



Advertisement

[washingtonpost.com](#) > [Nation](#)
[Print This Article](#)  
[E-Mail This Article](#)
**MOST VIEWED ARTICLES**
[Nation](#) [On the Site](#)

Updated 11:15 p.m. ET

- [Democrats Feel Heat From Left On Roberts](#)
- [Ohioans Urge U.S. Escalation Or Pullout](#)
- [Fetal Tissue Heals Burns](#)
- [Vigils Calling for End to Iraq War Begin](#)
- [Library Missing Roberts File](#)

## Federal Trials Decline for Injury Lawsuits

 Bloomberg News  
 Thursday, August 18, 2005; Page A02

The number of personal injury cases decided by a trial in federal courts has declined by almost 80 percent since 1985 as more suits are settled, according to a U.S. Justice Department report released yesterday.

In 2003, the most recent year of the study, there were 768 trials, down from 3,604 in 1985. The annual number of personal injury cases in the federal court system varied over the 33 years of the study, averaging 44,770. There were 49,166 cases in 2003.

The report is the first to review trends in federal court tort litigation over the course of three decades, said Thomas Cohen, a Justice Department statistician who wrote the study.

President George W. Bush has made curbing personal injury suits a priority. He has said that "frivolous lawsuits" hurt the economy and make it more difficult for the United States to compete with other nations. Trial lawyers say the suits compensate victims of defective or unsafe products and that taking a case to court is an important constitutional right.

This February, Bush signed a law that requires trial lawyers to file the biggest class-action suits in federal courts rather than in state jurisdictions that are considered more sympathetic to plaintiffs. Bills are pending in Congress to limit medical malpractice awards and create a \$140 billion fund for asbestos exposure victims to end litigation that has bankrupted more than 70 companies.

[Print This Article](#) [E-Mail This Article](#)

© 2005 The Washington Post Company

## Advertising Links

**Grobaty Pitet LLP Federal Courts**

Grobaty Pitet LLP provides information relating to alternative dispute resolution, federal court, professional liability, intellectual property, software licensing, theft of trade secret.  
[www.grobatypitet.com](http://www.grobatypitet.com)

What's this?

Advertisement


 Network  
**Expertise**  
 Applications  
 Service

FEATURED ADVERTISER |

- [Sign up with VONAGE ar](#)
- [NASCAR Tickets on Sale](#)
- [Lawyers: Faulty Defibrill](#)
- [\\$160,000 Mortgage for U](#)
- [For College Graduates, F](#)
- [Refinance a \\$200,000 loa](#)
- [Cool gadgets, hot deals.](#)

• [Enter the HP Real Estate](#)



Network  
Expertise  
Applications  
Service

**Federal Court Record Search**

Software to investigate anyone. Do background checks on friends, neighbors, and employees. Search for court, criminal, FBI, adoption, marriage, and all public records. \$29.95 - Affiliate.  
[safespy.net](http://safespy.net)



**RSS NEWS FEEDS**

[Top News](#)  
[Nation](#)

[What is RSS?](#) | [All RSS Feeds](#)

**E-MAIL NEWSLETTERS**

View a Sample and Sign Up

[Today's Headlines & Columnists](#)

[Daily Politics News & Analysis](#)

[Federal Insider](#)

[Breaking News Alerts](#)

[Manage Your Newsletters](#)

**TODAY IN SLATE**

**Sports**

[Pale Imitations](#)

When the Boston Red Sox won the World Series last fall, so went baseball's most



heralded pr... [More](#)

SEARCH:  News  Web



powered by **YAHOO!** SEARCH

[NEWS](#) | [OPINION](#) | [SPORTS](#) | [ARTS & LIVING](#) | [Discussions](#) | [Photos & Video](#) | [Entertainment Guide](#) | [CLASSIFIEDS](#) | [JOBS](#) | [CARS](#) | [RE](#)

**washingtonpost.com:** [Contact Us](#) | [About Us](#) | [Work at washingtonpost.com](#) | [Advertise](#) | [Media Center](#) | [Site Index](#) | [Site Map](#)  
[Archives](#) | [E-mail Newsletters](#) | [RSS Feeds](#) | [Wireless Access](#) | [Make Us Your Homepage](#) | [mywashingtonpost.com](#)

**The Washington Post:** [Subscribe](#) | [Subscriber Services](#) | [Advertise](#) | [Electronic Edition](#) | [Online Photo Store](#) | [The Washington Post Store](#)  
**The Washington Post Company:** [Information and Other Post Co. Websites](#)

---

© Copyright 1996- 2005 The Washington Post Company | [User Agreement and Privacy Policy](#) | [Rights and Permissions](#)