



Dear Friends:

We are writing you for a very simple reason. We see a major threat to the rights of consumers, workers, accident victims, and those who work on their behalf. In large part, the threat is already a powerful, growing, reality. But its potential for expansion is chilling. We need your help to reverse this growth.

The problem is this: Corporations, through a combination of legal "reforms" and the sophisticated use of computerized databases, can now exert a degree of control over individual consumers and workers that makes mockery of first amendment protections. The corporations are NOT subject to the constitutional controls that the government is. They have a power to enforce their dictates far in excess of those imagined by the founding fathers. And they use the power to control workers and consumers.

A few examples:

Employers now have a system of declaring past employees "unhirable" for the benefit of employer-members of their information network.

Employers now regularly run background tests to make sure no job applicants have filed for workmens compensation benefits.

Employers now routinely have job applicants waive their rights to refuse drug, urine, and polygraph tests as part of the job application process.

Employers now routinely check job applicants and current employees to make sure they do not hold ownership in "competing interests" operations, for example an employee who earned stock options at one company, may not be hirable at another company so long as he owns those options.

Employer groups have had such great success in "reforming" tort, class action, and workmens compensation laws that plaintiff attorneys now routinely refuse to handle such cases because they simply cannot be won. A recent conference on Workmen's Compensation held at Loyola University reached the conclusion that NOT taking workmens compensation cases IS the best strategy for attorneys. This leaves both the victims and the attorneys "out in the cold".

And the corporate power extends far beyond a single advantage in an individual case. Workers KNOW that if they "squawk" they could well end up on the "unhirable" list. They will often forgo their rights to avoid suffering the consequences of enforcing those rights. Consumers know that they must respond to the collection agents threats of permanently damaging their credit record, even when the consumer is right in not paying certain bills.

The Louisiana Consumers League has started the Privacy Rights Project to thwart this growing reign of terror. We are in the process of building a strong coalition of consumers, attorneys, unions, civil rights activists, and injured workers to challenge many of these practices.

We have supplied a number of documents to support our assertion of the scale of this threat. We will ask you to read these documents carefully, call us if you have any questions you need answered, and then help us.

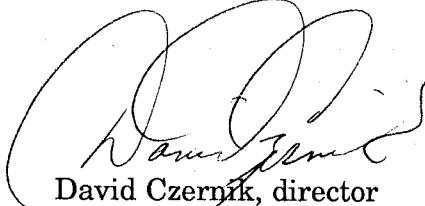
We specifically need three types of help. Money, the Names of Victims of these practices, and Volunteers to help us plan a winning strategy.

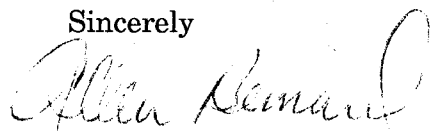
Money Please find it in your heart to donate \$100, \$200 or whatever you can afford to the LCL Privacy Rights Project. We ask for both personal and organizational donations. (Please make checks payable to Louisiana Consumers League PRP.)

Victims Please help us get in contact with people you know who have become victims of some of the practices we described above. If you cannot give us the names of these individuals, we ask you to ask them to call us. Try to find three or four names for us to contact.

Volunteers Volunteer your time, or help us find a volunteer from your organization. Our success will depend on the support we get from volunteers.

And remember, this is an issue which sooner or later, will effect us all.


David Czernik, director
Louisiana Consumers League
& Privacy Rights Project
(504) 344-7416

Sincerely

Allen Bernard, organizer
Injured Worker Committee
(504) 861-5830

Yes! I want to support the LCL Privacy Rights Project.

Enclosed is my check for \$500 \$200 \$100 Other

Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Organization _____ Phone _____

Volunteer ☐

Victims ☐

We will call you within the week to discuss volunteers and victims.

Make checks payable to LCL Privacy Rights Project. P.O. Box 1029, Baton Rouge, LA 70810