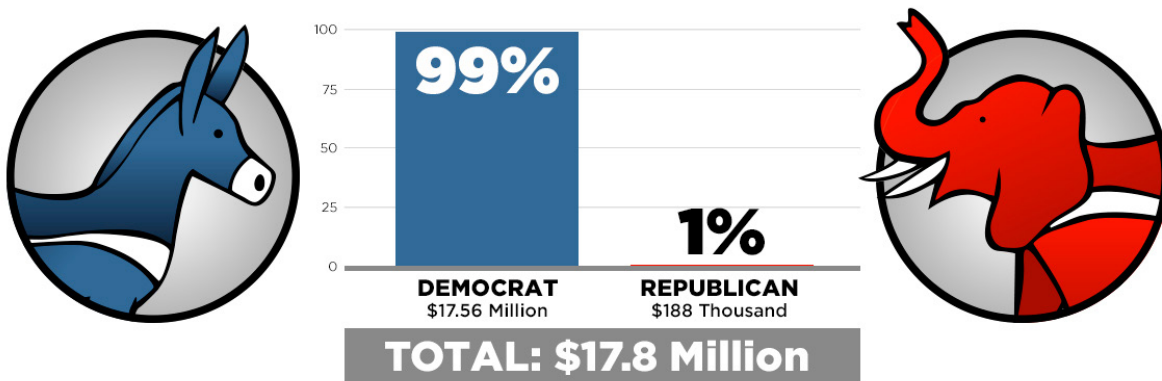
MORE THAN \$12 MILLION Toward Races for the U.S. House and Senate

The specifics of where this \$17.5 million went demonstrates the reach of the Shady Trial Lawyer Pipeline and its importance to national Democratic politics. About half of the disbursements from the Shady Trial Lawyer PACs to campaigns and committees (over \$8 million) went to the political committees that form the professionalized superstructure of the Democratic Party (party committees, funds linked to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi or Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, and other similar groups).

A major focus of the Shady Trial Lawyer PACs is Capitol Hill. Combined, the Shady Trial Lawyer

PACs put over \$12 million toward races for the U.S. House and Senate. They put nearly \$7 million toward supporting Democratic candidates for U.S. Senate, including money spent on independent expenditures and money sent to outside committees like the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee and Senate Majority PAC that focus on electing Democrats to the U.S. Senate. The Shady Trial Lawyer PACs put similar money to work supporting Democratic candidates for the U.S. House, with more than \$5 million going to candidates and outside committees targeting those races.

SHADY TRIAL LAWYER PAC PARTISAN BREAKDOWN



99% of Shady Trial Lawyer PAC Money Went to Democrats from 2017-2022, Including Independent Expenditures

*This data is collected from FEC filings covering 2017-First Quarter of 2022

99% of Shady Trial Lawyer PAC Money Went to Democrats from 2017-2022, Including Independent Expenditures

Nearly \$7 MILLION Toward Supporting Democratic Candidates for U.S. Senate

SHADY TRIAL LAWYER PAC WEB PAC-BY-PAC

AAJ PAC – AAJ PAC is affiliated with the American Association for Justice (formerly known as the Association of Trial Lawyers of America). AAJ PAC touts itself as being bipartisan, but 98% of the disbursements to candidates and committees that AAJ PAC disclosed from 2017 through the beginning of 2022 went to Democrats and their allies. AAJ PAC put nearly \$14 million to work in support of candidates and committees during this time period, with over \$13.5 million of that going to liberal efforts; this includes over \$2 million to Senate Majority PAC (affiliated with Senator Majority Leader Schumer), over \$600,000 to Priorities USA Action, over \$400,000 to America Votes, almost \$400,000 to the National Democratic Redistricting Committee, and almost \$400,000 to Emily's List.

TRUTH AND JUSTICE FUND COMPANY

– Truth And Justice Fund Company is an independent expenditure vehicle that received almost \$400,000 from AAJ PAC and put seven-figures of combined independent expenditure support behind Cal Cunningham's 2020 campaign for U.S. Senate in North Carolina against Senator Thom Tillis and Steve Bullock's 2020 campaign for U.S. Senate in Montana against Senator Steve Daines.

JUSTICE 2018, 2020, AND 2022 – These iterative Justice PACs have put nearly \$2.5 million toward Democratic candidates for United States Senate since the start of 2017.

MAJOR IDEOLOGICAL RECIPIENTS

Beyond the money that the Shady Trial Lawyer PACs put to work in support of Democratic candidates in races for U.S. House and Senate, the Shady Trial Lawyer PACs also sent substantial money to various organizations that serve as progressive political hubs or push particularly strident left-wing agendas.

AMERICA VOTES – The Shady Trial Lawyer PACs sent just about half a million dollars to America Votes, a 501(c)(4) organization that bills itself as the “the coordination hub of the progressive community.” America Votes was founded in 2004 [by a cadre of operatives](#) that included Emily's List founder Ellen Malcolm. [It received the biggest single outlay](#) from the Arabella Advisors-linked 1630 Fund in 2020. And it [partners with various progressive partners on a national level](#), including the Brady Campaign, Emily's List, Equality Federation, the Human Rights Campaign, NARAL Pro-Choice America, and Planned Parenthood Action Fund.

