



ALLIANCE *for* CONSUMERS

**CONSUMER  
PROTECTION REPORT**

# **Shady Trial Lawyer Pipeline Update: 2025 Shady Trial Lawyer PACs Update**

A Look Into The Deepening Ties Between The Primary Trial Lawyer-Affiliated Federal Political Action Committees And Left-Wing Groups.

**May 2025**

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.

Alliance For Consumers launched a series of Shady Trial Lawyer Pipeline Updates in 2022, starting with a look at federal political giving from 2017-2020 by eight law firms—referred to as the Shady Eight—that serve as Shady Trial Lawyer Pipeline poster children.

Alliance For Consumers has also been looking into the money being put to work by the web of federal political action committees (PACs) that are affiliated with trial lawyers and bolstered by the Shady Trial Lawyer Pipeline, providing annual updates on this web of PACs since 2023.

This Alliance For Consumers Consumer Protection Report focuses on 2024 and the money that this web of PACs, collectively referred to as the Shady Trial Lawyer PACs, put to work last year.

## SHADY TRIAL LAWYER PACS

**AAJ PAC**

**Justice 2018 PAC**

**Justice 2020 PAC**

**Justice 2022 PAC**

**Justice 2024 PAC**

**Truth And Justice  
Fund Company**

The centerpiece of this web 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, Justice 2022, 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. This includes significant sums of money out of the Shady Eight firms that are covered in other Alliance For Consumers Consumer Protection Reports.

**~\$29 MILLION**  
**In Total Support For  
Democratic Candidates  
And Allied Committees**

Altogether, the Shady Trial Lawyer PACs have consistently put 99% of their money to work for Democrats. 99% of their money supported Democratic candidates and aligned committees from 2017 through 2022. In 2023, 99% of their money supported Democratic candidates and aligned committees. And 99% of their money went to support Democratic candidates and aligned committees during 2024. Combined, the Shady Trial Lawyer PACs have put almost \$29 million to work supporting Democratic candidates and aligned committees since the beginning of 2017, with \$2.8 million of that just during 2024.

**\$2.8 MILLION**  
**In Total Support For  
Democratic Candidates  
And Allied Committees  
In 2024 Alone**

**99%**  
**Support For Democratic  
Candidates And  
Allied Committees**

The specifics of where the Shady Trial Lawyer PACs sent their money demonstrates the reach of the Shady Trial Lawyer Pipeline and its importance to national Democratic causes.

Combined, the Shady Trial Lawyer PACs put more than \$10 million toward supporting Democratic candidates for U.S. Senate since 2017, around \$8 million more toward supporting Democratic candidates for the U.S. House, and substantial sums to party committees and progressive hub entities like America Votes, the National Democratic Redistricting Committee, and Emily's List.

### TOP 10 CANDIDATES RECEIVING SUPPORT IN 2024

**John Tester (D, MT)**  
**Tammy Baldwin (D, WI)**  
**Jacky Rosen (D, NV)**  
**Amy Klobuchar (D, MN)**  
**Maria Cantwell (D, WA)**  
**Kirsten Gillibrand (D, NY)**  
**Ruben Gallego (D, NV)**  
**Angela Alsobrooks (D, MD)**  
**Lisa Blunt Rochester (D, DE)**  
**Andy Kim (D, NJ)**

The Shady Trial Lawyer PACs have supported a long list of individual candidates, especially in 2024, when ten Democratic candidates for the United States Senate received more than \$75,000 of direct support each from the Shady Trial Lawyer PACs. The support also flows to a handful of groups and candidates sitting at key fulcrums or focused on certain progressive ideologies. In recent years this support has flowed in large measure to hub organizations with aggressive progressive leanings, like American Bridge and America Votes.

### TOP GROUPS RECEIVING ASSISTANCE FROM SHADY TRIAL LAWYER PACS SINCE 2022

**America Votes**  
**American Bridge**  
**National Democratic  
Redistricting Committee**  
**RuralVote.org**  
**Democratic Congressional  
Campaign Committee**  
**Democratic Senatorial  
Campaign Committee**

## 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 end of 2024 benefited Democrats and their allies. AAJ PAC put over \$21.5 million to work in support of candidates and committees during this time period, with over \$21 million of that going to liberal efforts; this includes over \$2.5 million to Senate Majority PAC (affiliated with Majority Leader Schumer), at least \$1.3 million to America Votes, at least \$750,000 to Priorities USA Action, over \$600,000 to the National Democratic Redistricting Committee and American Bridge 21st Century, and over \$500,000 to Emily's List.

**TRUTH AND JUSTICE FUND COMPANY** – Truth And Justice Fund Company is an independent expenditure vehicle that has received over \$1 Million from AAJ PAC and put over \$3 million in independent expenditures into United States Senate races in swing states over recent election cycles, boosting Democratic candidates in pivotal swing states like North Carolina and putting substantial support behind Senator John Tester in Montana.

**JUSTICE 2018, 2020, 2022, AND 2024** – These iterative Justice PACs have put over \$3 million toward Democratic candidates for United States Senate since the start of 2017.

# TOP GROUPS RECEIVING SUPPORT SINCE 2022

Beyond the money these PACs put to work directly in support of specific Democratic candidates, they also send substantial support to official party committees supporting Democrats running for seats in the U.S. House and Senate, and have a history of supporting outside organizations that serve as progressive political hubs. Six groups from these categories have received the most support from the Shady Trial Lawyer PACs since 2022.

**AMERICA VOTES** – The Shady Trial Lawyer PACs have sent at least \$100,000 since 2022 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 [partners with various progressive partners on a national level](#), including the Center for Secure and Modern Elections, Emily’s List, Equality Federation, the Human Rights Campaign, and Planned Parenthood Action Fund. Since the beginning of 2017, the Shady Trial Lawyer PACs have sent America Votes at least \$1.3 million.

