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Statement of Consumer Advocate on Philip Morris Court Decision

Statement of Amber Hard, Illinois Staff Director, Center for Justice and Democracy

Today the Illinois Supreme Court handed down its decision in the appeal of the \$10.1 billion verdict against tobacco giant, Philip Morris, for marketing “light” cigarettes as safe when they are just as deadly as other cigarettes.

The court did not rule on whether Philip Morris misled smokers. In fact, Justice Garmon specifically wrote: “The rejection of the plaintiff’s cause of action should in no way be construed as an endorsement of PMUSA’s [Philip Morris’s] conduct. Our reversal of the circuit court’s judgment is not an exoneration of PMUSA. It is merely a conclusion that this particular cause of action by this particular group of claimants seeking this particular form of recovery cannot be sustained under the law of Illinois.”

Today’s ruling is one more demonstration that Illinois courts are not “broken” and that the legal system works. There is certainly no reason for politicians or politics to interfere with our civil justice system.

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