

MDCALA

Maryland
Citizens Against
Lawsuit Abuse



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OPINION

WHEEL OF FORTUNE LAWSUIT

December 10, 2003

Recently the media and local papers ran a story about a game show contestant who is suing a popular game show for injuries suffered during the taping of the show. The Contestant, Will Wright, won \$48,400 on the “Wheel of Fortune” and also allegedly received a back injury when host, Pat Sajak “leapt at his body with unbridled enthusiasm with a full-weight embrace.”

This issue raises an important point, is the requested amount of financial remuneration intended to make the plaintiff whole or rich? Our courts were developed to make those injured seeking justice whole NOT rich. I urge the public to regard instances such as these as abuse of the system NOT a model to follow. Less than half of the liability dollar ever goes to anyone who is injured; most goes to cover lawyer’s fees and court costs.

Maryland Citizens Against Lawsuit Abuse educates the public on the costs of lawsuits. Huge jury awards cost all of us as the expense is passed onto us, the consumers. Visit our website at www.mdcala.org to learn more.

Justice yes, greed no. Justice is not served with these lawsuits. We need reform that prevents lawsuit abuse, and preserves the public’s legitimate right to sue.

Carrie W. Capuco
Executive Director
Maryland Citizens Against Lawsuit Abuse