



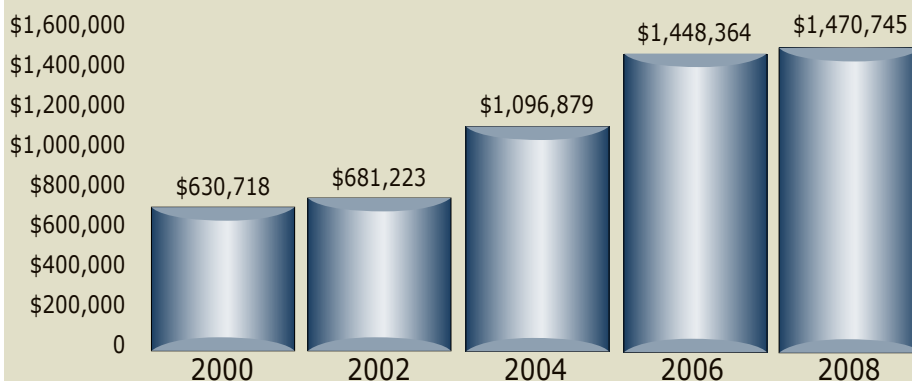
## Tracking the Trial Lawyers 2008 ELECTION REPORT

### Trial lawyer PACs sustain record \$1.5M contribution level

This fifth biennial Tracking the Trial Lawyers report finds Washington's trial lawyers continuing to pour money into the campaign coffers of the governor, legislators and judicial candidates at a level rivaling the contributions from political action committees (PACs) of the state's most powerful unions and businesses.

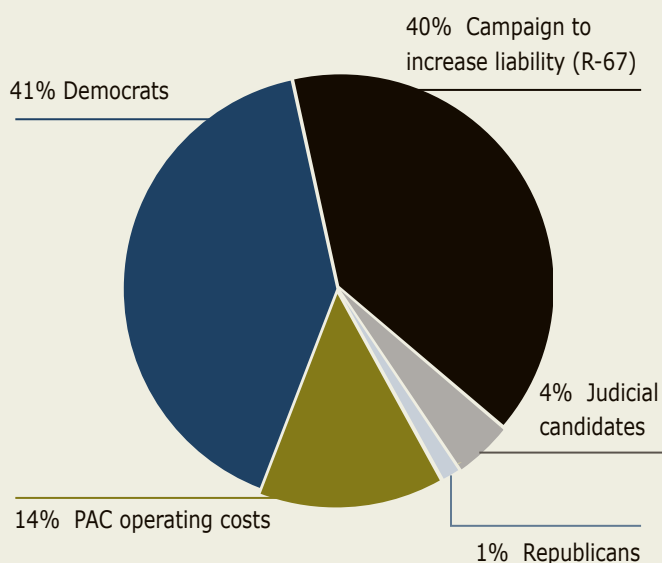
The trial lawyers' 10 regional PACs sustained combined contributions of nearly \$1.5 million for the second consecutive election cycle. This level of political influence is more than double the trial lawyer PAC contributions reported in the LRC's first Tracking report following the 2000 election.

#### WA state trial lawyers' PAC spending



Source: WA Public Disclosure Commission

#### Who received trial lawyer PAC money in 2008?



#### 2008 election spending by 10 trial lawyer PACs

Regional trial lawyer PAC	\$\$ Raised 2007-2008	\$\$ Spent 2007-2008
Abraham Lincoln Memorial Society	\$185,413	\$179,581
Central Washington Lawyers for Working Families	\$105,269	\$101,705
City of Destiny PAC	\$169,331	\$168,182
East King County Lawyers for Justice	\$132,299	\$128,715
Inland Northwest PAC	\$100,786	\$96,969
Justice PAC	\$127,076	\$123,618
Northern Attorneys PAC	\$122,863	\$118,307
Puget Sound Citizens for Political Responsibility	\$143,273	\$140,794
Victims Advocates	\$205,341	\$201,639
Western Washington Trial Lawyers for Victims	\$219,859	\$211,235
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,511,509</b>	<b>\$1,470,745</b>

Source: WA Public Disclosure Commission, January 2007-December 2008

Source: WA Public Disclosure Commission, January 2007-December 2008

# Trial lawyer PAC contributions to political campaigns

**Legislative candidates** The following is a partial list of candidates receiving campaign contributions from the trial lawyers' PACs and includes only contributions of \$3,200 or more. The PACs' statewide and judicial contributions are listed in tables on page 3.

