

# LOBBY WATCH

★ TEXANS FOR PUBLIC JUSTICE 609 W. 18TH ST., SUITE E, AUSTIN, TX 78701 PH: (512)472-9770 FAX: (512)472-9830

Stick 'em Up:

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## After Heavily Backing Jack Stick, TLR Is Mum on 21CT 'SLAPP' Suit

Contractor 21CT, Inc. [sued](#) lobbyist James Frinzi for libel after he told reporters that Texas health official Jack Stick improperly steered a \$20 million state contract to 21CT. Frinzi's [countersuit](#) invokes a state law protecting whistleblowers from so-called "SLAPP" suits.<sup>1</sup>

Reason suggests that at least one frivolous lawsuit underlies those contradictory claims. Texas lawmakers have found SLAPP suits so abusive that they created special protections against them.

Yet Texans for Lawsuit Reform (TLR), which amassed Texas' fattest PAC to combat lawsuit abuse, has stood silent on these events. TLR's silence could reflect its preoccupation with a new legislative session. Or TLR may feel a tinge

of almost-human mortification for its key role in launching Jack Stick's state political career.



Jack Stick

Led by TLR lobbyist [Mike Toomey](#),<sup>2</sup> TLR and Tom DeLay's Texans for a Republican Majority PAC collaborated to elect a Texas House GOP majority in 2002. That majority included new Rep. Jack Stick, whom voters retired in 2004.

Stick raised a total of \$1.2 million during his short, happy House career. His No. 2 contributor, TLR, generously supplied nine cents of every dollar that Stick ever raised.

Rick Perry's administration later granted Stick major influence over state contracts to detect Medicaid fraud. Those contracts have triggered their own fraud [investigations](#).

### Top Donors to Jack Stick's Campaign (2002 Through 2004)

Amount	Contributors
\$167,500	Stars Over Texas PAC (Tom Craddick)
\$112,509	Texans for Lawsuit Reform PAC
\$85,000	Bob Perry
\$40,505	Texans for a Republican Majority PAC
\$36,000	James R. Leininger
\$35,000	Rep. Nat'l State Elections Committee

<sup>1</sup> The acronym "SLAPP" stands for "strategic lawsuits against public participation."

<sup>2</sup> Mike Toomey personally contributed \$3,371 to Stick's campaigns, including \$871 worth of "research."