

# **A LAWYER'S WORK TO BETTER SOCIETY**

## **Beasley Allen Legal Conference**

**November 16, 2017**

- I. The Role of Trial Lawyers
  - A. Historically
  
  - B. Today
  
- II. The Judicial system in the United States
  - A. The judicial system is important to all Americans
  
  - B. The Courts must be independent, strong and readily available
    - 1. The Courts in the U.S. have been under constant attack
    - 2. The Courts must be protected and preserved
    - 3. Lawyers have a responsibility
  
  - C. The need for campaign finance reform
    - 1. All races
    - 2. Judicial races
  
- III. Regulation by The Federal Government
  - A. These regulatory areas are critically important

1. NHTSA – cars
2. FDA – drugs
3. EPA – Environmental concerns

B. The Judicial system has been the real regulatory agency for the American people

C. The Trump Administration is destroying the regulatory system

IV. Corporations must be held accountable

A. Large corporations know they can control the regulatory envelope

1. The regulatory agencies are underfunded and poorly staffed
2. The companies pay criminal fines when caught
3. Very few corporate officers are prosecuted

B. The Judicial system protects the American people

C. Congress must do its job

1. Congress must pass needed legislation
2. Congress must adequately fund the regulatory agencies
3. Let your members of Congress and State Legislators hear from you

D. State Legislative bodies must also do their job

- V. Corporate America has worked to weaken the court system
  - A. The following are prime examples
    - 1. Tort Reform efforts
    - 2. Mandatory, forced Arbitration
    - 3. Federal Preemption
  - B. Corporate Lobbying of governmental agencies must be controlled
  - C. Political contributions by Corporations
    - 1. To Super PACs
    - 2. To members of Congress
    - 3. To State Legislators
    - 4. To Judicial candidates
  
- VI. Juries make the difference
  - A. Every citizen has a constitutional right to a jury in civil cases
  
  - B. David can compete with Goliath in the Courts
  
- VII. Beasley Allen cases that have made a difference
  - A. School Buses will have Detection devices – Sensors

- B. Ignition switch defect and cover up exposed – Melton v. GM
  - C. Sudden acceleration defect and cover up exposed – Bookout v. Toyota
  - D. Silent Recalls – Johnson v. GM
  - E. \$2500 Program – Jernigan v. GM
  - F. ROPs protection for tractors – Spivey v. Kubota
  - G. The AWP Litigation in 8 states
  - H. The BP Litigation in Alabama
- VIII. How Beasley Allen is set up
- A. Four Separate Sections
    - 1. Personal Injury & Product Liability
    - 2. Mass Torts
    - 3. Toxic Torts
    - 4. Consumer Fraud & Commercial Litigation
  - B. Our Support Staff
    - 1. Legal Assistants
    - 2. Investigators
    - 3. I.T. Department
    - 4. Accounting

## 5. Administrative

IX. Lawyers have a duty to keep courts open, independent and available to the American people.

A. The battle is being fought

B. Lawyers have a duty to be involved in this ongoing battle

1. Lawyers can't afford to watch from the sidelines

2. The battle must be won

X. Conclusion