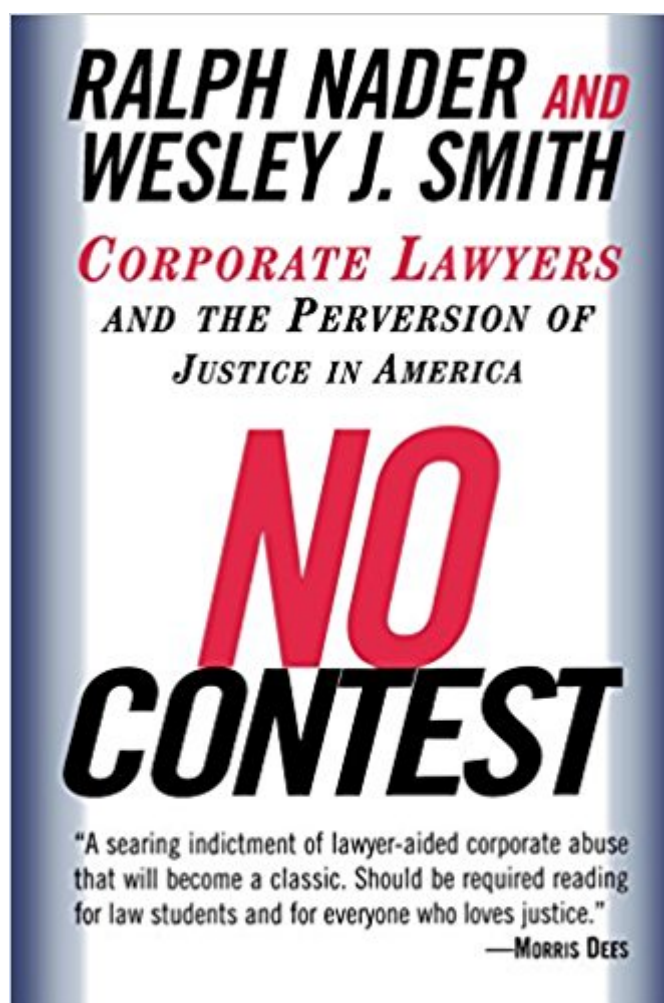


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# No Contest: Corporate Lawyers And The Perversion Of Justice In America



## Synopsis

The legal rights of Americans are threatened as never before. In *No Contest*, Ralph Nader and Wesley J. Smith reveal how power lawyers--Kenneth Starr perhaps the most notorious among them--misuse and manipulate the law at the expense of fairness and equity. Nader and Smith document how corporate lawyers

- File baseless lawsuits
- Use court secrecy to their unfair advantage
- Engage in billing fraud

Nader and Smith sound the warning that this system-wide abuse is eroding our basic legal rights, and propose a positive, commonsense vision of what should be done to reverse the corporate-inspired corruption of civil justice. Timely, incisive, and highly readable, this is a book for all citizens who believe that prompt access to justice is the backbone of democracy, and a precious right to be reclaimed.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The most controversial section of this ringing denunciation of corporate law is that on tort reform, which Ralph Nader, the consumer advocate and 1996 Green Party Presidential candidate, and Wesley J. Smith denounce as "tort deform" measures sure to further insulate corporations from the damage wrought by pollution and dangerous products. But Nader has never shied from controversy, and this series of case studies attacks confidential settlements in injury cases, state ethics boards, and links between high-power corporate lawyers and government officials with an equal measure of indignation and reformist zeal.

Corporate attorneys are at the center of trends that have increased corporate power in the past 20

years, declare consumer crusader and 1996 presidential candidate Nader and lawyer Smith (coauthors of *Winning the Insurance Game*). Their book is rambling but important, as it uses case studies to illustrate what they see as unfair situations and potential avenues for reform. For example, confidential settlements in injury cases deprive others from safety warnings; judges can refuse such settlements, and some states have begun passing anti-secrecy laws. Though the American Bar Association recommends that one-third of the members of state ethics boards be non-lawyers, that goal is mostly ignored, and disciplinary boards are notably lax in punishing lawyers who obstruct opponents, destroy evidence or overbill. In strong words, Nader and Smith attack tort reform proposals that would limit manufacturers' liability, calling them "tort deform" measures that would further protect corporations to the detriment of individual consumers. But they don't acknowledge that in some cases—such as the way it can distort medical care—our tort system does need reform. Along with political reforms, the authors find hope in efforts by Harvard Law School alumni to form the Appleseed Foundation, which will establish new centers for law and justice that focus on systemic change, not just legal aid for individuals. Author tour. Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc.

