

Tracking the Trial Lawyers: Spending in the 2004 Elections

Initiative 134, approved by 77 percent of Washington’s voters in 1992, was supposed to break up the big-money monopolies that sought to control legislative politics in our state. But Washington’s personal injury lawyers have already poured over a half a million dollars in legislative and statewide races for 2004. And that doesn’t even include spending from September until the general election.

Recipients of
personal injury
lawyer
contributions

Democrats: 94%
Republicans: 6%

Our Mission:

To limit the expansion of tort liability,
to reduce the cost of defending lawsuits,
to speed resolution of civil actions,
and to improve fairness and certainty
in our civil justice system
for everyone.

Influence Times Ten: The PACs of WSTLA

The ten personal injury lawyer Political Action Committees raised over \$1.2 million during the past two years. With only two months until the general election, it’s possible they will spend every last cent to make sure “their” candidates are elected to office. The number one beneficiary of personal injury lawyer money is gubernatorial candidate Christine Gregoire, who raked in \$21,250; receiving money from each of the 10 PACs.

“It puzzles me,” said LRC Chairman Cliff Webster. “I don’t know how they can get away with pouring over \$20,000 into a single campaign from multiple PACs and then say with a straight face that those contributions are made separately, without collusion between PACs.”

State law allows separate PACs to contribute to the same campaign but their donations cannot be coordinated in any way.

Regional Personal Injury Lawyer PAC	Money raised to-date for 2004 elections	Money spent to-date for 2004 elections
Abraham Lincoln Memorial Society	\$147,715.75	\$104,770.31
Central Washington Lawyers for Working Families	\$93,341.94	\$50,954.65
City of Destiny PAC	\$137,505.71	\$92,985.81
East King County Lawyers for Justice	\$115,662.80	\$77,507.57
Inland Northwest PAC	\$100,082.18	\$60,551.59
Justice PAC	\$107,107.16	\$67,476.55
Northern Attorneys PAC	\$103,563.66	\$61,096.20
Puget Sound Citizens for Political Responsibility	\$111,646.25	\$65,931.17
Victims Advocates	\$163,016.02	\$126,002.90
Western Washington Trial Lawyers for Victims	\$144,737.10	\$102,677.64
Total	\$1,224,378.57	\$809,954.39

Source: Public Disclosure Commission, through September 7, 2004

Fully 78% of voters surveyed would be more likely to vote AGAINST a candidate who receives support or money from a personal injury lawyer.

Source: Moore Information and Evans/McDonough poll, October 2003

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Who Gets Personal Injury Lawyer Money?

According to reports on file with the Public Disclosure Commission the following candidates each received more than \$2,000 from personal injury lawyer PACs from January 2003 through September 7, 2004. In many of these races candidates also received contributions directly from personal injury lawyers and/or their law firms.