Representative Liz Loomis	D-Snohomish	\$12,800	Representative Kevin Van De Wege	D-Sequim	\$5,600
Representative Roger Goodman	D-Redmond	\$12,800	Representative Tami Green	D-Lakewood	\$5,600
Representative Geoff Simpson	D-Covington	\$12,000	Senator Rosemary McAuliffe	D-Bothell	\$5,600
Representative John Driscoll	D-Spokane	\$12,000	Representative Christine Rolfes	D-Bainbridge Island	\$4,800
Kim Abel	D-Port Orchard	\$11,200	Representative Jim McIntire	D-Seattle	\$4,800
Representative Don Barlow	D-Spokane	\$10,400	Representative Sherry Appleton	D-Poulsbo	\$4,800
Representative Tim Probst	D-Vancouver	\$10,400	Senator Marilyn Rasmussen	D-Eatonville	\$4,800
Senator Margarita Prentice	D-Renton	\$10,400	Senator Lisa Brown	D-Spokane	\$4,300
Representative Larry Seaquist	D-Gig Harbor	\$9,600	John Burbank	D-Seattle	\$4,000
Representative Kevin Ranker	D-San Juan Island	\$8,800	Representative Brendan Williams	D-Olympia	\$4,000
Representative Marcie Maxwell	D-Renton	\$8,800	Representative Deb Eddy	D-Kirkland	\$4,000
Representative Troy Kelley	D-Tacoma	\$8,800	Representative Jim Moeller	D-Vancouver	\$4,000
Tim Knue	D-Conway	\$8,800	Representative Joe McDermott	D-Seattle	\$4,000
Debi Srail	D-University Place	\$8,000	Representative John McCoy	D-Marysville	\$4,000
Representative Tom Campbell	R-Spanaway	\$8,000	Representative Kelli Linville	D-Bellingham	\$4,000
Representative Chris Hurst	D-Enumclaw	\$7,200	Senator Craig Pridemore	D-Vancouver	\$4,000
Representative Tina Orwall	D-Des Moines	\$6,900	Vicki Ybarra	D-Yakima	\$4,000
Senator Brian Hatfield	D-Raymond	\$6,700	Representative Scott White	D-Seattle	\$3,400
Carol Gregory	D-Federal Way	\$6,400	Representative Frank Chopp	D-Seattle	\$3,200
Representative Bill Grant	D-Walla Walla	\$6,400	Representative Lynn Kessler	D-Hoquiam	\$3,200
Representative Hans Dunshee	D-Snohomish	\$6,400	Representative Mark Miloscia	D-Federal Way	\$3,200
Representative Jim Jacks	D-Vancouver	\$6,400	Representative Ross Hunter	D-Bellevue	\$3,200
Representative Larry Springer	D-Kirkland	\$6,400	Representative Sharon Nelson	D-Maury Island	\$3,200
Representative Marko Liaas	D-Mukilteo	\$6,400	Representative Steve Conway	D-Tacoma	\$3,200
Representative Pat Sullivan	D-Covington	\$6,400	Representative Steve Kirby	D-Tacoma	\$3,200
Senator Don Benton	D-Vancouver	\$6,400	Representative Timm Ormsby	D-Spokane	\$3,200
Senator Fred Jarrett	D-Mercer Island	\$6,400	Rob Cerqui	D-Fife	\$3,200
Representative Dawn Morrell	D-Puyallup	\$5,600	Senator Debbie Regala	D-Tacoma	\$3,200
Representative Fred Finn	D-Shelton	\$5,600	VaNessa Duplessie	D-LaCenter	\$3,200

Source: WA Public Disclosure Commission, January 2007-December 2008

## Top recipients of trial lawyer PAC money



**Rep. Geoff Simpson, D-Covington**  
Received \$12,000 in 2008 and \$11,200 in 2006, for a total of \$23,200.



**Rep. Troy Kelley, D-Tacoma**  
Member, House Judiciary Committee  
Received \$8,800 in 2008 and \$10,500 in 2006 for a total of \$19,300.



**Rep. Tami Green, D-Lakewood**  
Member, House Rules Committee  
Received \$5,600 in 2008 and \$13,300 in 2006 for a total of \$18,900.



**Rep. Roger Goodman, D-Redmond**  
Vice Chair, House Judiciary Committee  
Received \$12,800 in 2008 and \$2,100 in 2006 for a total of \$14,900.



