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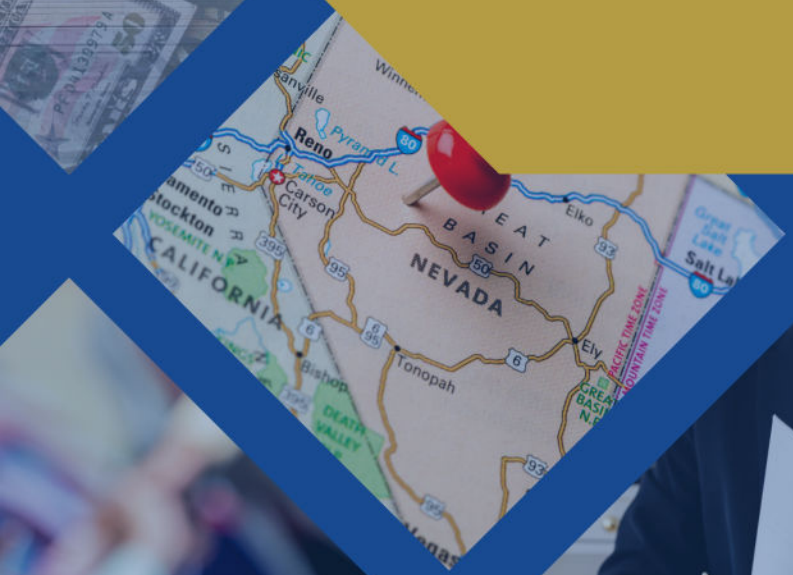
American Tort Reform Association

TRIAL LAWYER CAMPAIGN FINANCE ANALYSIS

NEVADA

2024



POWER PLAYERS: TOP PLAINTIFFS' FIRM DONORS

Since 2017, the 20 top plaintiffs' firms in Nevada contributed a combined $4.56 million to political candidates and committees in the state. Of these firms, Richard Harris Law and Claggett & Sykes were the two largest donors, contributing approximately $860,000 and $650,000 respectively. Four other firms – Panish Shea & Boyle, Bradley Drendel & Jeanney, Kemp Jones and Benson Bertoldo Baker & Carter – gave more than $300,000 since 2017, with two additional firms giving more than $225,000.

Top Plaintiffs' Firm Donors In Nevada Since 2017	
Law Firm	**Total Given**
Richard Harris Law	$861,607
Claggett & Sykes	$647,865
Panish Shea & Boyle	$419,000
Kemp Jones	$354,909
Benson Bertoldo Baker & Carter	$311,709
Bradley Drendel & Jeanney	$242,658
The 702 Firm	$228,329
De Castroverde Law Group	$200,665
Cogburn Law	$195,833
Edward Bernstein & Associates	$177,500
Henness & Haight	$176,000
Tingey Injury Law Firm	$121,500
Price Beckstrom Attorneys at Law	$103,750
Greenman Goldberg Raby & Martinez	$97,400
Ganz& Hauf Chartered	$82,909
Ladah Law Firm	$78,750
Pursiano Barry & Lavelle	$74,000
Shook & Stone	$64,800
Maier Guiterrez & Associates	$64,242
GGRM Law Firm	$58,758
Grand Total	**$4,562,183**

(Source: Nevada Secretary Of State)

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TOP RECIPIENTS FROM TOP PLAINTIFFS' FIRMS

The overwhelming majority of campaign contributions from Nevada's Top 20 statewide plaintiffs' law firm campaign contributors went to one committee since 2017: Citizens for Justice. This political action committee, run by the Nevada Justice Association, received a total of more than $4.727 million in contributions since 2017, more than $2.8 million of which was from the Top 20 firms listed previously. Save for Consumers for Judicial Equality, the rest of the Top 20 recipients are individual candidates, with all these candidate committees receiving money from multiple law firms.

Former Nevada Governor, Democrat Steve Sisolak, received more than $130,000 in political contributions from trial lawyers and their firms. Adam Ganz, a Las Vegas trial lawyer, received $133,000 from fellow trial lawyers toward his two failed campaigns for a judgeship in Department 17 of Nevada's 8th Judicial District Court. After his electoral defeats, Ganz applied for and was named the 8th Judicial District Court's Alternative Dispute Resolution/Discovery Commissioner in July 2023. Nevada Attorney General and trial lawyer Aaron Darnell Ford also received sizable campaign contributions from members of the state's trial bar, receiving more than $80,000 from his peers.