Legislative candidates

Laurie Dolan	D-Spokane	\$8,100.00	Representative Pat Lantz	D-Gig Harbor	\$8,100.00
Representative Brian Blake	D-Longview	\$7,700.00	Senator Mark Doumit	D-Cathlamet	\$7,700.00
Craig Pridemore	D-Vancouver	\$6,750.00	Derek Kilmer	D-Gig Harbor	\$6,750.00
Representative Phil Rockefeller	D-Silverdale	\$6,750.00	Representative Al O'Brien	D-Mountlake Terrace	\$5,400.00
Brian Weinstein	D-Mercer Island	\$5,400.00	Representative Dawn Morrell	D-Puyallup	\$5,400.00
Representative Deb Wallace	D-Vancouver	\$5,400.00	Representative Geoff Simpson	D-Covington	\$5,400.00
Representative Hans Dunshee	D-Snohomish	\$5,400.00	Helen McGovern	D-Lakewood	\$5,400.00
Representative Judy Clibborn	D-Mercer Island	\$5,400.00	Pat Sullivan	D-Covington	\$5,400.00
Senator Rosemary McAuliffe	D-Bothell	\$5,400.00	Representative Ross Hunter	D-Bellevue	\$5,400.00
Representative Tom Campbell	R-Spanaway	\$5,025.00	Dave Seabrook	D-Battleground	\$4,725.00
Representative Helen Sommers	D-Seattle	\$4,725.00	Representative John McCoy	D-Marysville	\$4,725.00
Larry Springer	D-Kirkland	\$4,725.00	Senator Lisa Brown	D-Spokane	\$4,725.00
Mark Ericks	D-Bothell	\$4,725.00	Senator Jim Kastama	D-Puyallup	\$4,400.00
Representative Kelli Linville	D-Bellingham	\$4,350.00	Representative Steve Conway	D-Tacoma	\$4,300.00
Representative Dave Quall	D-Mount Vernon	\$4,050.00	Don Hinman	D-Yakima	\$4,050.00
Kevin Van De Wege	D-Sequim	\$4,050.00	Representative Mark Miloscia	D-Federal Way	\$4,050.00
Mary Helen Roberts	D-Edmonds	\$4,050.00	Pam Brokaw	D-Vancouver	\$4,050.00
Tammi Green	D-Lakewood	\$4,050.00	Representative Dennis Flannigan	D-Tacoma	\$3,600.00
Senator Don Benton	R-Vancouver	\$3,550.00	Representative Alex Wood	D-Spokane	\$3,375.00
Representative Fred Jarrett	R-Mercer Island	\$3,375.00	Senator Harriet Spanel	D-Bellingham	\$3,375.00
Representative Jay Rodne	R-Issaquah	\$3,375.00	Representative John Lovick	D-Mill Creek	\$3,375.00
Mike Sells	D-Everett	\$3,375.00	Representative Rodney Tom	R-Medina	\$3,375.00
Representative Ruth Kagi	D-Lake Forest Park	\$3,375.00	Representative Zack Hudgins	D-Tukwila	\$3,375.00
Representative Frank Chopp	D-Seattle	\$3,325.00	Representative Lynn Kessler	D-Hoquiam	\$3,075.00
Representative Bill Fromhold	D-Vancouver	\$3,000.00	Representative Jim Moeller	D-Vancouver	\$3,000.00
Representative Sam Hunt	D-Olympia	\$3,000.00	Representative Steve Kirby	D-Tacoma	\$3,000.00
Barbara Demichele	D-Sammamish	\$2,700.00	Representative Bill Grant	D-Walla Walla	\$2,700.00
Bob Hasegawa	D-Seattle	\$2,700.00	Brendan Williams	D-Olympia	\$2,700.00
Representative Brian Sullivan	D-Mukilteo	\$2,700.00	Representative Dave Upthegrove	D-Des Moines	\$2,700.00
Representative Ed Murray	D-Seattle	\$2,700.00	Representative Eileen Cody	D-Seattle	\$2,700.00
Senator Jean Berkey	D-Lake Forest Park	\$2,700.00	Representative Jim McIntire	D-Seattle	\$2,700.00
Representative Joe McDermott	D-Seattle	\$2,700.00	Senator Margarita Prentice	D-Seattle	\$2,700.00
Representative Mary Lou Dickerson	D-Seattle	\$2,700.00	Sherry Appleton	D-Poulsbo	\$2,700.00
Representative Timm Ormsby	D-Spokane	\$2,700.00	Representative Kathy Haigh	R-Shelton	\$2,325.00
Representative Bill Eickmeyer	D-Belfair	\$2,025.00	Representative Brian Hatfield	D-Raymond	\$2,025.00
Representative Debbie Regala	D-Tacoma	\$2,025.00	Debi Srail	D-University Place	\$2,025.00
Representative Eric Pettigrew	D-Seattle	\$2,025.00	Representative Jeannie Darneille	D-Tacoma	\$2,025.00
Representative Jeff Morris	D-Anacortes	\$2,025.00	Senator Karen Fraser	D-Olympia	\$2,025.00
Kathy Huckabay	D-Sammamish	\$2,025.00	Representative Maralyn Chase	D-Edmonds	\$2,025.00
Maureen Walsh	R-Walla Walla	\$2,025.00	Representative Phyllis Kenney	D-Seattle	\$2,025.00
Representative Sharon Santos	D-Seattle	\$2,025.00	Representative Toby Nixon	R-Redmond	\$2,025.00
Representative Velma Veloria	D-Seattle	\$2,025.00			

LRC Website: To keep up-to-date on LRC activities and information, you can visit our website at www.walrc.org.