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## Our mission:

- To limit expansion of tort liability
- To reduce lawsuit defense costs
- To speed resolution of lawsuits
- To improve fairness & certainty of civil justice system

## Statewide candidates

Candidate	Office	Party	
John Ladenburg	Attorney General	D	\$32,000
Christine Gregoire	Governor	D	\$30,500
Mike Kreidler	Insurance Commissioner	D	\$9,800
Peter Goldmark	Public Lands Commissioner	D	\$6,400
Brad Owen	Lt. Governor	D	\$3,200
Brian Sonntag	Auditor	D	\$1,600
Randy Dorn	Superintendent of Public Instruction	NP	\$1,600
Total statewide candidate spending			\$85,100

Source: WA Public Disclosure Commission, January 2007-December 2008

## Judicial candidates

Candidate	Office	Party	
Debra Stephens	Supreme Court	NP	\$14,400
Charles Johnson	Supreme Court	NP	\$11,200
Mary Fairhurst	Supreme Court	NP	\$9,600
Robin Hunt	Court of Appeals	NP	\$11,200
Nic Corning	Superior Court	NP	\$2,400
Kevin Korsmo	Court of Appeals	NP	\$1,000
Doug Shepherd	Superior Court	NP	\$800
Jill Johanson	Superior Court	NP	\$800
Total judicial candidate spending			\$51,400

Source: WA Public Disclosure Commission, January 2007-December 2008

## Spreading the wealth

In addition to contributing to individual political candidates, the trial lawyers also carried favor with Democrat and left-leaning organizations that routinely work to influence voters and elected officials to advance a liberal and anti-business agenda in Washington state. The groups listed below received trial lawyer PAC money.

Organizations	Organizational focus	Trial lawyer \$\$ received
Approve R-67	Liability-expanding referendum	\$482,750
FairPAC	Left-of-center PAC	\$66,500
Washington State Democrats	Democrat PAC	\$40,500
Evergreen Progress	Anti-Dino Rossi campaign	\$35,000
No on I-960	Campaign to defeat tax-limiting initiative	\$25,000
Washington Community Action Network	Progressive organization	\$12,000
Washington State Democrats Coordinated Campaign	Democrat PAC	\$10,000
FUSE	Progressive organization	\$9,500
Vote For Justice	Undocumented mission statement	\$5,000
House Democratic Caucus	Democrat PAC	\$3,900
37th District Democrats	Democrat PAC	\$2,500
Washington Leadership Fund	Undocumented mission statement	\$2,500
28th District Democrats	Democrat PAC	\$2,000
Center for Women and Democracy	Advocacy organization	\$2,000
Fraternal Order of Police	Law enforcement organization	\$2,000
Harry Truman Fund	Democrat PAC	\$2,000
Progressive Majority	Progressive organization	\$1,000
Roosevelt Fund	Democrat PAC	\$1,000
House Democratic Campaign Committee	Democrat PAC	\$800
Senate Democratic Campaign Committee	Democrat PAC	\$800
Snohomish County Democrats	Democrat PAC	\$500
Women's Political Caucus		\$500
Total		\$707,750

Source: WA Public Disclosure Commission, January 2007-December 2008

## Individual trial lawyer contributions total \$7M

The trial lawyer lobby in Olympia has one issue and one issue only: change liability laws to allow more opportunities to file lawsuits and collect higher damages and lawyer fees.

To accomplish this self-interested goal, the trial lawyers have ratcheted up campaign giving among their ranks.

For this report, the LRC culled out lawyers making individual political contributions, which added up to nearly \$7 million, a whopping amount from one special-interest group.

## The name-change game

Trial lawyers want to polish up their image. To accomplish such a lofty goal, the Washington State Trial Lawyers Association (WSTLA) has followed the marketing strategy of its national leader, the American Association of Trial Lawyers, and embraced a deceptive new name. The national group changed its name to the American Association for Justice and WSTLA has become the Washington Association for Justice.

To the LRC, these groups can try to hide behind whatever platitudes they want, but in Olympia and in the halls of Congress, their actions are those of self-interested trial lawyers. In other words, you can put lipstick on a pig, but ...

### Top law firm contributors

K&L Gates	\$156,730	Motley Rice	\$93,500	Peterson Young Putra	\$49,834
Bergman & Frockt	\$154,176	Perkins Coie	\$77,716	Otorowski, Johnston & Diamond	\$48,760
Strittmater Kessler Whelan	\$132,765	Perey Law Group	\$65,465	Miracle, Pruzan & Pruzan	\$46,645
Luvera Law Firm	\$130,698	Schroeter, Goldmark & Bender	\$58,437	Marler Clark	\$43,065
Hagens Berman	\$126,418	Gordon Thomas Honeywell	\$56,984	Foster Pepper Shefelman, PLLC	\$42,617

Source: WA Public Disclosure Commission, January 2007-December 2008

# THE REFORMER

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