Top Recipients from Top 20 Plaintiffs' Firms for Campaign Contributions Since 2017		
Campaigns & Committees	**Office**	**Total Received**
Citizens for Justice		$2,804,941
Steve Sisolak	Governor (D)	$134,500
Adam Ganz	8th Judicial District Court, Dept. 17	$133,000
Lidia Stiglich	Supreme Court (D)	$85,658
Aaron Darnell Ford	Attorney General (D)	$83,000
Elissa Cadish	Supreme Court (D)	$75,500
Maria Gall	8th Judicial District Court, Dept. 9	$66,000
Bonnie Bulla	Nevada Court of Appeals	$62,934
Jacqueline Marie Bluth	8th Judicial District Court, Dept. 6	$48,500
Rob Bare	8th Judicial District Court, Dept. 32	$48,250
Ozzie Fumo	Assembly, 21st District (D)	$47,550
Deborah Westbrook	Nevada Court of Appeals	$46,468
Steven B. Wolfson	Clark County District Attorney	$43,000
L. Eric Johnson	8th Judicial District Court, Dept. 20	$39,360
Trevor Lee Atkin	8th Judicial District Court, Dept. 8	$35,500
Ron J. Israel	8th Judicial District Court, Dept. 28	$34,700
Mark B. Bailus	8th Judicial District Court, Dept. 18	$34,500
Ellie Roohani	8th Judicial District Court, Dept. 11	$32,500
David M. Jones	8th Judicial District Court, Dept. 29	$32,000
Consumers for Judicial Equality		$30,000

(Source: Nevada Secretary Of State)

CITIZENS FOR JUSTICE PAC RECIPIENT ANALYSIS

Citizens for Justice, the political arm of the Nevada Justice Association, has "long dominated" trial lawyer political contributions.[1] An analysis by the Nevada Independent found that the political action committee was the third-largest single contributor in Nevada from the 2022 cycle, falling only behind the Nevada Association of Realtors and MGM Resorts International.[2] One reason for this is due to Nevada's campaign finance regulations. Citizens for Justice, as an independent political action committee, is not subject to campaign finance regulations like individual campaigns are to the tune of a $5,000 contribution limit.[3] An analysis of the money given by Citizens for Justice has seen most of the money pushed into its own affiliated groups, although the organization also pushed campaign contributions to various candidates, often to Democrats.[4]

Citizens For Justice Expenditures Since 2017	
Committee	Total Given
Nevada Justice Association	$3,005,022
American Express	$136,827
Nevada Alliance	$115,000
The Focus Firm	$113,721
For Our Future	$75,000
Senate Democratic Caucus	$63,500
FSSG	$60,100
US Bank	$51,334
Home Means Nevada	$50,000
Sisolak Inaugural Committee	$50,000
Battle Born Progess	$50,000
Battle Born and Raised Leadership	$45,000
NCL PAC	$45,000
Assembly Democratic Caucaus	$42,500
Nevada Conservation League	$42,500
Brittney Miller	$40,000
Sandra Jauregui	$40,000
Nevada Inaugural Committee	$40,000
Pinyon Public Affairs, LLC	$36,126
Make Nevada Work	$35,000
Nevada Strong PAC	$35,000
Lesley Cohen	$32,000
Edgar Flores	$30,500
Shea Backus	$30,000
Elaine Marzola	$30,000
Rochelle Nguyen	$30,000

(Source: Nevada Secretary Of State)

[1]Sean Golonka And Jacob Solis, "Follow The Money: Nevada Justice Association Dominates Law Groups In Campaign Donations," Nevada Independent, 3/26/23
[2]Ibid
[3]"Campaign 2020: What You Need to Know About Campaign Finance Law In Nevada," Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, Accessed 1/18/24
[4]Ibid

POWER PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

Richard Harris Law and Claggett & Sykes are the two largest trial law firm campaign contributors in the state of Nevada, contributing about $860,000 and $650,000 respectively. Much of the money contributed by the law firms went to the Citizens for Justice PAC, with the two firms contributing just under $1.1 million to the committee since 2017. Approximately $40,000 from the two firms went to failed 8th Judicial District candidate (and trial lawyer) Adam Ganz.

Richard Harris Law

Top recipients of campaign contributions from Richard Harris Law include $700,000 donated to the Citizens for Justice PAC.

Richard Harris Law Top Recipients	
Candidate / Committee	**Total Given**
Citizens for Justice	$700,000
Steve Sisolak	$12,500
Maria Gall	$10,000
Adam Ganz	$10,000
Lidia Stiglich	$7,500
Elissa Cadish	$7,500
Aaron Darnell Ford	$6,000
Mark B Bailus	$5,500
Esther Rodriguez	$5,000
Ozzie Fumo	$5,000
Yianna Albertson	$5,000
David M. Jones	$5,000
Rob Bare	$5,000
Bonnie Bulla	$5,000
Steven B Wolfson	$5,000
Trevor Lee Atkin	$5,000
Jacqueline Marie Bluth	$5,000
Mary Kay Holthus	$5,000
Joanna Kishner	$5,000

(Source: Nevada Secretary Of State)

[1] Consumers For Judicial Equality, Accessed 2/16/24

Claggett & Sykes

The Citizens for Justice PAC also was the top recipient of political giving from the Claggett & Sykes law firm, accounting for more than 60% of the firm's total giving since 2017. Claggett & Sykes was the only Top 20 plaintiffs' firm to contribute to Consumers for Judicial Equality, a campaign committee that backed former Nevada Supreme Court Justice Ozzie Fumo's unsuccessful 2020 reelection bid.

