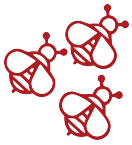


AB 1056: Transparency in Claims Act

Study Finds Reform Necessary to Protect Trust Assets for Future Victims

Every person harmed by asbestos deserves to recover their claim from these serious, health-related lawsuits. But the current system is draining finite resources, and without transparency, future victims will be left with nothing.

In recent years, Los Angeles County has become a hotbed for asbestos litigation. A study was conducted in response to this influx that found:



Like bees to honey: out-of-state claimants drawn to California's system

Out-of-state claimants come to California seeking favorable court rulings, even if asbestos exposure occurred in a different state. Even if these cases are dismissed, their sheer volume overburdens California's court system.



Some are deliberately gaming the system

Recent cases concern diseases other than mesothelioma and asbestosis, which are the most directly related to asbestos exposure. Instead, many of these cases cite 'unknown diseases' which may not be directly related to asbestos exposure. These expanded claims increase the number and value of settlements, further draining resources.



Claims filed by a select number of plaintiffs' firms has grown

Over the five year span 2003 - 2008, firms were involved in 484 cases. Between 2010 - 2012, a period less than half as long, these firms were involved in 585 cases. Combined, these findings "point to a changing legal environment, possibly reflecting plaintiffs' increased ability to obtain favorable verdicts in this court."

Data shows that the number of cases filed in Los Angeles has steadily increased, and the nature of these actions has changed. As a result, asbestos litigation increasingly consumes scarce court resources in Los Angeles. We must enact asbestos trust transparency to ensure assets are available for all victims.

Yes on AB 1056

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