November 03, 2003

Supreme Court Clerk
P.O. Box 30052
Lansing, Michigan 48909

Dear Court Clerk,

I am writing about the proposed Court Rule No. 2003-47. I understand that the asbestos industry has petitioned the Michigan Supreme Court to change the long-standing rule of law in Michigan which allows individuals with non-cancerous asbestos lung disease to seek and recover damages against the asbestos manufacturers and the property owners who allowed asbestos to be used by workers.

It has always been my understanding that judges do not make our laws but rather interpret the law. Does this mean that we are dealing with another sticky situation where big name people are influencing members of our Supreme Court? Why is the Michigan Supreme Court even considering taking steps that would effectively change the law by denying Michigan asbestos disease victims their right to a jury trial.

I am with the understanding that the true facts about asbestos litigation in Michigan is that in the past four years only one asbestos case has been tried to verdict in the entire State of Michigan. All other cases settle before trial. That speaks pretty loud and clear wouldn't you say?

It is my hope that the Michigan Supreme Court will stand up for rights of working citizens of Michigan who, like myself, has been diagnosed with asbestosis.

Sincerely,

James M. Warthman

James M. Warthman
4221 W. Lincoln Rd.
Alma, MI 48801

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