

PUBLIC CITIZEN LITIGATION GROUP  
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**CONSUMER JUSTICE PROJECT**  
*Co-Counseling and Representation in Consumer Rights Cases*

[www.consumerjusticeproject.org](http://www.consumerjusticeproject.org)

Public Citizen Litigation Group's Consumer Justice Project collaborates with private attorneys and other non-profit organizations on individual and class action cases that offer a chance to establish important precedents on behalf of consumers. Depending on the case, our role may include co-counseling from the inception of a case, briefing on important motions, or representation on appeal. We are interested in a broad range of legal issues, including the federal preemption doctrine, the interpretation of federal consumer protection statutes on subjects ranging from predatory lending to auto fraud, binding mandatory arbitration, and class action litigation issues.

**WHO ARE WE?**

Founded in 1972 as the litigating arm of the non-profit consumer advocacy organization Public Citizen, Public Citizen Litigation Group is a national public interest law firm specializing in consumer rights, health and safety regulation, open government, separation of powers, and the First Amendment. We have litigated cases involving consumer rights in every federal circuit and state courts across the country, and by the end of 2005, we will have argued over 50 cases in the U.S. Supreme Court.

**WHAT DO WE OFFER?**

Through the Consumer Justice Project, PCLG collaborates with both private and non-profit lawyers to establish precedents and achieve favorable results for consumers. By joining forces, we are able to pool the unique knowledge, skills, and experience of lawyers around the country with our expertise in litigating unsettled and difficult questions of law in a variety of areas.

- *Co-Counseling from the Inception of the Case.* In selected cases, we will act as co-counsel for the whole case, from the pre-complaint research stage to the presentation of arguments to the court.
- *Briefing on Important Motions,* such as responses to motions based on preemption or those to compel arbitration, motions for class certification, other motions raising significant legal issues.
- *Representation on Appeal.* Whether you're seeking to preserve a groundbreaking consumer rights victory as the appellee, or appealing an unfavorable decision on an important point of law, we are uniquely suited to provide you with representation or co-counseling on appeal.
- *Amicus support.* In a small number consumer rights cases that present novel or significant legal questions—particularly in cases involving federal preemption, class action doctrines, the interpretation of federal consumer protection statutes, and arbitration—we may occasionally file briefs as *amicus curiae* in support of the consumer.

## WHY COLLABORATE WITH US?

There are many inherent advantages to collaborating with a national public interest law firm, including quick access to research and analysis of difficult or unsettled areas of the law, public relations abilities, and instant credibility with the court. Beyond these advantages, Public Citizen Litigation Group offers a wealth of expertise:

- *Federal Preemption.* Public Citizen Litigation Group has been at the forefront of efforts to limit the reach of the federal preemption doctrine over state law consumer protections. We have been involved in almost every tort preemption case in the Supreme Court, and in numerous cases involving the preemption doctrine in state and federal courts around the country.
- *Appellate and Supreme Court Litigation.* Our attorneys regularly argue appeals on behalf of consumers in state and federal appellate courts across the country. Our experience in the Supreme Court alone surpasses all but a few major law firms or public interest organizations.
- *Federal Consumer Protection Statutes.* From the most recent Supreme Court case concerning the Truth in Lending Act to two recent federal appeals concerning the settlement of predatory lending class actions, we have experience litigating issues that arise under federal consumer protection statutes. We are prepared to co-counsel or provide assistance in cases arising under the Truth in Lending Act, the Home Ownership Equity Protection Act, the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, the Fair Credit Reporting Act, the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act, the Moss-Magnusson Warranty Act, and the Odometer Act, among others.
- *Class Actions.* We have extensive experience in class action litigation issues, having represented both plaintiff classes and objectors in numerous class actions, including more than 30 major nationwide class action settlements.
- *Mandatory Arbitration.* We believe that the escalating use of mandatory, pre-dispute arbitration clauses in consumer contracts is undermining the ability of consumers and employees to vindicate basic rights through the civil justice system. We have participated in several seminal arbitration cases, both in the Supreme Court and in federal courts of appeals, and have increased our involvement in this area in recent years.

## WHAT DO WE CHARGE?

As a non-profit organization, we do not accept payment from clients and do not charge fees. In deciding whether to get involved in a case, our primary consideration is whether the case presents an opportunity to establish important precedents on behalf of consumers. If there are any court-awarded or common fund fees, or class action settlements including fees, we expect to receive a share commensurate with our involvement. On most occasions, we do ask that our out-of-pocket expenses be reimbursed.

### CONTACT US

To let us know about a consumer rights case that raises significant legal issues, please contact Deepak Gupta at (202) 588-1000, or send an email to [dgupta@citizen.org](mailto:dgupta@citizen.org). You may also send a letter addressed to Consumer Justice Project, Public Citizen Litigation Group, 1600 20th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20009.