

Lobby Watch:

**New Tycoons Aid
Texas' Fattest PAC**
The David Duke Connection!

Silver Spoons Help 'Texans For Lawsuit Reform' Spoon Feed Special-Interest Cash To Texas Legislators

1997 contributors to Texas' largest political action committee (PAC), Texans for Lawsuit Reform (TLR), include several new leading tort dodgers. TLR reported \$642,384 in 1997 contributions. Half of this money came from just 14 of Texas' wealthiest families.

Top TLR Tort Dodgers of 1997

<u>Family of:</u>	<u>TLR Tithe</u>	<u>Litigation Exposure</u>
Richard/David Weekley*	\$50,100	David Weekley Homes
Andrew Beal+	\$45,000	Beal Bank, Beal Aerospace
Roy/Terry Huffington*	\$25,500	Huffco (oil/gas)
Harlan Crow+	\$25,000	Trammell Crow (land development)
Kenneth Lay*	\$25,000	Enron Corp. (gas/utilities)
James Leininger†	\$25,000	Kinetic Concepts (medical beds)
William McMinn*	\$25,000	Sterling Group (chemicals)
Robert McNair*	\$25,000	Cogen Technologies (utilities)
David Underwood*	\$25,000	Lovett, Underwood... (stockbrokers)
Walter Mischer*	\$11,000	Allied Bancshare, Dover/Ideal Homes
Gordon Cain*	\$10,000	Sterling Group (chemicals)
James R. Lightner+	\$10,000	Electrospace Systems, MBank
John McGovern, MD*	\$10,000	McGovern Allergy Clinic
J. Virgil Waggoner*	\$10,000	Sterling Group (chemicals)
Total (Top 14)	\$321,600	(50% of TLR's '97 Total)

* Houston based; + Dallas based; †San Antonio based.

The Weekley family continues to be TLR's largest funder, contributing \$50,100 in 1997. TLR head **Richard Weekley** and brother David, developers of homes and strip malls, have a vested interest in the weaker civil justice laws TLR demands. New homeowners in Spring, Texas hold Weekley Homes responsible for their cracked walls and foundations, which they allege were knowingly built on shifty soils.

Andrew Beal newly rose to TLR's top ranks by tithing \$45,000 in 1997. Beal owns Dallas' Beal Bank and recently started Beal Aerospace satellite company.

James R. Lightner is another new outer space tort dodger. He headed Metroplex-based Electrospace Systems, a defense communications company acquired by Chrysler. Lightner is a political backer of GOP attorney general candidate **Tom Pauken** and former **KKK Grand Wizard David Duke**.

Lightner had a hand in the 1980s banking crisis that is costing taxpayers \$120 billion. He and 25 other former MBank officers and directors paid \$39 million to settle federal claims related to MBank's collapse.

Top TLR Tort Dodgers, 1994-97

<u>Family of:</u>	<u>TLR Tithe</u>	<u>Litigation Exposure</u>
Richard/David Weekley*	\$230,000	David Weekley Homes
Robert McNair*	\$150,500	Cogen Technologies (utilities)
Harlan Crow+	\$81,500	Trammell Crow (land development)
James Leininger†	\$75,000	Kinetic Concepts (medical beds)
William McMinn*	\$65,000	Sterling Group (chemical company raiding)
David Underwood*	\$62,500	Lovett, Underwood... (stockbrokers)
Kenneth Lay*	\$55,000	Enron Corp. (gas/utilities)
Peter O'Donnell+	\$55,000	First National Bank
Harold Simmons+	\$55,000	Contran, Valhi (corporate raiding)
Roy/Terry Huffington*	\$54,500	Huffco (oil/gas)
Andrew Beal+	\$45,000	Beal Bank, Beal Aerospace
S. Reed Morian*	\$37,000	DX Holding Co., Dixie/Accron Chemical
Mike/Patrick Rutherford*	\$31,000	Rutherford Oil, Rutherford-Moran Oil
Ray Hunt+	\$30,000	Hunt Oil, Woodbine Development, etc.
Chris Pappas*	\$30,000	Pappadeaux, Pappasitos restaurants
James R. Lightner+	\$27,500	Electrospace Systems (aerospace)
Howard L. Terry*	\$27,000	Farm & Home Savings Association (S&L)
Gordon Cain*	\$25,000	Sterling Group (chemical company raiding)
Robert Folsom+	\$25,000	Folsom Investments (land development)
Mike Manners*	\$25,000	Royce Homes
James McIngvale*	\$25,000	Gallery Furniture
Robert Perry*	\$25,000	Perry Homes
Reese/Robert Rowling	\$25,000	TRT Holdings, Tana Oil, Omni hotels
Total (Top 23)	\$1,261,500	(44% of TLR's '94-'97 Total)

* Houston based; + Dallas based; †San Antonio based.