Who Gets Personal Injury Lawyer Political Action Committee Money? (Continued)

Statewide candidates

Candidate	Office	Party	Personal injury lawyer money received
Christine Gregoire	Governor	D	\$21,250.00
Deborah Senn	Attorney General	D	\$13,500.00
Mike Kreidler	Insurance Commissioner	D	\$8,350.00
Laura Ruderman	Secretary of State	D	\$5,650.00
Mike Cooper	Lands Commissioner	D	\$4,375.00
Ron Sims	Governor	D	\$4,000.00
Brad Owen	Lt. Governor	D	\$2,700.00
Mark Sidran	Attorney General	D	\$2,700.00
Brian Sonntag	State Auditor	D	\$1,850.00
Gary Locke	Governor (retiring)	D	\$1,000.00

Total **\$65,375.00**

More Personal Injury Lawyer Money to Go Around

Personal injury lawyer Political Action Committees also contributed significantly to other campaigns for the 2003/2004 election cycle through September 7, 2004 – with most of this money going to Democrats.

Washington State Democrats	Democrat PAC	\$53,200.00
Harry Truman Fund	Democrat PAC	\$47,000.00
Roosevelt Fund	Democrat PAC	\$37,000.00
Working Families for Safer Jobs	Union PAC	\$24,000.00
Victory 2004		\$22,500.00
Washington Citizen Action	Public Intrest Citizens Group	\$15,000.00
House Democratic Campaign Committee	Democrat PAC	\$9,150.00
Senate Democratic Campaign Committee	Democrat PAC	\$9,150.00
Center for Women and Democracy		\$2,500.00
Democrats Coordinated Camp	Democrat PAC	\$2,500.00
Governor's Victory Fund		\$2,500.00
21st District Democrats	Democrat PAC	\$1,250.00
Next PAC	Democrat PAC	\$1,250.00
Snohomish County Democrats	Democrat PAC	\$1,250.00
Campus Democrats.org	Democrat Organization	\$1,000.00
ProPac		\$1,000.00
Voter Education Project of Washington		\$1,000.00
Washington State Women's Political Caucus		\$1,000.00
Thurston County Democratic Campaign Committee	Democrat PAC	\$500.00

Total **\$232,750.00**

According to a national study, trial lawyers have contributed a staggering \$470 million to federal campaigns since 1990.

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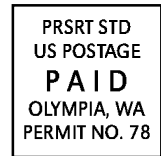
website: www.walrc.org

Members List

- Aetna
- American Council of Engineering Companies / WA
- American Insurance Association
- American Institute of Architects / WA Council
- Altria Management Services
- American Insurance Association Architects & Engineers Legislative Council
- Associated Builders and Contractors
- Associated General Contractors of Washington
- Association of Washington Business Association of Washington Health Care Plans
- AstraZeneca Pharmaceutical
- Aventis Pharmaceutical
- Avista Corporation
- Building Industry Association of Washington
- Boeing Employees Credit Union
- Burlington Northern Santa Fe Capital One
- Catholic Community Services
- Community Health Plans of Washington
- Contractors Bonding and Insurance Company
- Everett Clinic
- Farmers Insurance
- First Choice Health Plans
- Georgia-Pacific
- GlaxoSmithKline
- Greater Seattle Chamber of Commerce
- Green Diamond Resource Company
- Group Health Cooperative
- Independent Insurance Agents & Brokers of WA
- Johnson & Johnson
- Molina Healthcare of Washington
- MultiCare Health System
- Mutual of Enumclaw
- National Association of Independent Insurers
- National Federation of Independent Business / WA
- Northwest Physicians Network
- Novartis Pharmaceuticals
- PacifiCare
- PEMCO Financial Services
- Pfizer
- Pharmaceutical Researchers & Manufacturers of America
- Physicians Insurance
- Port Blakely Companies
- PREMERA Blue Cross
- Providence Health System
- Puget Sound Educational Service District
- Puget Sound Energy
- Regence
- SAFECO Corporation
- State Farm Insurance Company
- Swedish Hospital
- Telebyte NW Internet Services
- The Boeing Company
- The Doctors Company
- Washington Association of REALTORS
- Washington Assn of Housing & Services for the Aging
- Washington Cities Insurance Authority
- Washington Credit Union League
- Washington Food Industry
- Washington Governmental Entities Pool
- Washington Health Care Association
- Washington Operators Association (McDonald's)
- Washington Osteopathic Medical Association
- Washington Restaurant Association
- Washington Retail Association
- Washington Roundtable
- Washington Rural Health Association
- Washington Society of Certified Public Accountants
- Washington State Hospital Association
- Washington State Medical Association
- Washington State Pharmacy Association
- Washington State Society of Anesthesiologists
- Washington State Veterinary Medical Association
- Weyerhaeuser Company
- Wyeth Pharmaceuticals
- Yakima Valley Memorial Hospital

THE REFORMER

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LIABILITY REFORM COALITION

**COMMITTED TO ENDING
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