

LETTER TO THE EDITOR
MONA CHAREN AND TRIAL LAWYERS

Mona Charen in her op-ed piece attacking trial lawyers has engaged in the venerable art of being a hypocrite conservative. Conservatives always supported the efforts of lawyers to make people responsible for their actions. The classic Mona Charen rightwing mantra is “responsibility.” Apparently, this does not apply when trial lawyers try to hold big money interests and society’s members responsible for reprehensible acts that they commit against others.

Mona Charen quotes a number of stories and fairy tales about supposedly real cases reported by the Heartland Institute. The Heartland Institute is an ultraconservative organization which is about as partisan as it gets.

The Heartland Institute admits that its money comes from America’s major foundations and corporations.

I have spent some time since 1984 checking out tall tales about absurd lawsuits. In every case I found the stories either untrue or so distorted as to be unrecognizable. None of the cases cited by Mona Charen could be found and therefore it is impossible to know the truth of the claims made in the op-ed piece.

What we do know is that people like Mona Charen will make up any story regardless of how irresponsible it is because she does not respect the people who are reading her articles. She figures nobody will check out her facts and it doesn’t matter to her anyway.

The truth is reflected in empirical data which shows that the jury trial system is virtually disappearing in America with less than 1.5% of cases ever reaching a jury. Legitimate claims are either barred at the door, get thrown out or are subject to years of appeals by well-funded special interest groups.

America's people are losing the precious right to trial by jury guaranteed by the founders of this Country and set forth in the Bill of Rights. Mona Charen has done her best to contribute to the Sovietization of our legal system. Too bad.

CAR/srb

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