



Letters to the editor

April 30, 2007

Corporate propaganda

Recently the president of a local manufacturing company tried to blame Corporate America's problems on lawsuits ("Illinois needs new rules against frivolous lawsuits," Letters to the Editor, April 2). She spread the propaganda of big business and big insurance by citing a deceptive and misleading "survey" that attacks the courts and Illinois' business climate. This survey supposedly ranks the best and worst state legal systems in America.

Conveniently, she did not tell you who was surveyed. This is not a survey of how consumers or the public feel about the civil justice system. Rather, it is a poll of corporate lawyers working for companies with \$100 million or more in annual revenues. These are the very lawyers who spend their days protecting and defending corporate wrongdoers when they are sued by consumers or employees who have been injured, killed or abused by corporations.

It is not surprising that lawyers working for Corporate America are unhappy with states that have laws protecting consumers' legal rights. If a survey of convicted criminals was done, what do you think they would say about the criminal justice system?

Interestingly, a recent survey published by the National Assn. of Manufacturers found that American manufacturing companies ranked the "fear of litigation" at the very bottom of their list of concerns.

For years, the insurance industry, big business and their front groups, like the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, have been trying to take over the courts in Illinois and across the country. Whose rights do you think they want to protect?

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Healthy hospitals

One thing you will find consistent with all hospitals encountering financial difficulty: They all rely heavily on public payments ("The hospital gap," March 26). One thing you will find consistent with all hospitals not having