

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION for JUSTICE
LEADERSFORUM

Dear Leaders Forum Member:

I wanted to let you know about an important victory we had in the Ohio Supreme Court last week.

Last week, in a case argued by Center for Constitutional Litigation attorney John Vail and involving Leaders Forum Member Lee Thompson, the Ohio Supreme Court made it harder for employers to hide their misconduct from the public, ruling that a dead worker's family had the right to pursue their claims in court.

The issue was whether an arbitration clause the worker - killed when he fell fifty feet from an unguarded catwalk - was forced to sign could require his family to arbitrate their independent wrongful death claim.

This very conservative court answered no, stating: "While arbitration is encouraged as a form of dispute resolution, the policy favoring arbitration does not trump the constitutional right to seek redress in court."

This court victory is important, but broad reform of mandatory arbitration must come from Congress. AAJ is pushing legislation that is moving through the House and Senate.

John Vail, Steve Pershing, Jesse Merriam of CCL wrote the brief in this case. AAJ members Mike Rourke and Rob Miller are trial counsel.

Thank you for your support through Leaders Forum. Your contribution makes it possible for AAJ to continue to advocate in the House and Senate for reform of mandatory arbitration.

If you have questions or would like more information, please do not hesitate to contact the Center for Constitutional Litigation at 202/965-3500 x436.

Best,

Jon Haber
CEO
American Association for Justice