Claggett & Sykes Top Recipients	
Candidate / Committee	**Total Given**
Citizens for Justice	$397,667
Adam Ganz	$30,000
Consumers for Judicial Equality	$30,000
Bonnie Bulla	$12,934
Joseph Lombardo	$12,268
Deborah Westbrook	$10,720
Maria Gall	$10,000
Thaddeus Joseph Yurek III	$10,000
Ozzie Fumo	$10,000
Douglas W Herndon	$10,000
Steve Sisolak	$10,000

(Source: Nevada Secretary Of State)

Panish Shea & Boyle Top Recipients	
Candidate/Committee	**Total Given**
Citizens for Justice	$300,000
Maria Gall	$15,000
L Eric Johnson	$10,000
Rob Bare	$10,000

(Source: Nevada Secretary Of State)

Panish Shea & Boyle

Panish Shea & Boyle gave more than 70% of all of their political giving dollars to the Citizens for Justice PAC since 2017.

Campaign Contributions from Top Nevada Legal Services Advertisers

Eleven of Nevada's top local legal services advertisers have donated money directly to candidates and committees in Nevada, totaling approximately $1.6 million. The biggest donor is Richard Harris Law, donating more than $850,000 to candidates and committees since 2017. Three additional firms – De Castroverde Law, Edward Bernstein & Associates and Henness & Haight –each donated more than $175,000 to political campaigns and committees.

Top Recipients of Campaign Contributions from Top Nevada Legal Services Advertisers	
Candidate/Committee	Total Received
Citizens for Justice	$998,633
Adam Ganz	$59,000
Steven B. Wolfson	$38,500
Ellie Roohani	$28,000
Steve Sisolak	$27,750
Maria Gall	$21,000
Rob Bare	$19,750
Lidia Stiglich	$19,500
Elissa Cadish	$18,500
David M. Jones	$15,000
Mark B. Bailus	$14,500
Richard Frank Scotti	$14,000
Aaron Darnell Ford	$13,500
Francisco Aguilar	$12,075
Bonnie Bulla	$11,750
Kevin McMahill	$11,000
Jeff Rogan	$11,000
Trevor Lee Atkin	$10,500
Joanna Kishner	$10,500
Ozzie Fumo	$10,500
Timothy Bedwell	$10,000

(Source: Nevada Secretary Of State)

Campaign Contributions from Top Nevada Legal Services Advertisers	
Firm	Total Given
Richard Harris Law	$861,607
De Castroverde Law Group	$200,665
Edward Bernstein & Associates	$177,500
Henness & Haight	$176,000
Naqvi Injury Law	$73,000
Steve Dimopoulos Law Firm	$45,550
Golightly & Vannah	$24,500
Powell Law Firm	$23,983
Gina Corena & Associates	$14,200
Sam & Ash, LLP	$7,750
Burg Simpson Eldredge Hersh	$750
Grand Total	$1,605,505

(Source: Nevada Secretary Of State)

Twenty-one candidates and committees received $10,000 or more from the top local legal services advertisers in Nevada, with a vast majority of the money – nearly $1 million – going to the Nevada Citizens for Justice, the political arm of the Nevada Justice Association.

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INTERESTING DATA POINTS AND ANALYSIS

Nevada's 8th Judicial District

Of the candidates receiving more than $30,000 in campaign contributions from the Top 20 plaintiffs' firm donors in Nevada, 10 were candidates running for judge in various departments of Nevada's 8th Judicial District, which encompasses Clark County and Las Vegas. None of these firms played in any other Judicial District race at the level of the 8th Judicial District.
These candidates include:

- Adam Ganz, who received $133,000 and unsuccessfully sought a seat on the 8th Judicial District Court on two occasions;
- Maria Gall, who received $66,000 in her successful race for a seat on the 8th Judicial District Court;
- Jacqueline Marie Bluth, who received $48,500 in her successful race for a seat on the 8th Judicial District Court; and,
- Rob Bare, who received more than $48,000 in his unsuccessful race for a seat on the 8th Judicial District Court.

A Focus On Judicial/Law Giving

Out of the Top 20 candidate recipients from the Top 20 plaintiffs' firm campaign donors in Nevada, only two of those candidates were not running for a judicial-affiliated role (Steve Sisolak for Governor and Ozzie Fumo for Nevada State Assembly, District 21). Of those candidates, 10 were candidates running for judge in various departments of the 8th Judicial District Court, two were running for Justice on the Nevada Supreme Court, two were running for a seat on the Nevada Court of Appeals,one (Aaron Darnell Ford) was running for Attorney General, and one (Steven B. Wolfson) for Clark County District Attorney.

A Note on Methodology

Due to an inability to search by employer or job title, this data was populated by generating a list of top trial bar contributors to Citizens for Justice, the PAC affiliate of the Nevada Justice Association, which is the trial lawyer trade group. With these limitations, the data used in this report was from direct law firm contributions to each candidate and committee. Individual campaign contributions by lawyers for the various firms were not used.

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