



ALLIANCE *for* CONSUMERS

**CONSUMER  
PROTECTION REPORT**

# **Shady Trial Lawyer Pipeline Update: 2026 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 2026

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 posterchildren.

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.

## SHADY TRIAL LAWYER PACS

**AAJ PAC**

**Justice 2018 PAC**

**Justice 2020 PAC**

**Justice 2022 PAC**

**Justice 2024 PAC**

**Justice 2026 PAC**

**Truth And Justice  
Fund Company**

This Alliance For Consumers Consumer Protection Report focuses on 2025 and the money that this web of PACs, collectively referred to as the Shady Trial Lawyer PACs, put to work last year.

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.

**~\$31 MILLION**  
**In Total Support For  
Democratic Candidates  
And Allied Committees**

Altogether, the Shady Trial Lawyer PACs have consistently put almost all 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. 99% of their money went to support Democratic candidates and aligned committees during 2024. And in 2025 the ratio was 93%. Combined, the Shady Trial Lawyer PACs have put almost \$31 million to work supporting Democratic candidates and aligned committees since the beginning of 2017, with around \$2 million during 2025 alone.

**~\$2 MILLION**  
**In Total Support For  
Democratic Candidates  
And Allied Committees  
In 2025 Alone**

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, more than \$9 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 2 CANDIDATES RECEIVING SUPPORT IN 2025

**Jon Ossoff (D – GA)**  
**Mark Warner (D – VA)**

While the Shady Trial Lawyer PACs have supported a long list of individual candidates, especially in 2025, 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, America Votes, and Emily's List.

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

**American Bridge  
House Majority PAC  
America Votes  
National Democratic  
Redistricting Committee  
Emily's List**

## SHADY TRIAL LAWYER PAC WEB PAC-BY-PAC

**AAJ PAC: 2024 - 2025** – 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 2025 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, 2024, AND 2026** – These iterative Justice PACs have put over \$3 million toward Democratic candidates for United States Senate since the start of 2017.

# TOP GROUPS RECEIVING PAC SUPPORT

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. 5 groups from these categories have received the most support from the Shady Trial Lawyer PACs since 2022.

**AMERICA VOTES** – The Shady Trial Lawyers PACs sent at least \$75,000 since 2025 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 has [partnered with various progressive partners on a national level](#), including the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence, the Center for Secure and Modern Elections, Emily’s List, Equality Federation, the Human Rights Campaign, NARAL Pro-Choice America, and Planned Parenthood Action Fund. Since the beginning of 2017, the Shady Trial Lawyer PACs have sent America Votes close to \$1.5 million.

**AMERICAN BRIDGE 21ST CENTURY** – The Shady Trial Lawyer PACs sent at least \$100,000 in 2025 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 \$700,000.

**THE NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE** – The Shady Trial Lawyer PACs have sent at least \$50,000 in 2025 to The National Democratic Redistricting Committee that is chaired by President Obama’s Attorney General, Eric Holder, and serves as a “strategic hub for executing comprehensive redistricting strategy,” that has shifted the balance of power. 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 \$650,000.

**EMILY’S LIST** – The Shady Trial Lawyer PACs sent at least \$40,000 in 2025 to Emily’s List, a political action committee that, in its own words, has been “[recruiting, training, and supporting Democratic pro-choice women up and down the ballot for 40 years and counting](#).” Since the beginning of 2017, the Shady Trial Lawyer PACs have sent Emily’s List approximately \$750,000.

**HOUSE MAJORITY PAC** – The Shady Trial Lawyer PACs sent at least \$100,000 in 2025 to House Majority PAC, [which is focused on](#) electing House Democrats and will be the largest outside spender in Democratic House campaigns in 2026.

# 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.

These types of weak, under-protective, giveaway contracts make some sense if the goal is to fund left-wing campaigns, but they make no sense if your goal is to help consumers and protect taxpayers.

Is it any wonder then that states have been revisiting these contracts and finding them wanting? From Alaska to Montana, Utah, Iowa, and Kansas, state officials have taken a look at the contracts that have supported the Shady Trial Lawyer Pipeline and decided that it was time to call an end to the weak, under-protective contracts that have long passed muster in this space.

The result of this has been contract terminations of Motley Rice, Morgan & Morgan, and Baron & Budd, with both Motley Rice and Baron & Budd receiving for-cause terminations.

That kind of cleaning house is a good thing, and something to be celebrated, as it is a mark of tremendous progress in this space that has long called for a change in direction.

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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 politi-

cians 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 for 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.

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## TRIAL LAWYER PAC DONATIONS 2017-2025

FIRM	TOTAL DEM	SENATE (D)	HOUSE (D)	DEM ORGS	DEM %	GOP	OTHER	OVERALL TOTAL
Justice PACS	\$44,89,939.01	\$4,482,260.8	\$0.00	\$7,678.21	100	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$ 4,489,939.01
Truth and Justice Fund IE Spending	\$3,264,917.24	\$3,264,917.24	\$0.00	\$0.00	100	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,264,917.24
AAJ PAC	\$22,957,741.00	\$1,022,000.00	\$8,889,500.00	\$12,996,241.00	98	\$315,00.00	\$217,000.00	\$23,489,741.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$30,712,597.25</b>	<b>\$8,769,178.04</b>	<b>\$8,889,500.00</b>	<b>\$13,003,919.21</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>\$315,00.00</b>	<b>\$217,000.00</b>	<b>\$31,244,597.25</b>

## TRIAL LAWYER PAC DONATIONS IN 2025

FIRM	TOTAL DEM	SENATE (D)	HOUSE (D)	DEM ORGS	DEM %	GOP	OVERALL TOTAL
Justice PACS	\$193,882.00	\$193,882.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	100	\$0.00	\$193,882.00
Truth and Justice Fund IE Spending	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
AAJ PAC	\$1,742,500.00	\$121,500.00	\$1,011,000.00	\$610,000.00	93	\$32,500.00	\$1,878,500.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,936,382.00</b>	<b>\$315,382.00</b>	<b>\$1,011,000.00</b>	<b>\$610,000.00</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>\$32,500.00</b>	<b>\$2,072,382.00</b>

## TRIAL LAWYER PACs TOP CANDIDATES IN 2025

CANDIDATE	JUSTICE PACS	TRUTH AND FUND IE SPENDING	AAJ PAC	TOTAL
Jon Ossoff for Senate	\$96,468.00	\$0.00	\$10,000.00	\$106,468.00
Friends of Mark Warner	\$97,414.00	\$0.00	\$2,500.00	\$99,914.00
Christian D Menefee for Congress	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
Clarke for Congress	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
Committee to Re-elect Henry Hank Johnson	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
Cooper for North Carolina	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
Derek Tran for Congress	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
Friends of Sherrod Brown	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
Katherine Clark for Congress	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
Robert Garcia for Congress	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
The Markey Committee	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
Vindman for Congress	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00



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