1992 Tort Reform Enactments

As of December 31, 1992

**Colorado -- HB 1047**
- provides immunity for the good faith actions of those serving on boards as volunteers.

**HB 1168**
- allows judges to refer litigants to alternative dispute resolution systems when available.

**Minnesota -- HF 2800**
- a comprehensive health care access act which contains a provision for an absolute defense against medical malpractice when doctors adhere to practice parameters. Non-compliance to practice parameters may not be used as a basis for a cause of action.

**New Hampshire -- SB 339**
- (part of an economic development package)
  establishes a committee to study the impact of product liability on New Hampshire businesses.

**New York -- SB 7589**
- (part of a comprehensive budget bill)
  requires that 20% of all punitive damages awards be paid to the New York State General Fund.
Vermont -- HB 733

- (part of a comprehensive health care reform bill)

makes Vermont's current voluntary arbitration statutes for medical liability claims a mandatory process. The arbitration's board's decision would be binding if there is a prior agreement between the parties to make it so. The board's decision would also be admissible as evidence at a subsequent trial. The board's effectiveness would be studied after three years of operation.