This book is a must-read for anyone involved in a civil lawsuit, especially people who own a condominium governed by a homeowners association (HOA) or another type of common-interest develop (CID—the legal name in California) like a town house or a single-family detached home in a planned community. California requires an Association govern the CID. Another name might be Community Association. Remember the HOAs defense attorney(s) are funded by its insurance company, a corporation with millions and more in assets compared to the limited assets of first-time homeowners and many, perhaps most, middle-class homeowners. In this book, readers will learn the the Deadly D's employed to help the insurance company paying anything for damage the HOA caused or allowed to happen such as water damage. What are the Deadly D's?—Deny, Delay, Distort the Facts, ultimately Defend the HOA in a lawsuit, and in doing so Destroy the plaintiff—another Association homeowner. Read this book and then demand your elected officials reform civil justice proceedings until they do. No Contest: Corporate Lawyers and the Perversion of Justice in America

As a law student, I have to say that this should be on every law students "must-read" list! Nader and Smith clearly describe the hardball ruthless tactics used by today's corporate lawyers. This is not the kind of stuff they teach you in law school! It took real guts and courage to expose the unethical

tactics used by too many lawyers today, and I'm grateful that they did so. Highly recommended.

No Contest is an extremely well-researched and compelling view of corporate law structure and how it threatens to undermine basic Constitutional rights both subtly and "in the open". Nader and Smith do a fantastic job of documenting and analyzing case studies which reveal the world of power-lawyering and corruption. They give an especially strong case against tort reform and what to watch for in ordinary business transactions. Since this was released in 1996, I decided to check the Bureau of Justice statistics to see if many of the trends they describe still apply and as of the latest batch of statistics on Civil Justice compiled for review (2005), the trends still hold true today. Obviously we need more than just the Appleseed Foundation to fight for fair and equitable justice in this country...Great, informative read that every law student and adult U.S. citizen would do well to examine. Five stars was an easy choice for me on this one.

No Contest book by Ralph Nader and Wesley Smith.... In their book No Contest by Ralph Nader and Wesley J. Smith, the authors give a series of examples about law at the corporate level. Many of their examples deal with wronged individuals suing a corporation. Frequently the plaintiffs are frustrated by a series of delays, misrepresentations, intentional misunderstandings, and multiple appeals. The judges do not discipline the lawyers, at least not to any effective extent, and the judges do not throw out frivolous motions. The judges tend to side with big law firms and with clever lines of reasoning, and not with the plaintiff. The original plaintiff injury, such as a wrongful death due to negligent corporate behavior, is forgotten in the mire of lawyer activity, and the judges fail to consider the need for relief of the plaintiff, without further anguishing delay. The plaintiff is faced with interminable costs and tedious delays without relief. There is no doubt reform is needed.

.....For a remedy, authors Nader and Wesley suggest an Appleseed Foundation, formed of local community volunteer groups, together with some overseeing coordinating committees. They mention Harvard graduates as playing a prominent behind the scenes part in overseeing reform.

.....The problem with this approach is: first, volunteerism, presumably without pay, is insufficient motivation to overcome such entrenched and profitable bad habits. Second, it is not clear just what specific steps these groups should recommend, other than complain, and point out injustices of which many persons are already aware. . Third, there are already volunteer groups (I have a list of over 20) around the country who are angry with their treatment by the law and yet who have not been able to bring about a change in habits.

Beware of the multinational corporations. Not only do they stick it to the taxpayers in forms of bailouts, tax "incentives", and other similar accounts receivable, they are quite willing to stick it to citizens in court and screw up the meaning of the word "due process" in America and the world. A sad commentary on our justice system but a MUST READ.

A detailed and methodical look at corporate lawyer's corruption of our legal system. The book explains all relevant terms, cites numerous fascinating examples, and suggests ways that the public and the Bar can improve today's legal system without tipping the scales of justice toward those with the most money. An easy read

This is one of my favorite books I've read in recent years. It opens your eyes to the horrible tactics used by corporate lawyers to deny victims their full day in court. Also, Nader and Smith present bulletproof arguments against tort reform. You will learn a TON by reading this.

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