EMILY'S LIST – The Shady Trial Lawyer PACs have sent hundreds-of-thousands of dollars to Emily's List, a political action committee that has as its tagline: “We ignite change by getting Democratic pro-choice women elected to office.” Emily's List [touts that its involvement in political races “goes beyond fundraising”](#) to include “recruiting candidates, winning elections and mobilizing voters,” all in support of the effort to score “campaign victories that bring the

progressive decision making power of Democratic pro-choice women to office.”

THE NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE

– The Shady Trial Lawyer PACs have sent hundreds-of-thousands of dollars to the National Democratic Redistricting Committee, a Democratic political committee that is chaired by Eric Holder, President Obama's Attorney General, and serves as a “strategic hub for a comprehensive redistricting strategy” that includes “backing litigation, supporting reforms, and electing fair-map Democrats.” The formation of the National Redistricting Committee [arose after coordination with progressive groups](#) like Emily's List and Planned Parenthood, and fundraising efforts that were spearheaded by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and other leading D.C. Democratic leaders.

PRIORITIES USA ACTION – The Shady Trial Lawyer PACs have sent over half-a-million dollars to Priorities USA Action, a 501(c)(4) organization that is focused on building “a powerful progressive movement” through “permanent infrastructure” and a [“permanent campaign to persuade and mobilize voters.”](#) As part of this effort, Priorities USA Action engages in “consistent, long-term public opinion research focused on identifying and refining the most effective strategies Democrats can employ in their messaging to protect and expand Democratic majorities.”

IDEOLOGICAL RECIPIENTS RECEIVING SUBSTANTIAL SUPPORT:

- **America Votes**

The coordination hub of the progressive community

- **Emily's List**

Igniting change by getting Democratic pro-choice women elected to office

- **National Democratic Redistricting Committee**

Strategic hub for a comprehensive redistricting strategy

- **Priorities USA Action**

Building a powerful progressive movement

THREAT TO CONSUMERS AND TAXPAYERS

This partisan political giving is supported by law firms that hold lucrative public contracts and get big money as a result, money that really belongs in the pockets of taxpayers and consumers.

Consumers and taxpayers lose out from the Shady Trial Lawyer Pipeline in many ways, but one particularly dire aspect is how the public contracts that are the gateway to the Shady Trial Lawyer Pipeline are so often missing basic protections (including basic ethics protections) that should be in all outside-counsel contracts. The contracts, which can only be a few pages and sometimes look like they were written by trial lawyers themselves, have glaring weaknesses such as:

- The contracts often have no expiration date or clear language tying the engagement to a particular defendant or case;

- The contracts rarely include appropriate conflicts protection, even though trial lawyers often represent multiple governments that may have very different interests in the same case;
- The contracts usually fail to require that the trial lawyers provide the best pricing terms that lawyers are offering to any other governmental client on the same matter; and
- The contracts almost never ensure that contingency fees for the trial lawyers will not be taken out of money set aside for restitution to victims.

These types of weak, under-protective, giveaway contracts make some sense if the goal is to fund left-wing campaigns—as the activities of the web of Shady Trial Lawyer PACs demonstrate—but they make no sense if your goal is to help consumers and protect taxpayers.

Alliance For Consumers is focused on putting more money in the pockets of everyday consumers and ensuring that consumers and the rule of law are not left behind by trial lawyers and public officials. Raising concern about the Shady Trial Lawyer Pipeline is central to the mission of Alliance For Consumers because the Shady Trial Lawyer Pipeline undercuts this mission.

The web of Shady Trial Lawyer PACs is a stark example—although far from the only one—of how the Shady Trial Lawyer Pipeline works, with

politicians feeding sweetheart contracts to trial lawyers who have multiples avenues through which to funnel 98% or more of their political donations to liberals and pump millions of dollars into Democratic candidates, committees, and allied organizations.

Good governance and honest stewardship call for better. The consumer should never be the loser in a left-wing political money game like what we see in the Shady Trial Lawyer Pipeline.

Donations 2017-2022								
PAC	Liberals	Biden	Senate (D)	House (D)	Blue Orgs	Percentage	GOP	Overall Total
AAJ PAC	\$ 13,587,241	\$ 50,000	\$ 598,500	\$ 4,908,000.00	\$ 8,030,741	98%	\$ 187,500	\$ 13,830,741
Justice PACs	\$ 2,378,039	\$ -	\$ 2,370,361	\$ -	\$ 7,678	100%	\$ -	\$ 2,378,039
Truth and Justice	\$ 1,593,211	\$ -	\$ 1,593,211	\$ -	\$ -	100%	\$ -	\$ 1,593,211
Total	\$ 17,558,491	\$ 50,000	\$ 4,562,072	\$ 4,908,000	\$ 8,038,419	99%	\$ 187,500	\$ 17,801,991

Donations 2017-2022					
PAC	DNC	DSCC	DCCC	SMP	HMP
AAJ PAC	\$ 345,000	\$ 75,000	\$ 90,000	\$ 2,114,741	\$ 550,000
Justice PACs	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Truth and Justice	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total	\$ 345,000	\$ 75,000	\$ 90,000	\$ 2,114,741	\$ 550,000

Donations 2017-2022	
Total Congressional (Candidates, DSCC, DCCC, SMP, HMP and IE)	\$12,299,813
Total Senate (Candidates, DSCC, SMP, and IE)	\$6,751,813
Total House (Candidates, DCCC, HMP, and IE)	\$5,548,000



ALLIANCE
for **CONSUMERS**

**Ensuring That Consumers
And The Rule Of Law Are Not
Left Behind By Trial Lawyers
And Public Officials ...**

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