**AMERICAN BRIDGE 21ST CENTURY** – The Shady Trial Lawyer PACs have sent at least \$100,000 since 2022 to American Bridge 21st Century, a 501(c)(4) organization [that bills itself as](#) “the largest research, tracking, and rapid response operation in the Democratic Party,” and “also runs large-scale paid media programs. The group [was founded by liberal activist David Brock](#). Since the beginning of 2017, the Shady Trial Lawyer PACs have sent American Bridge 21st Century over \$600,000.

**THE NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE** – The Shady Trial Lawyer PACs have sent at least \$100,000 since 2022 to The National Democratic Redistricting Committee that is chaired by President Obama’s Attorney General, Eric Holder, and serves as a “centralized hub for

executing comprehensive redistricting strategy,” that includes “shifting the balance of power away from total Republican control of redistricting, raising awareness of redistricting ... and filing lawsuits ....” The formation of the National Democratic 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. Since the beginning of 2017, the Shady Trial Lawyer PACs have sent NDRC over \$600,000.

**RURALVOTE.ORG** – The Shady Trial Lawyer PACs have sent at least \$100,000 since 2022 to RuralVote.org, a political action committee based in Columbus, Ohio, that [describes itself](#) as: “a national network of civic leaders and organizers working to elect Democratic candidates fighting for small towns and rural communities.” RuralVote.org [explains its mission as](#): “keep[ing] the Senate blue while planting the seeds for future cycles” by “directly grow[ing] our national network of civic leaders and volunteers working to elect progressive candidates.”

**DCCC** – The Shady Trial Lawyer PACs have sent at least \$60,000 since 2022 to the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, a political action committee that [has as its tagline](#): “We are the only political committee dedicated to electing Democrats to the House of Representatives.”

**DSCC** – The Shady Trial Lawyer PACs have sent at least \$60,000 since 2022 to the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee, a political action committee that [describes its mission clearly](#): “The Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee is the only committee solely dedicated to electing a Democratic Senate. From organizing to fundraising to candidate recruitment, the DSCC works around-the-clock to re-elect Democratic senators and send new leaders to Washington ....”

# THREAT TO CONSUMERS AND TAXPAYERS

This partisan political giving is supported by money from lucrative public contracts signed by politicians and public officials, 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 can at times be only a few pages long, sometimes look like they were written by the trial lawyers themselves, and 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 political activities of the 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 multiple avenues through which to funnel 98% or more of their political donations to liberals and pump millions of dollars into left-leaning candidates, committees, and allied organizations.

Good governance and honest stewardship call or better. The consumer should never be on the losing side of a left-wing political money game like what is on display in the Shady Trial Lawyer Pipeline.

**This partisan political giving is supported by money from lucrative public contracts signed by politicians and public officials, money that really belongs in the pockets of taxpayers and consumers.**

## TRIAL LAWYER PAC DONATIONS 2017-2024

FIRM	TOTAL DEM	SENATE (D)	HOUSE (D)	DEM ORGS	DEM %	GOP	OTHER	OVERALL TOTAL
Justice PACS	\$4,296,057	\$4,288,379	\$0.00	\$7,678	100	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,296,057
Truth and Justice Fund IE Spending	\$3,264,917	\$3,264,917	\$0.00	\$0.00	100	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,264,917
AAJ PAC	\$21,215,241	\$900,500	\$7,878,500	\$12,386,241	98	\$282,500	\$113,500	\$21,611,241
TOTAL	\$28,776,215	\$8,453,796	\$7,878,500	\$12,393,919	99	\$282,500	\$113,500	\$29,172,215

## TRIAL LAWYER PACs IN 2024

FIRM	TOTAL DEM	SENATE (D)	HOUSE (D)	DEM ORGS	DEM %	GOP	OVERALL TOTAL
Justice PACS	\$890,458	\$890,458	\$0.00	\$0.00	100	\$0.00	\$890,458
Truth and Justice Fund IE Spending	\$656,228	\$656,228	\$0.00	\$0.00	100	\$0.00	\$656,228
AAJ PAC	\$1,274,000	\$70,500	\$854,000	\$349,500	98	\$27,500	\$1,301,500
TOTAL	\$2,810,686	\$1,617,186	\$854,000	\$349,000	99	\$27,500	\$2,848,186

## TRIAL LAWYER PACs TOP 10 CANDIDATES IN 2024

CANDIDATE	JUSTICE PACS	TRUTH AND FUND IE SPENDING	AAJ PAC	TOTAL
Montanans for Tester	\$0.00	\$656,227.99	\$0.00	\$656,227.99
Tammy Baldwin for Senate	\$99,094.07	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$99,094.07
Rosen for Nevada	\$95,163.53	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$95,163.53
Klobuchar for Minnesota	\$93,213.49	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$93,213.49
Friends of Maria	\$91,690.03	\$0.00	-\$5,000.00	\$86,690.03
Gillibrand for Senate	\$79,106.00	\$0.00	\$5,000.00	\$84,105.00
Gallego for Arizona	\$72,568.56	\$0.00	\$10,000.00	\$82,568.56
Alsobrooks for Senate	\$69,119.42	\$0.00	\$10,000.00	\$79,119.42
Lisa Blunt Rochester for Senate	\$73,845.00	\$0.00	\$2,500.00	\$76,345.00
Andy Kim for New Jersey	\$70,913.97	\$0.00	\$5,000.00	\$75,913.97



ALLIANCE *for* CONSUMERS

**CONSUMER  
PROTECTION REPORT**